



District 6960 Strategic Plan for Literacy

Table of Contents

Section I – Overview of Rotarians and Roles, Vision, Mission, and Charge of Committee

Section II – Understanding Literacy Needs

Section III – Literacy Programs, Projects, and Initiatives 2020-2021

Section IV - Opportunities for Literacy Engagement 2021- 2022

Section V – Goals for the District Literacy 6960 Committee 2021-22

Section VI – Frequently Asked Questions



Section I

District Governor 2021-22 – Andy Lyman

District 6960 Literacy Committee Chair (Literacy Champion) – Dee Fabry

Committee Members:

Rotarians

Dee Fabry, Chair - Bonita Naples Rotary Club deefabry@comcast.net

Sandra Hemstead PDG, RI Assistant Regional Rotary Foundation Coordinator, Zone 34 - Bonita Beach Sunset sandrahemstead@gmail.com

Nancy Rozance, Rotary Youth Services Director - Longboat Key nancyrozance@att.net

Anne Bolger, External Grants Coordinator - Bonita Naples Rotary Club ambolger@gmail.com

Laura Randall, President – Rotary Club of Sarasota laurarandall813@gmail.com

Steve Lampar, Director, Marco Island Club, YMCA Marco Island grants@marcoy.org

Teresa Taft, Chief of Staff for DGE Andy Lyman, foundation President Sarasota Sunrise, IPP Sarasota Sunrise ttaft@bbbssun.org 941-586-0707

Ted Lindenberg, Director, Books for Kids, Rotary Club of Lakewood Ranch stlind88@aol.com
845-304-5793

Friends of Literacy -

Area Champions: North, Mid, South (TBD)

Literacy as a Rotary Focus

Literacy and education are areas of focus that run from Rotary International through to the club level.

Rotary International – One of the seven focus areas of Rotary International is Supporting Education. “Our goal is to strengthen the capacity of communities to support basic education and literacy, reduce gender disparity in education, and increase adult literacy. **We support education for all children and literacy for children and adults.**” The Rotary Foundation (TRF) supports education through scholarships, donations, and service projects around the world.

District 6960 Literacy is a part of the Rotary Youth Services organizational structure.

Vision and Mission Statements

Vision – To provide diverse literacy opportunities for every adult and child to increase their reading, writing, listening and speaking skills in order to reach their fullest potential.

Mission of the Literacy Team –

- To provide a variety of literacy opportunities in our district that show a measurable impact on the literacy skills of our adult population and children in PK – 8
- To provide ideas for options for creating literacy projects, initiatives, and partnerships in our district
- To provide support for clubs in the implementation of literacy projects and initiatives in our district

District 6960 Literacy Committee Charge - Provide the tools, resources, and support to increase the actionable and measurable outcomes for literacy initiatives and projects in our district to combat literacy issues.



Section II – Understanding Literacy Needs

Challenges of Literacy in Florida – Florida has **the third highest percentage of adults lacking basic literacy skills equaling 80%**. Florida has the **lowest number of public libraries**

per 100,000 residents. Florida has a population of 22,894,140. 80% of 23 million = 18.3 million. That means only 4.6 million adults in the state of Florida have adequate literacy skills. What does this mean for those without adequate skills? What does this mean for our economy? What does it mean for our democratic process? What does it mean for the quality of life for those who are not literate?

What about children? Only 35% of fourth graders are reading at or above grade level so 65% are reading below grade level. Sixty-four percent (64%) of eighth graders are reading below grade level.

The connection is obvious. In order to reduce the rate of adult illiteracy, we must increase the literacy rate in our children.

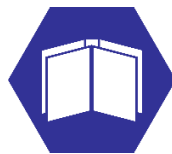
What is the impact of child illiteracy?

- 1 in 6 high school students (1.2 million) drop out of school each year
- Student who enter kindergarten without readiness skills are most likely to drop out
- 80% of children living in poverty lose reading skills over breaks due to a lack of books and other resources
- Children who cannot read cannot learn

What are the literacy statistics for our district?

Florida ranks in the bottom 25% in adult literacy and numeracy skills. Florida ranks 42nd lowest out of 50 states.

These statistics, while grim, help us to understand the need for both adult and children's literacy programs.



Section III – Literacy Programs, Projects, and Initiatives 2020-2021

What kinds of literacy programs, projects or initiatives are available in our Rotary Clubs?

Literacy programs, projects, or initiatives are as diverse as the communities in which we live and serve. Literacy opportunities are most successful when they are based on the needs of the community and in partnership with the community.

District 6960 during 2020-2021 Literacy Opportunities

1. Josh the Otter
2. Books for Kids District Grant (Ted Lindenburg, Lakewood Ranch Club, Grant Lead)

3. RotaKids (Literacy Integration at Bonita Springs Charter School and the YMCA RotaKids Club of Bonita Springs)
4. Partnerships: A pre-school in Sarasota, foster children in the Children's Guardian Fund in Sarasota, children of migrant workers, Meals of Hope holiday distribution in Immokalee, YMCA
5. Dictionary Day
6. Lee County Literacy Grant (Replacing Dictionary Day in Lee County School District)
7. One Book – Patterson Foundation (Jim Henry- PDG) – Early Reading Coalition in Sarasota-Manatee – Hands our K readiness bags. Andy got Josh the Otter and magnetic ABCs.
8. Social Emotional Learning

Literacy Information - District 6960 Clubs

Six counties: Charlotte, Collier, Hendry, Lee, Manatee, and Sarasota and 10 Areas

Sources of Data: District Grant Page and E-mail to Presidents and PEs March 2021

*22/49 clubs responded to e-mail request as pf 3.22.2021 (those are noted with contact information or stated no programs)

Responder Club	Literacy Project(s)	Comments
Area 1		
1. Marco Island Linda Sandlin, linda@marcorealtysource.com	YMCA Early Learning Marco Island Charter Middle School Collier County Dictionary Project Area 1*	
2. Marco Island Sunrise	Collier County Dictionary Project Area 1*	
3. Naples	Learn2Earn Collier County Dictionary Project Area 1*	Naples (*) - Immokalee - Marco Island - Marco Island Sunrise - Naples Bay - Naples Gulf Shore - Naples North - Naples-Pelican Bay
4 Naples Bay	Constitution For the People Collier County Dictionary Project Area 1*	
5. Naples Gulf Shore	Collier County Dictionary Project Area 1*	

Tony Power tony@financialcapitalsolutions.com President		
6. Naples North Carrie Kerskie, President Elect 239-435-9111 ck@kerskie.com	Herbert Cambridge Elementary School, Purchase books for every student and distribute before Christmas. Members visit the school in the springs & students individually read to the Rotarians Collier County Dictionary Project Area 1*	
7. Naples-Pelican Bay	Collier County Dictionary Project Area 1*	
Area 2		
8. Bonita Beach Sunset [Sandra Hemstead]	Literacy Library Grant Lee County	
9. Bonita Naples [Dee] Dee Fabry, deefabry@comcast.net Bonita Naples Rotary Club Secretary	Books for Kids (District Grant) Dictionary Day Literacy Library Grant Lee County RotaKids Integration	Books for Kids multi-club grant
10. Bonita Springs Bob Lombardo, President Dr. Steve McIntosh drssm0225@gmail.com	Literacy Library Grant Lee County New Generations Chair	
11. Estero Bob Pinnel, President 239-949-2949, rpinnel@comcast.net	Books For Kids Lee County Literacy Grant New Horizons of Southwest Florida	Books for Kids multi-club grant and Lee County Literacy Grant
(51) (New!) Naples North Sunset Club Dee Fuller - President		
Area 3		
12. Fort Myers	Literacy Library Grant Lee County	Fort Myers (*) - Bonita Beach Sunset - Bonita Naples - Bonita Springs - Cape Coral - Cape Coral Goldcoast - Cape Coral Sunset - Fort Myers East - Fort Myers South - Fort Myers Sunrise - Fort Myers Sunset

		- Lehigh Acres
13. Fort Myers South	Literacy Library Grant Lee County	
14. Fort Myers Sunrise Dr. Qaysara Burgos 239-405-9519	Literacy Library Grant Lee County	
15. Fort Myers Sunset	Literacy Library Grant Lee County	
16. Sanibel-Captiva		
Area 4		
17. Cape Coral Amy Rouskey, President, arouskey@gmail.com	Books & Bibs for Babies - Dr. Seuss's ABC Board Books (1660) and Bibs (1660 for the Cape Coral Hospital's Women's Center for every newborn baby Literacy Library Grant Lee County	
18. Cape Coral Gold Coast Don Thomas 1-239-851-8933	Reading is Fundamental (District Grant) Caloosa Elementary School Literacy Library Grant Lee County	
19. Cape Coral Sunset	Literacy Library Grant Lee County	
20. North Fort Myers		
Area 5 (Sandra Hemstead)		
21. Clewiston	Books for Kids	
22. Fort Myers East	Literacy Library Grant Lee County	
23. Immokalee (Jayson Gomez)	Collier County Dictionary Project Area 1*	
24. LaBelle Holly Kobie 239-707-6140 thehappyhooper@aol.com	Dictionary Day Adult English Classes Literacy and Anti-Bullying – All 1st graders at 4 elementary schools receive books John the Otter	
25. Lehigh Acres	Thesaurus Project Literacy Library Grant Lee County	
Area 6		
26. Arcadia	Books for Kids	

27. Charlotte Harbor	Charlotte County Imagination Library (Grant)	
28. Charlotte Harbor Sunset Tom Setchel	No literacy programs	
29. Harbor Heights/Peace River		
30. Punta Gorda Alyson Burch aburch@csbtfl.com	No literacy programs	
Area 7		
31. Englewood Traci Hamill, 941-307-0939 tracihamill@gmail.com	One Books, One School Dictionary Day Josh the Otter FERST Readers (Grant)	Funding from Englewood youth Foundation
32. Englewood Lemon Bay Sunrise	Kindergarten Readiness Bags Early Learning Project	
33. North Port Central Valerie LaBoy	No literacy programs	
34. Rotonda		
35. Venice Sunrise Don Moore vript@comcast.net 941-223-6922 David Lusty dlusty61@gmail.com Jim Patterson jcpatterson@gmail.com 941-412-7093	Guatemala Literacy Project Dictionary Day Adult Literacy (individual Rotarians) Readers in the elementary school (individual Rotarians)	Global Grant
36. Venice-Nokomis		
Area 8 (Nancy Rozance in Blue)		
37. Longboat Key Nancy Rozance, Community Service Chair	Books for Kids – Pre-school, foster children in Children’s Guardian Fund Program, Stillpoint Mission homeless children, Arcadia migrant children SOAR - Library of perma-bound books Books and Bookcases for families	District Grants
38. Sarasota	Kindergarten Readiness Bags Early Learning Project	District Grant -Sarasota Lead, Englewood, Englewood Lemon Bay Sunrise – Sarasota Southside, Sarasota Sunrise

39. Sarasota Bay (Sarasota) Bill Monroe 703-795-4667	Riverview High School IB Excellence and Equity Phnom Penh, Cambodia – Classroom Library	Manatee River
40. Sarasota Gulf Gate		
41. Sarasota Southside Kyle Doan kyledoan@gmail.com	SOAR Library of perma-bound books Books and Bookcases for families Kindergarten Readiness Bags Early Learning Project	District Grant
42. Sarasota Sunrise	Dictionary Project SOAR Library of perma-bound books Books and Bookcases for families Kindergarten Readiness Bags Early Learning Project	District Grant with Siesta Key
43. Siesta Key	Books for Kids Dictionary Project	District Grant
Area 9		
44. Anna Maria Island Rotary – Judy Rup freshnfruit@hotmail.com School -Lynn McDonough 941-708- 5525 x2409	Character Reading Project and Dolphin Reader Anna Marie Elementary School	Grant supported
45. Bradenton Sharon Milligan 941-730-1909	Books for Kids Dictionary Day SOAR Project	District Grant
46. Lakewood Ranch Ted Lindenberg, Director, Books for Kids, Rotary Club of Lakewood Ranch stlind88@aol.com 845- 304-5793	Books For Kids Lead Club	District Grant
47. Manatee River Lindsay Peterson President ljpeterson@usf.edu	Books for Kids	
48. Palmetto		
49. Parrish Jeff Flagg Secretary Cindy Flagg 941-465-0554 Cindy.flagg@gmail.com	Books for Kids Rotary Little Libraries	

More Information:

1. Josh the Otter – Pairing water safety with literacy

2. District Grant – Books for Kids

The Books For Kids *mission is to help raise the reading levels of elementary school students by providing the students with reading and listening comprehension skills, developing character traits and transferring the love of reading and the love of books from the reader to the child.*

There is a need, more than ever, to help these children. In the recent National Assessment of Educational Progress, which is the federal gold standard of 4th grade testing throughout the United States, 2/3 of all the students tested were found to be not proficient in reading or reading below grade level.

In our counties in Florida, a large percentage of students are reading below grade level and research indicates that children who are not reading on grade level by the end of the third grade are likely to have problems with reading the rest of their lives. Coupled with that is the loss from two years of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Our volunteers go through a training session and when then is completed, they are assigned to a school, grade and teacher. The volunteer will then go into the classroom with a special "read aloud" book and questions related to the book. We are asking for a true book discussion with the boys and girls; we want them to think critically. After the discussion, a special gift is given to each child, a gift that we might take for granted, a gift that is in our homes but not necessarily in their homes and that is a gift of a book, a book that they can treasure, read, bring home, read to their brothers and sisters and most importantly, build their own home library. Ted Lindenberg, Director, Lakewood Ranch Rotary Club

Clubs in the Books for Kids Grant 2020-2021

- a. Lead Club: Lakewood Ranch - Ted Lindenberg, Educator stlind88@aol.com
- b. Bonita Naples – Dee Fabry, Professor Emeritus, National University, deefabry@comcast.net
- c. Estero – Michael Robert Pinnel, President rpinnel@comcast.net
- d. Longboat Key - Nancy Rozance, Community Service Chair nancyrozance@att.net
- e. Manatee River - Lindsay Peterson, President, Research Assistant Professor
Ljpeterson@usf.edu University of South Florida
- f. Parrish - Jeff Flagg jeff_flagg@hotmail.com
- g. Clewiston - Jeff Smith, Minister, First United Methodist Church of Clewiston
pastor@fumcclewiston.com
- h. Siesta Key - Dan OHara danohara@verizon.net
- i. Bradenton - Tim Milligan timmilligan@verizon.net
- j. Arcadia - John Olin Jholin@outlook.com



Descriptions of Books for Kids Activities by Club

a. **Lead Club: Lakewood Ranch - Ted Lindenberg, Educator** stlind88@aol.com

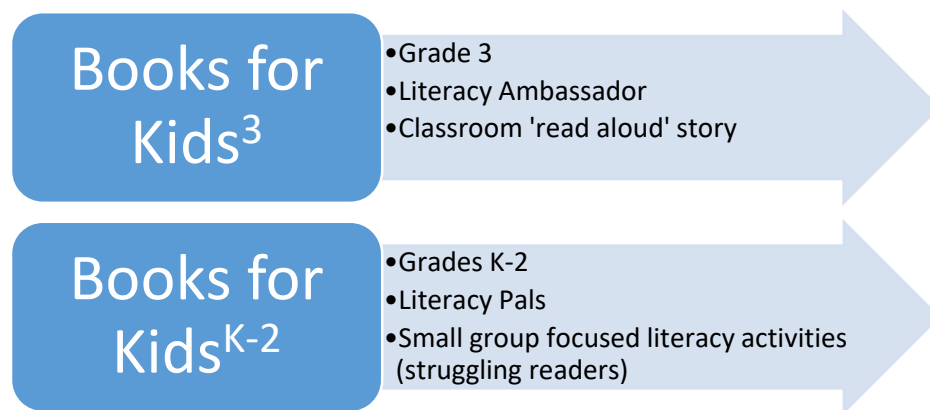
b. **Bonita Naples Rotary Club, Bonita Springs –Dee Fabry, Secretary and Books for Kids Coordinator** 760-470-2888 dfabry@comcast.net

Bonita Naples Rotary Club Books for Kids Initiatives

The Bonita Naples Rotary Club* partners with the Bonita Springs Charter School in two Books for Kids Literacy Initiatives in 2020-2021. There are two volunteer opportunities* The Bonita Naples Club and the Bonita Springs Sunset Club provide volunteers for these initiatives.

1. Books for Kids³ - The first initiative is with Third Grade students.

2. Books for Kids^{K-2} – The second initiative is with K – 2 students.



Books for Kids³ - Grade 3 – Literacy Ambassador: This initiative pairs a Rotary Literacy Ambassador with a Third Grade teacher and the students in their classroom for a monthly read aloud story time. Literacy Ambassador read a book to the students in the class they are paired with. Literacy Ambassadors receive support via training on how to present the book including, guided questions, key vocabulary, and ideas for making the story engaging.

After the ‘story time’ session, each student receives a gift - a book (different from the story time book) of their own to take home. Location: Bonita Springs Charter School, 25380 Bernwood Drive, Bonita Springs, Florida 34135. 239-992-6932 www.bonitaspringscharter.org

Books for Kids^{K-2} - Grades K – 2 – Literacy Pals: The second opportunity pairs a Rotary Literacy Pal with a small group of students (about 15) who have been identified as students in need of literacy help. This is in collaboration with Natasha Cunningham, K-8 Student Reading Coach and Jennifer Shelly, Curriculum Resource Teacher, K-2.

Literacy Pals provides literacy support in the form of fun games, books, and activities that help these readers learn basic skills such as letter and sound recognition, beginning sounds, blending, and sight words. This is a fun time with Word Bingo, ABC’s songs and books, etc.

c. **Estero – Michael Robert Pinnel, President** rpinnel@comcast.net

Our current project is books for 3rd grades and the libraries at Pinewoods and Three Oaks elementary schools. We are doing three distributions [December, February, April] which requires 440 books for each distribution at a cost of \$1,000+ for each of these. As you know this is part of a DDG managed by the Lakewood Ranch club. We coordinate the book selection [AR levels] and distribution to the classes through the school 's librarian. Since we cannot get into the schools, this is a "handoff" outside the school building. Labels were prepared and affixed in each book recognizing the Books For Kids project and our club.

d. Longboat Key Rotary Club - Nancy Rozance, Community Service Chair

nancyrozance@att.net

Initially, we had hoped to tie the funds from this Grant into our Reading/Tutoring Program at Tuttle School – a Title One School in Sarasota. When we learned that we would not be allowed into the classrooms, we created new opportunities for the distribution of books.

We distributed books to the following groups:

- A pre-school in downtown Sarasota
- Foster children in the Children's Guardian Fund Program in Sarasota, FL
- Homeless children served by Stillpoint Mission in Bradenton, FL
- Children of migrant farm workers in Arcadia, FL

e. Manatee River Rotary Club - Lindsay Peterson, Research Assistant Professor

Ljpeterson@usf.edu University of South Florida

I represent the Manatee River Rotary and am involved with the Books for Kids grant. For 2021 we worked with Daughtrey Elementary School, which serves a largely Title I population of elementary school students in Bradenton. Our club committed \$500 to the Books for Kids grant and we are using that money to purchase reading books for Daughtrey students, working with Principal Shelby Bench to select books for the classes most in need of reading assistance. We have not yet determined what our commitment will be for 2022, as the club's Board of Directors for 2022 is just being formed.

f. Parrish Rotary Club - Jeff Flagg jeff_flagg@hotmail.com

[Waiting on response to e-mail request March 2021]

g. Clewiston Rotary Club - Jeff Smith, Minister, First United Methodist Church of Clewiston

pastor@fumcclewiston.com

[Waiting on response to e-mail request March 2021]

h. Siesta Key Rotary Club - Dan OHara danohara@verizon.net

[Waiting on response to e-mail request March 2021]

i. Bradenton Rotary Club - Tim Milligan timmilligan@verizon.net

j. Arcadia Rotary Club - John Olin Jholin@outlook.com

[Waiting on response to e-mail request March 2021]

3. RotaKids (Literacy Integration at Bonita Springs Charter School and the YMCA RotaKids Club of Bonita Springs)

4. Partnerships: A pre-school in Sarasota, foster children in the Children's Guardian Fund in Sarasota, children of migrant workers, Meals of Hope holiday distribution in Immokalee, YMCA

5. Dictionary Day

6. Lee County Literacy Grant (Replacing Dictionary Day in Lee County School District)

7. One Book – Patterson Foundation (Jim Henry- PDG) – Early Reading Coalition in Sarasota-Manatee – Hands out K readiness bags. Andy got Josh the Otter and magnetic ABCs.



Section IV - Opportunities for Literacy Engagement in 2021-2022

I. Books for Kids Grant – Multi-club Grant, Ted Lindenburg, Lead

Contact other clubs in area to form a multi-club literacy team.

II. Big Brothers, Big Sisters of the Sun Coast, Teresa Taft, Lead

Re: Rotary Youth Services: Literacy and Big Brothers Big Sisters Mentorship – the perfect partnership

THE VISION: For all school-aged children who request a mentor, there would be a Rotarian willing to take on the job of igniting a child to their fullest potential. **Year 1)** Ignite Rotarians apply to be accepted into the Big Brothers Big Sisters Program and are matched with a little. Preferable grade 1 with an emphasis on achieving grade level reading. **Year 2)** Ignite additional Rotarians to be matched with the new first graders while the prior year participants follow the same child to grade 2. **Year 3)** Igniting additional Rotarians to take on Grade 1 students while the previous two years move on with their student to the next grade level. By year three we should be able to incorporate books for kids for the 12-month period.

III. Ideas

Literacy programs, projects, and activities can be community-focused

- Partner with your local library
 - Purchase needed children's books
 - Set up a children's story time each week

- Partner with local YMCA's to schedule a monthly literacy themed activity

Literacy programs, projects, and activities can be school-based

- Find out what the literacy needs are in your public, charter, and private schools
- Start wherever you can with the budget you have
 - Buy all second graders a book to take home
 - Buy a classroom set of one novel the teacher wants to teach this year

Family Involvement

Section V – Goals for the District Literacy 6960 Committee 2021-22

1. Social Media - Design and populate literacy information on the new district Web site (complete the design by July 1, 2021. Population of information – ongoing throughout the year)

July 2022 Changes – Dee copy Sandra on articles, info. Teresa – will contact Susan re: Web site design. Send Teresa Dee's Ideas for District 6960 Literacy build out.

District 6960 Literacy Site Map Laura <https://remakelearningdays.org/suncoast/> Patterson Potential - Collaboration

- Write copy – District Literacy Committee Information (charge, purpose, etc.)
 - Determine information to be included each month (highlight one program each month and invite the lead to provide a write-up with videos and photos describing the program)
 - Grant Opportunities section: Rotary – Global and District Non-Rotary – Anne
 - Rich resources for all levels
2. Get on the club program as a speaker and present the District 6960 Literacy information (Complete by December 2021)
- Divide the 51 clubs up by each literacy committee member. The member contacts their list of clubs to offer presenting the literacy information
 - Create a PowerPoint presentation that has a consistent literacy message (Complete by July 1)
3. Serve as support for increasing literacy opportunities across District 6960 (Ongoing)
- Each literacy committee person serves as a point person for the clubs in their area to provide support in increasing literacy opportunities.
4. Design and deliver one literacy Webinar (by June 30, 2022)



Section V - Frequently Asked Questions

Why is there so much child illiteracy?

The causes of childhood illiteracy are varied and complex.

Some causes of child illiteracy include: (from [Child Illiteracy in America: Statistics, Facts, and Resources | Regis College](#))

- **Family history of illiteracy**
 - Childhood illiteracy is typically intergenerational. Parents and caretakers with a low literacy level are not well prepared to nurture literacy in children. Some 73% of children with undereducated parents (less than a high school diploma) live in low-income settings, according to Comic Relief US.
- **Lack of books at home**
 - For families living in poverty, books are a luxury purchase outweighed by basic living expenses. More than half of families living in poverty don't have children's books in their homes, according to the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*.
- **Lack of attention to the importance of reading**
 - Low-income parents are often disengaged from their children's education, typically due to stress from financial and work insecurity, according to Literacy Partners.
- **Nonnative status**
 - Many families that immigrate from other countries have difficulty adopting the English language. Of low-literacy adults, about 35% are non-U.S.-born citizens, according to the NCES.
- **Poor access to technology resources**
 - Much of today's schoolwork requires access to online resources, and students living in poverty may lack computer or internet resources at home.

What are the Effects of Child Illiteracy?

Children who have low literacy are more likely to get bad grades, have more school absences, and display behavioral issues. For children in school, poor literacy can make students feel incompetent, which can result in low self-esteem and isolation. A lack of childhood literacy also has a negative impact on adult life.

- **Illiteracy is connected to unemployment and low-paying jobs**
 - Many Americans lack the literacy skills to fill out a job application. One in 5 adults struggle to read basic sentences and fill out forms, according to the Barbara Bush Foundation.

- Low reading and math skills lead to higher rates of unemployment. During the spike of unemployment caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, unemployment rates were highest among individuals lacking a high school education, according to *The Washington Post*.
- Illiteracy results in a lack of college education, creating a smaller base of intellectually skilled employees in the workforce. Globally, illiterate people earn about 35% less than literate employees, according to the World Literacy Foundation.
- **Illiteracy is a factor in the cost of health literacy**
- Limited health literacy, or the ability to obtain and understand health information, is closely related to an individual's literacy level. Improving reading and writing skills can help improve individual health outcomes.
- Health illiteracy can result in a decreased ability to access health services, complete medical forms, manage chronic conditions, and understand health risks.
- **Illiteracy is linked to higher rates of incarceration**
- Some two-thirds of students who lack proficient reading skills by the end of fourth grade end up in jail or on welfare, according to BeginToRead.
- Some 85% of youth who are involved in the juvenile court system are classified as functionally illiterate. About 70% of inmates in U.S. prisons can't read above a fourth-grade level, per BeginToRead.
- **Illiteracy has a negative impact on society**
- Low levels of literacy cost the U.S. an estimated \$225 billion in workforce productivity losses, crime, and unemployment-related loss of tax revenue, according to ProLiteracy.
- Illiteracy also results in expenses for federal and state welfare programs. A majority of welfare recipients are high school dropouts, and most food stamp recipients have poor literacy levels, according to BeginToRead.



Funding Literacy Projects

How can we fund our literacy projects?

Fund-raisers specific to support your literacy project

Multi-club District Grants

Foundations: The Patterson Foundation

Corporate Donations

There are many support organizations that provide literacy tools for schools and other organizations:

[Barbara Bush Foundation](#): Provides training for teen mentor programs to help first- through third-graders improve reading skills

[Believe in Reading](#): Provides grant funding for literacy programs

[Junior Library Guild](#): Provides grants for school libraries and reading programs

[ProLiteracy](#): Offers a list of literacy grants and funding options

[Red Nose Day](#): Provides funding for early education programs to combat poverty

[Save the Children](#): School-based child literacy programs for rural communities

[The Children's Reading Foundation](#): Conducts seminars and school learning programs

Free or discounted books for schools and other organizations working to combat child illiteracy:

[Better World Books](#): Distributes book donations to schools and other organizations

[Book Trust](#): National literacy program providing free books for Title I elementary schools

[Families Learning Together](#): Cartons of books at discounted prices from First Book for qualifying organizations, as well as free downloadable activity guides

[Open eBooks](#): Free online library from First Book for qualifying organizations

[We Need Diverse Books](#): Classroom book giveaways for low-income schools

[Dolly Parton's Imagination Library](#)

