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BARBARA BUSH
FOUNDATION *for*
FAMILY LITERACY

2023
ANNUAL
REPORT

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DEAR FRIENDS,

We are pleased to share the Barbara Bush Foundation's annual report for 2023, highlighting the life-changing work that your generous support has made possible over the past year.

More than three decades ago, Barbara Bush knew before most that literacy is the foundation on which we build full, productive lives—as individuals, as families, as communities, and as a nation. Based on that belief, she launched a foundation—and a national movement—to **help Americans build better lives through literacy.**

Since then, we have supported literacy programs in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Today, we continue to provide trusted, effective programs and resources that help learners across the country build the skills they need to succeed.

Over the past year, we have worked together to build:

- **Essential literacy skills** in struggling young readers through our reading mentoring programs
- **Resources for parents and educators**—including a bilingual digital book collection—to boost literacy skill development in learners of all ages
- **Awareness of our nation's literacy challenge** through partnerships with high-profile ambassadors and our signature biennial event, the National Celebration of Reading
- **Corporate engagement in literacy** by partnering with members of our Corporate Advisory Council on co-designed programs and educational initiatives
- **Learning opportunities for children and families** through events designed to foster a love of reading
- **Knowledge and innovation in the literacy field** through research and education initiatives
- **Investment in adult literacy** through our role as convener and member of the Adult Literacy and Learning Impact Network—a collective impact initiative that aims to transform adult literacy for millions of Americans

We are so thankful for your partnership, and for the impact that we are making together. It's an honor to work alongside you to build the more literate America that Barbara Bush envisioned.

With gratitude,



Doro Bush Koch

Doro Bush Koch
Honorary Chair



Andrew Roberts

Andrew Roberts
President

BUILDING A MORE LITERATE AMERICA

OUR NATION'S LITERACY CHALLENGE — AN INCREDIBLE OPPORTUNITY

Barbara Bush chose literacy as her cause based on a simple, but **powerful belief**:

“If more people could read, write, and comprehend, we would be that much closer to solving so many of the problems that plague our nation and our society.”

—BARBARA BUSH

Since she established the Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy in 1989, research has proven her right. **Low literacy is linked to some of today's most pressing concerns**, including economic growth, public health and safety, and civic engagement. Yet, today **130 million Americans—54% of adults aged 16-74**—lack the literacy skills that many of us take for granted, reading below the equivalent of a sixth-grade level.¹ Young readers are struggling as well: **64% of our nation's fourth-graders** read below grade level.²



¹ [Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies \(PIAAC\)](#). National Center for Education Statistics (2017)

² [National Assessment for Educational Progress](#). National Center for Education Statistics (2022)



The good news is that by investing in literacy, **we have the opportunity to build:**

- **A stronger economy** – Helping all adults reach the equivalent of a sixth-grade reading level could generate an additional **\$2.2T—or 10% of GDP**—annually.³
- **Healthier families** – By improving adult literacy rates, the U.S. could save up to **\$238B** in healthcare costs each year.⁴
- **Safer communities** – Adult education helps reduce recidivism, prevent future crime costs, and improve community wellness.⁵
- **Increased civic engagement** – Boosting adult literacy can help increase voter turnout – especially in local elections.⁶
- **Opportunities to break multigenerational cycles of poverty** – A mother’s education level is the single greatest predictor of her children’s future success, outweighing other factors such as neighborhood and family income.⁷

Read on to learn more about how your support is powering our efforts to build a more literate America that can thrive today and for generations to come.

³ [Assessing the Economic Gains of Eradicating Illiteracy Nationally and Regionally in the United States](#). Jonathan Rothwell, Ph.D (2020)

⁴ [Low Health Literacy: Implications for National Health Policy](#). George Washington University School of Public Health (2007)

⁵ [How to Unlock the Power of Prison Education](#). Stephen Steurer (2020)

⁶ [How We Analyzed Literacy and Voter Turnout](#). ProPublica (2022)

⁷ [Improving mothers’ literacy skills may be best way to boost children’s achievement](#). National Institutes of Health (2010)

BBF BUILDS ESSENTIAL LITERACY SKILLS



Research shows that third-grade reading levels are a key predictor of children's future success in school and in life. Children who build the literacy skills they need to read proficiently by the end of third grade are **four times more likely to graduate from high school** than their peers who read below grade level.⁸

Since 2002, our reading mentoring programs have helped young readers in grades 1–3 build the essential literacy skills that they need to make the critical transition from *learning to read* to *reading to learn*. Both programs are informed by the science of reading, and employ the research-proven strategy of mentoring to improve outcomes.

READSQUAD

Our longest-running reading mentoring program, **ReadSquad**, pairs teen mentors with students in first, second, and third grades who are, on average, four months behind in reading. Teens receive training as reading mentors, and meet regularly with their mentees for 20 one-to-one mentoring sessions, using targeted strategies and activities to boost literacy skills and confidence. Each of the 16–20 books that children read with their teen mentor is added to their home libraries, accompanied by a parent guide, available in English and Spanish, that offers



parents and caregivers the opportunity to take an active role in their child's learning.

ReadSquad continues to achieve outstanding results. The most recent independent evaluation showed:

- Students participating in ReadSquad increased their reading skills by an average of **1.28 grade levels** over the seven-month program (especially substantial given that mentees begin reading well below grade level).
- This translates to **64% more growth** than a typical student would be expected to achieve in an academic year.
- Parents and caregivers of participating students see the benefits of the program as well, with **91% reporting that they would recommend ReadSquad to other families, and 89% reporting that they read ReadSquad books with their children at least once a week.**

⁸ [Early Warning Confirmed: A Research Update on Third-Grade Reading](#). The Annie E. Casey Foundation (2013)

BOOK EXPLORERS

Book Explorers, our newest reading mentoring program, builds on the success of ReadSquad to help target “summer slide” or COVID-19-related learning gaps by allowing students to keep progressing year-round. Like ReadSquad, Book Explorers pairs students in grades 1–3 with a reading mentor and uses targeted strategies and activities to build literacy skills and confidence. This 12-session program is designed for flexible implementation, suitable for use in a variety of settings such as libraries, community centers, or afterschool programs. It also offers volunteer opportunities for both teens and adults—including corporate employees—to serve as mentors.

All Book Explorers program resources are fully online, and are designed to engage and foster a love of reading in young learners. Materials include nonfiction and narrative digital books. Each book is accompanied by a mentor guide that helps mentors make the most of their

sessions, and a parent guide full of fun, enriching activities. All 56 Book Explorers parent guides and a collection of select book titles are available in Spanish.

During 2023, we significantly enhanced program delivery by releasing an updated version of our custom-built Digital Learning Platform (DLP) that provides access to Book Explorers materials and facilitates mentoring sessions. Updates to the platform were based on user feedback from program advisors, mentors, mentees, and parents, resulting in an improved user experience, and allowing for integrated data collection.

During the 2022–2023 academic year, our reading mentoring programs served **approximately 3,000 students across more than 80 programs in six states** (Connecticut, Florida, Illinois, Maine, Oklahoma, and Texas). In 2024, we will expand these programs to serve students and families in South Carolina, thanks to a newly awarded Innovation Grant from the South Carolina State Department of Education.



BBF READING MENTORING PROGRAMS BY THE NUMBERS

Since 2002, BBF's reading mentoring programs have:

Provided
600,000+

Provided more than 600,000 books to build children's home libraries



Provided
\$24M+

Provided more than \$24M of value in volunteer hours⁹



Helped
40,000+

Helped more than 40,000 students in grades 1-3 boost their reading skills



Engaged
760,000+

Engaged mentors in more than 760,000 volunteer hours



“Our greatest achievement in our program is when one of our mentees discovered he could read. The joy and disbelief on his face when he realized he read the entire book was priceless”

—READSQUAD PROGRAM
ADVISOR, WALTON COUNTY,
FLORIDA



⁹ [2023 Value of Volunteer Time Report](#), Independent Sector (2023)

BBF BUILDS RESOURCES FOR EDUCATORS AND FAMILIES

We are committed to equipping educators and families with high-quality, engaging resources to help build literacy skills in learners of all ages.

READLIFE BOOKSHELF

Our multigenerational reading collection, [ReadLife Bookshelf](#), provides a free online library designed to promote literacy skill development in adults and children. Developed in partnership with Worldreader, ReadLife Bookshelf offers:

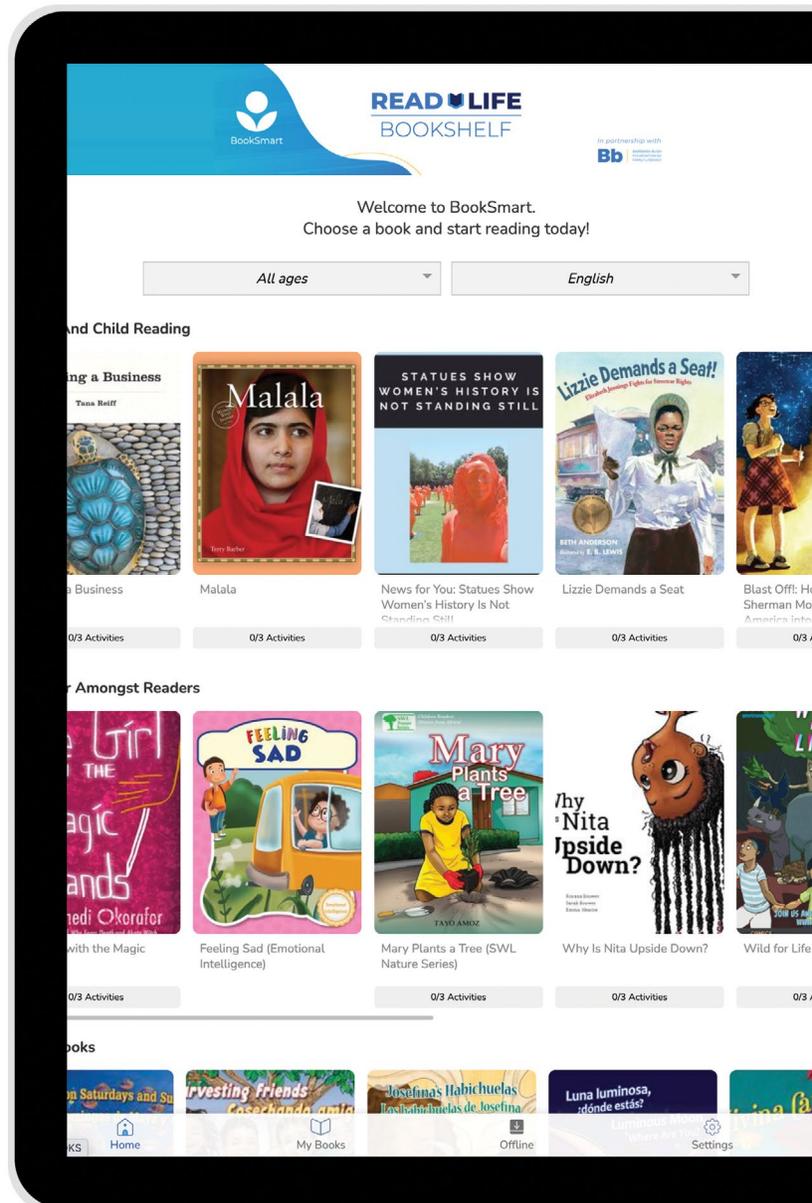
- A curated collection of digital books for adults, children, and families, including titles tailored to the reading levels and interests of adult learners
- Guided activities to encourage adult learners and their families to deepen and enhance the learning experience
- Resource guides to help instructors promote literacy skill development
- Bilingual (English and Spanish) books and resources
- Anytime, anywhere access to online materials across all platforms (Computers, tablets, and smartphones)
- New books and materials each month, with timely, seasonal themes

We continue to build the ReadLife Bookshelf collection, adding new books for children and adults in English and Spanish each month. All resources are available for use by learners and educators at no cost.

Since its launch in fall 2022, ReadLife Bookshelf has grown to include more than **225 unique books for adults, children, and families**, with selections in both English and Spanish, and through shared distribution it serves more than **16,000 readers** across the U.S.

READING RESOURCE LIBRARY

Our [Reading Resource Library](#) is a tool designed for educators to share with adult learners and families, filled with recommendations on topically relevant and captivating books for



readers of all ages and levels. The curated text sets include genres ranging from sci-fi and fantasy to sports and action/adventure — offering something for everyone. Supporting instructor guides help educators engage learners around important topics including civic, digital, financial, and health literacy. We continue to share this valuable resource, which currently includes more than **230** book recommendations and accompanying support materials, with educators nationwide.

DIGITAL LITERACY RESOURCES

Digital literacy—the skills needed to live, learn, and work in today’s increasingly information and technology-driven society—is more important than ever. From applying for a job to navigating a telehealth visit to helping children with homework, we rely on our digital skills in nearly every aspect of our daily lives. Current research shows that **92% of jobs across industries in the U.S. labor market require digital skills.** However, **one-third of American workers currently struggle to perform their job** effectively due to limited digital problem-solving skills.¹⁰

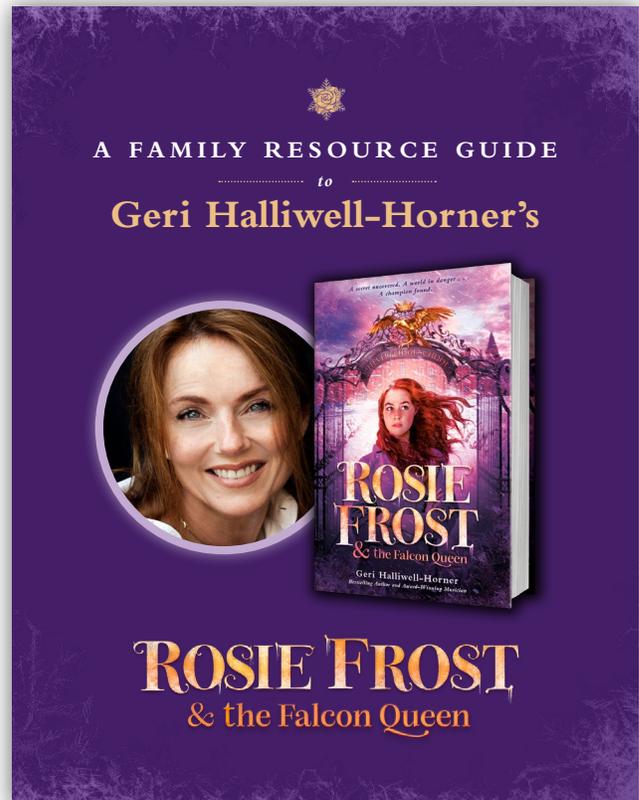
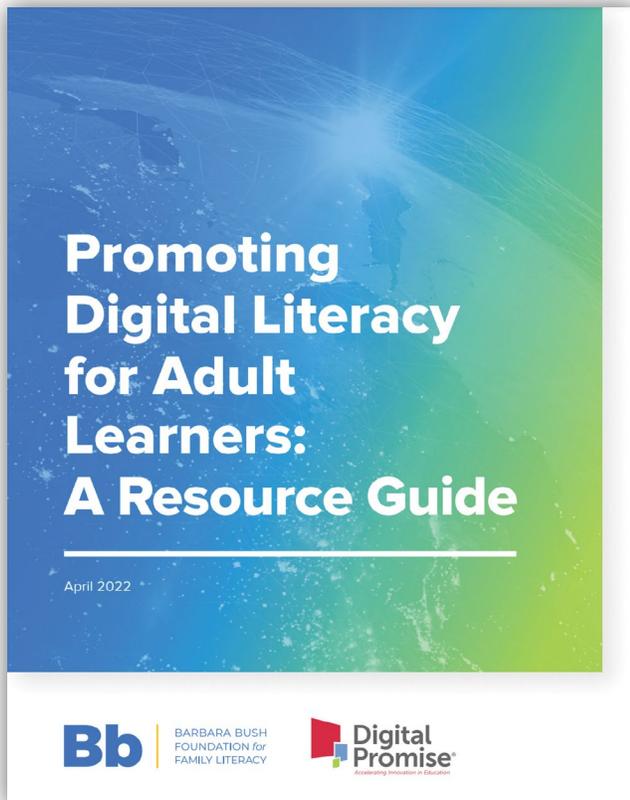
To help bridge this gap, we continue to train educators and mentors nationwide on the use of [Promoting Digital Literacy for Adult Learners](#), our resource guide developed in partnership with Digital Promise. This peer-reviewed guide was developed to support educators, library staff, tutors, and mentors who are working with adult

learners on building literacy skills. Highlights of this work include:

- A partnership with **AT&T** (BBF Corporate Advisory Council member) and the **Public Library Association** to support adult learners at six pilot sites in Arkansas, Georgia, Kentucky, Michigan, New Mexico, and South Carolina in digital literacy skill building for personal and career goals, as well as to collect data on the efficacy of the program
- A partnership with **Intel** (another BBF Corporate Advisory Council member) as part of the N50 initiative to develop a usability study around digital literacy skill building at Lone Pine Paiute Reservation in the Eastern Sierra region of California

FAMILY RESOURCE GUIDES

Our team of family literacy experts develops resource guides to help parents, caregivers, and children explore books together. Guides include



¹⁰ [Closing the Digital Skill Divide: The Payoff for Workers, Business, and the Economy](#). National Skills Coalition and Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta (2023)

activities and conversation starters that families can use to deepen engagement with each book's subject matter, as well as support children's development as readers. In 2023, we released guides to accompany [A is For Ambitious](#) by **Meena Harris** and [Rosie Frost & the Falcon Queen](#) by Barbara Bush Foundation ambassador **Geri Halliwell-Horner**.

To help parents, caregivers, and educators make storytime even more fun and engaging for children ages birth-3, we also offer [Sharing Stories](#). These guides, available in both English and Spanish, provide literacy-building tips and activities to accompany popular children's books—all of which are in print and readily available at local libraries or bookstores—and are perfect for use at home, in a preschool classroom, or in libraries.

EDUCATOR EDITION

In 2023, we launched **Educator Edition**, a quarterly newsletter that provides K-adult and family literacy practitioners nationwide with in-depth updates and information on programs and resources that are applicable to their learners. This new publication has been extremely well received, and we look forward to expanding its reach to even more educators in the coming year.

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BARBARA BUSH
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Educator Edition

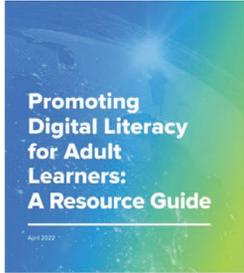
MARCH 2023

Welcome to the first issue of *Educator Edition*, the Barbara Bush Foundation's new quarterly newsletter for literacy educators and practitioners. In this newsletter, we plan to share updates on our programs and highlight our offerings for teachers, students, and families to support you and your learners.

We hope you find this newsletter useful, and we'd love to hear from you about the kinds of information you'd like to see in future issues. Please feel free to share any comments or suggestions you might have with us.

GET IN TOUCH

Digital Literacy Resources



To meet the needs of adult learners in a digital literacy context, we partnered with Digital Promise to create a new resource guide, [Promoting Digital Literacy for Adult Learners](#).

This guide is designed to support educators, tutors/mentors, and corporate volunteers who are working with adult learners on building digital literacy skills. Organized into five chapters along with additional resources and appendices, the guide provides a comprehensive framework for promoting digital literacy skills through the lens of the whole adult learner. It's an excellent supplement and support tool to a digital literacy curriculum.

To complement this guide, we have developed [training materials](#) to support facilitators who are *introducing* the resource guide to educators, employers, mentors, and volunteers that work with adult learners. It provides recommendations for training others on how to use the guide, such as making the most of key features and facilitation tips.

BBF BUILDS AWARENESS OF OUR NATION'S LITERACY CHALLENGE

We leverage our unique national platform and collaborate with high-profile partners to raise awareness of the literacy challenge, as well as support for our ongoing work toward a more literate America.

NATIONAL CELEBRATION OF READING

Our 2023 National Celebration of Reading brought together bestselling authors and entertainers, literacy trailblazers, and friends and supporters to celebrate our impact and advance our vital mission. This incredible evening at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C., chaired by **Kristi Rogers**, was emceed by Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist **Jonathan Capehart**, and featured appearances by **First Lady Jill Biden**, **Helena Andrews-Dyer**, **Franc D'Ambrosio**, **Oliver James**, **Jeff Nussbaum**, **Steven Rowley**, **Cheryl Strayed**, and **Rebecca Yarros**.





BBF AMBASSADOR GERI HALLIWELL-HORNER

In fall 2023, we announced a new partnership with author, entertainer, and philanthropist **Geri Halliwell-Horner**. Widely recognized as “Ginger Spice,” an original member of the record-breaking British pop group the Spice Girls, Geri is a longtime advocate for literacy in the U.K. through her work as an ambassador for the Royal Commonwealth Society. Through our new partnership, she serves as an ambassador for the Barbara Bush Foundation, expanding her advocacy work into the U.S. and encouraging families nationwide to connect through reading.

Geri’s latest book, ***Rosie Frost & the Falcon Queen***, became an instant New York Times bestseller after its release on October 3. She celebrated the book’s release by joining **Jenna Bush Hager** on ***TODAY with Hoda & Jenna*** to announce that she will generously donate a portion of her proceeds from *Rosie Frost* to support the Foundation’s nationwide literacy work.

To support the launch of *Rosie Frost & the Falcon Queen*, our team of family literacy experts partnered with Penguin Random House to create an online family resource guide to accompany

the book. The [guide](#), which is available in English and Spanish, includes activities and conversation starters that parents and caregivers can use to explore *Rosie Frost* along with their children, deepening their engagement with the book’s subject matter and supporting their development as readers.



BBF BUILDS CORPORATE ENGAGEMENT IN LITERACY

Barbara Bush once said, **“Literacy is every-one’s business. Period.”** Like our founder, we believe that the corporate sector has a key role to play in solving our nation’s literacy challenge, and we collaborate with leaders from diverse industries to engage their expertise and leadership in our work.

CORPORATE ADVISORY COUNCIL

Our Corporate Advisory Council convenes innovative business leaders from across the United States, with members representing

a diverse range of sectors including energy, finance, health, retail, technology, and telecommunications. Members help advance our mission by providing counsel on philanthropic and business development strategies, as well as corporate social responsibility and employee engagement initiatives, leveraging their professional networks and expertise to strengthen private sector engagement in literacy issues.

We continue to collaborate with Corporate Advisory Council member organizations on a variety of co-designed programs and educational initiatives to serve our target population.





2023 CORPORATE ADVISORY COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

ADVANCING DIGITAL LITERACY WITH AT&T AND INTEL

Corporate Advisory Council member organizations **AT&T** and **Intel** understand that literacy and digital literacy skills are key factors in closing the digital divide and equipping individuals for success. We have joined AT&T and the **Public Library Association** (PLA) to support adult learners at six pilot sites in Arkansas, Georgia, Kentucky, Michigan, New Mexico, and South Carolina in digital literacy skill building for personal and career goals, as well as to collect data about program efficacy. The pilot pairs our resource guide, [Promoting Digital Literacy for Adult Learners](#), which provides research-based strategies for working with adult learners, with [DigitalLearn.org](#) materials.

In collaboration with **Intel**, we developed a usability study around digital literacy skill building at the Lone Pine Paiute Reservation in the Eastern Sierra region, a remote, historically disadvantaged area in the state of California. Our team

trained Intel corporate volunteers to work with residents as digital skills mentors, and provided technical assistance and resources to support the effectiveness of the ongoing digital skills mentoring, including session planning and sourcing resources to support residents.

REACHING UNDERSERVED CHILDREN AND FAMILIES WITH COLGATE-PALMOLIVE

Colgate-Palmolive believes that promoting literacy is about underscoring the importance of providing people with tools to better process information and make educated decisions for their families. As part of its efforts to reach underserved children and families, Colgate-Palmolive has partnered with us to participate in Literacy Day at the Ann Norton Sculpture Gardens in Palm Beach, Florida, for the past two years, providing educational activities, books, and dental hygiene kits for young readers from local Title I schools.

BBF BUILDS LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

While we are headquartered in Washington, D.C., we create opportunities to help foster a love of reading in children and families from coast to coast.

STORYTELLING IN ACTION IN LOS ANGELES

We collaborated with the renowned **Geffen Playhouse** to present a family literacy workshop, “Storytelling in Action,” in Los Angeles. Parents, caregivers, and children spent the morning engaging in fun storytelling activities

at the theater, and families went home with a bag full of books and resources to continue their literacy journey.

Parents and caregivers reported that they learned storytelling skills that will help them encourage their children’s literacy skill development. One mother shared:

“I collected a lot of information that I can now show my child and others. I’ve learned to act out and use my imagination when it comes to reading to my child. I’m able to catch his attention for a long period of time while having so much fun.”





LITERACY DAY IN PALM BEACH

We partnered with the Ann Norton Sculpture Gardens in Palm Beach, Florida, to co-host their 16th annual Literacy Day. This gathering immerses more than 200 students from local Title I elementary schools in a fun, engaging day of reading-focused programming.

Students in kindergarten through third grade had the opportunity to interact with children's authors, artists, entertainers, and storytellers, including author **Sophia Lee** and social media

influencer **Oliver James**. Participating students were provided with copies of the books that Oliver and Sophia shared with them—*Lolo's Sari-sari Store* by Sophia Lee and *I Am Every Good Thing* by Derrick Barnes—thanks to generous donations by **Simon & Schuster** and **Penguin Random House**.

Colgate-Palmolive, a member of our Corporate Advisory Council, participated as well, providing educational activities, books, and dental hygiene kits for participating children through its Bright Smiles, Bright Futures® program.

BBF BUILDS KNOWLEDGE AND INNOVATION IN THE LITERACY FIELD

We play an active role in advancing the national conversation on literacy—both within and beyond the field—by investing in research and education initiatives.

LITERACY EQUITY INSIGHTS DASHBOARD

Thanks to generous funding from **Eric and Wendy Schmidt**, we are working in partnership with the **University of Illinois Chicago** and **Innovare** to reincubate the **Literacy Equity Insights** project - a platform that assesses localized disparities in access to literacy services. Originally developed within the literacy services sector in Chicago, LEI provides insights into the landscape of literacy access with a data-informed, asset-based, and equity focused lens. With a formula based in extensive social scientific research, the tool provides a way of understanding community strengths and challenges regarding access to educational opportunity, and depicts the deployment of literacy services and other institutions within that landscape.

The project addresses two distinct but related problems:

- Literacy services organizations working across the nation, often with tight budgets and a narrow focus area, are often not afforded with “peripheral vision” to better understand and coordinate with other programs across the sector.
- Funders lack a data-driven, consistent way to understand where to deploy literacy services and supports. Only using achievement-based data-collection (e.g., test scores) to deploy supports is difficult since those data points are not regularly updated.

The LEI dashboard addresses these challenges by visualizing data overlaid with “Access Scores,” a weighted formula of regularly refreshed socio-economic indicators such as employment rates, household income, and early childhood education offerings, shown by social scientific research

to be correlated with low literacy. The dashboard will enable practitioners and funders to visualize gaps and map out opportunities for additional support, and can be used to inform advocacy, field building, and decision making efforts to improve literacy service offerings and delivery in regional communities nationwide.

While this tool is currently being deployed in Chicago, we hope that over time it can be expanded to provide a nationwide picture of literacy access, helping to drive important conversations about educational opportunity. We also seek to partner with other communities to help improve deployment and coordination at the local level.

EDTECH RESEARCH

We continue to explore the potential for advancements in edtech to broaden access to literacy resources. **Dr. Stephanie Moore**, Assistant Professor for Organization, Information, and Learning Sciences at the **University of New Mexico** (and former Dollar General Barbara Bush Fellow), published two key pieces of research in 2023:

- A final report and recommendations on the deployment of eye tracking and mixed reality technologies in adult literacy settings — Dr. Moore conducted field tests at four adult learning sites in New Mexico to evaluate the use of the **Microsoft HoloLens** mixed reality headset in concert with **SphereGen’s VeyeZER™ Graph** eye tracking technology as an assessment tool to help providers identify literacy issues. The evaluation determined that the technology shows promise as a useful addition to the toolsets of adult literacy programs and educators, and provided crucial feedback for future process and technology refinement.
- [*Learning Technologies for Adult Literacy: State of the Research and Opportunities*](#) — This landscape analysis examined the application of edtech within adult literacy, highlighting the need for technologies that 1) are authentically used in adult learners’ day-to-day

lives, 2) afford flexibility and autonomy for adult learners, 3) are integrated with—rather than replace—in-person learning, and 4) are designed to feature practice and feedback, situated learning, and direct instruction.

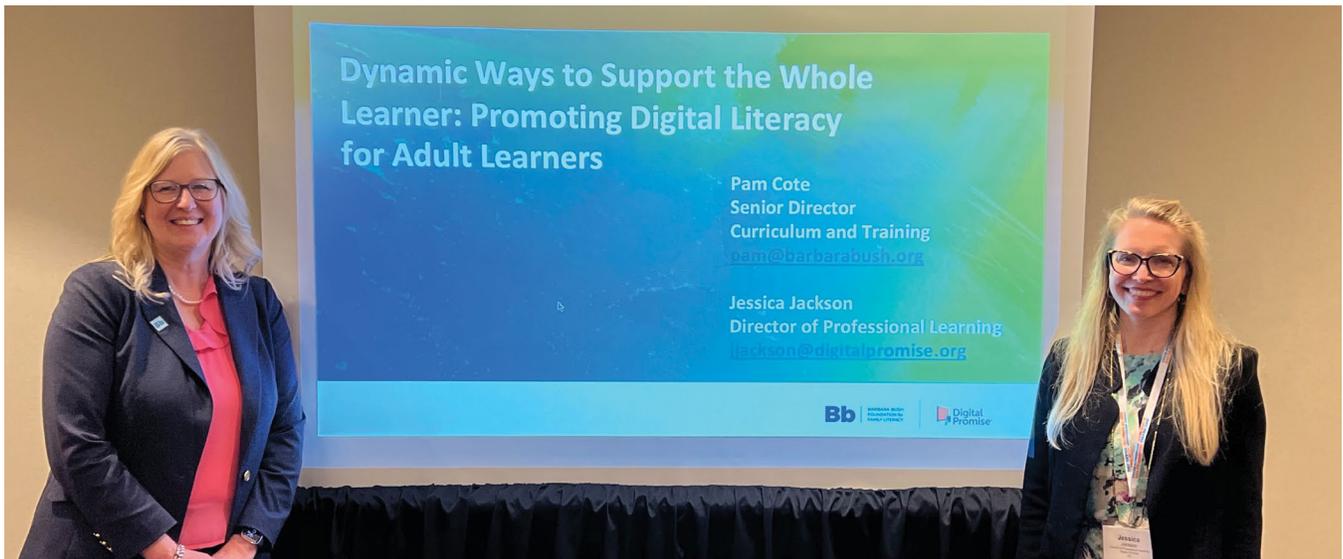
TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY COUNCIL

Throughout 2023, we continued to leverage the expertise of our **Technology Advisory Council**, a diverse group of innovators that includes Silicon Valley leaders, venture capitalists, industry trailblazers, and some of the nation’s top philanthropies and nonprofits. By providing counsel on strategic edtech investments focused on lowering barriers to access, the council provides

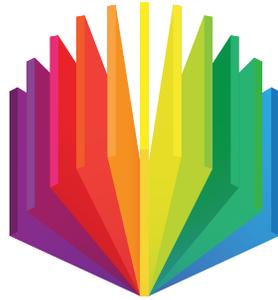
critical input that will help shape the trajectory of not just our work, but the entire literacy field in the years to come.

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

We actively engage in the national conversation around literacy, participating in key gatherings both inside and outside of the field. During 2023, our team presented at convenings hosted by the **American Telemedicine Association**, **Arizona Department of Education**, **Coalition on Adult Basic Education (COABE)**, **Jobs for the Future**, **Maine Adult Education Association**, **National Center for Families Learning**, and **ProLiteracy**.



BBF BUILDS INVESTMENT IN ADULT LITERACY



ALL IN

The Adult Literacy &
Learning Impact Network

Thanks to generous funding from the Dollar General Literacy Foundation, we continue to advance the implementation of the first-ever [National Action Plan for Adult Literacy](#) — a multisector, multiyear initiative aimed to transform adult and family literacy for millions of Americans by driving inclusive, collective action to address systemic challenges. Convened by the Barbara Bush Foundation in 2019, the National Action Plan was developed in collaboration with more than 100 expert stakeholders including representatives from corporations and foundations; community organizations and associations; federal, state, and local governments; academic experts; and edtech leaders.

ALL IN — THE ADULT LITERACY AND LEARNING IMPACT NETWORK

We continue to serve as the convener and administrative home for the [Adult Literacy and Learning Impact Network \(ALL IN\)](#), a collective impact initiative charged with carrying out the National Action Plan.

ALL IN is comprised of national literacy organizations, with a Coordinating Council serving as its governing body. Coordinating Council member organizations are:

- American Library Association
- Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy
- Coalition on Adult Basic Education
- CURE National
- Dollar General Literacy Foundation
- Houston Mayor's Office for Adult Literacy

- Jobs for the Future
- National Association of State Directors of Adult Education
- National Center for Families Learning
- National Coalition for Literacy
- ProLiteracy
- TESOL International Association
- VALUE USA
- World Education, Inc.

ALL IN's member organizations are working toward a shared vision of an America in which every adult can easily access high-quality, effective support to improve their reading, writing, digital, and numeracy skills, prioritizing historically excluded communities. The initiative's priority goals are:

1. Increase access to literacy services and supports
2. Strengthen quality of learning experiences
3. Promote uptake in high quality programs

Highlights of ALL IN's progress toward these goals in 2023 include:

- Addition of a new member organization, Jobs for the Future, bringing ALL IN's Coordinating Council to a total of 14 leaders in the adult education space
- Award of an additional \$500,000 in funding from the Dollar General Literacy Foundation in support of ALL IN's ongoing work
- Publication of ALL IN's first white paper, [Investing in Multiple Literacies for Individual and Collective Empowerment](#)

- Presentation of a briefing for U.S. Senate staff on the vital link between adult literacy and economic opportunity
- Coordination (through ALL IN member organization World Education) of a community-engaged research initiative, providing small grants to fund short-term research projects to unearth instructional and programmatic innovation, make visible teacher knowledge, and offer insights in line with broad goals of the National Action Plan
- Partnering with local community organizations to co-design a model for increasing adult literacy access in the South Carolina Lowcountry region, convening more than 50 key stakeholders including education institutions, workforce training institutions, libraries, employers, government leaders, law enforcement, corrections, and community-based organizations
- Planning and preparation for ALL IN's National Summit 2024: Promoting the Value of Adult Literacy, an invitation-only gathering in Washington, D.C.



LOOKING AHEAD

We are so grateful for your continued support, and for the impact that we are making together. It's a busy and exciting time to be engaged with literacy, and we have much to look forward to. Highlights of our plans for the coming year include:

- Expanding our literacy resources for families, providing parents and caregivers with the tools they need to teach and model effective literacy practices
- Broadening the reach and scale of our reading mentoring programs to serve more learners in more geographies - and deepening their impact through enhancement of parent engagement components
- Raising awareness about our nation's literacy challenge through ongoing education and outreach initiatives
- Working alongside our partners in the Adult Literacy and Learning Impact Network to make continued progress toward the National Action Plan for Adult Literacy
- Planning for a yearlong celebration of Barbara Bush's life and legacy to mark her Centennial in 2025



Photo Credit: Tony Powell

FINANCIAL IMPACT

DEAR FRIENDS,

I am pleased to report that the Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy maintains a strong and healthy financial position. Along with my colleagues on the Board of Directors, I am proud of the Foundation's continued impact on individuals, families, and communities nationwide.

The accomplishments detailed in this report were made possible by the generosity of our partners and supporters, who contributed more than \$6.9 million to the Foundation's efforts in 2023. We are grateful for all of these contributions, which support the vital mission of the Foundation.

This generous support fueled our dedicated Foundation team's efforts throughout the year, which included building essential literacy skills through reading mentoring programs, sharing resources for parents and educators, driving knowledge and innovation in the literacy field, investing in adult literacy, and much more. Our 2023 expenditures totaled \$6,250,127.

We are proud and honored to steward the funds contributed by our many supporters so that we together may build a stronger America through literacy.

Sincerely,

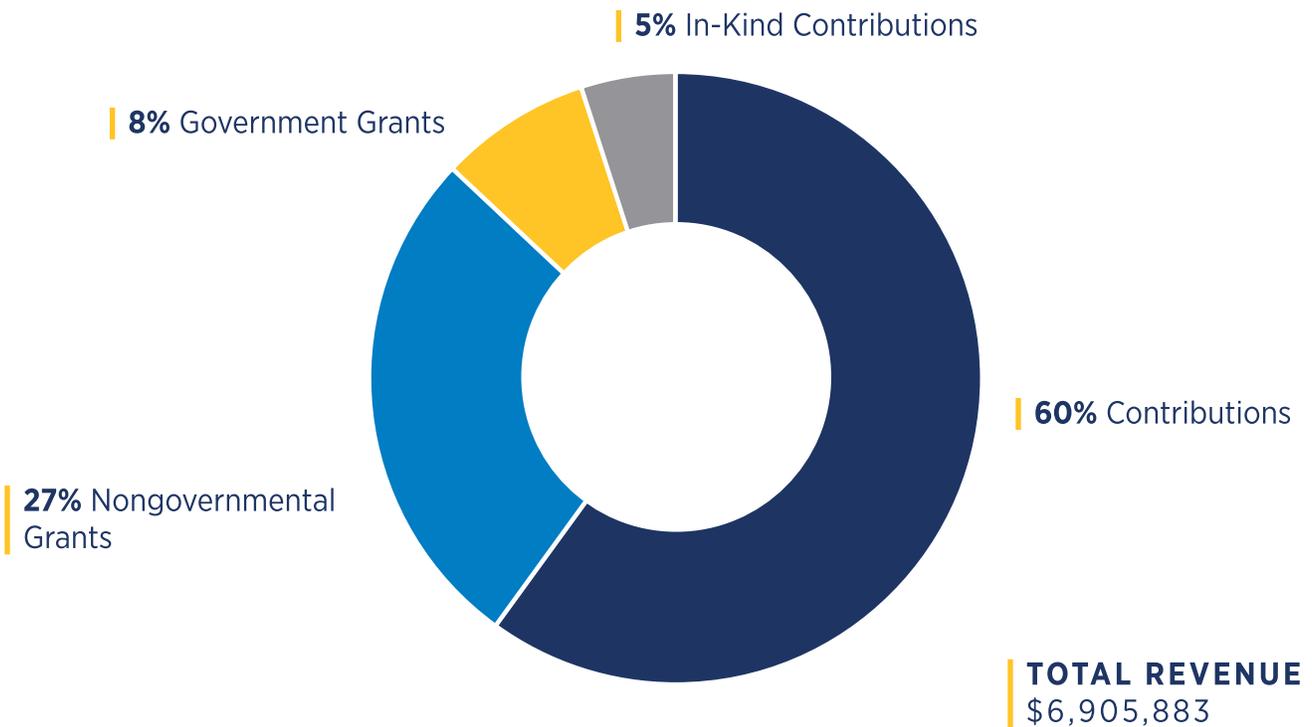
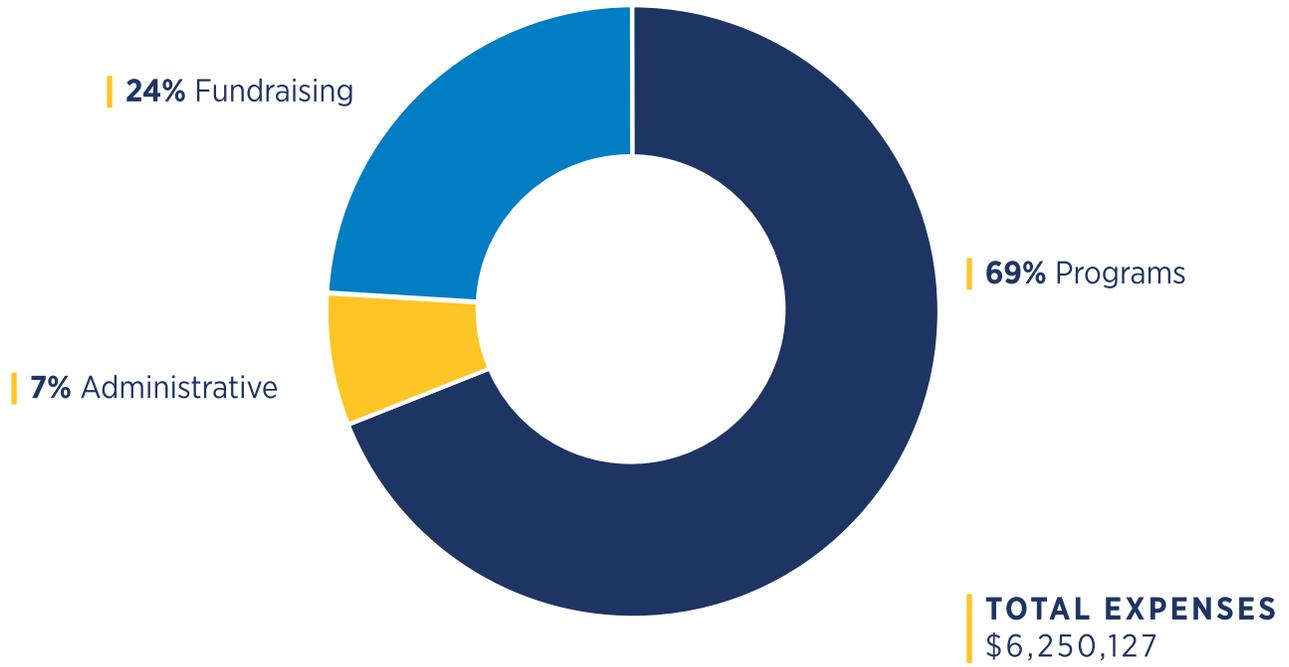


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The Barbara Bush Foundation has been the nation's leading advocate in breaking the multi-generational cycle of low literacy and improving the quality of life for families for more than three decades. Since our establishment in 1989 by first lady Barbara Bush, we have supported evidence-based family literacy programs in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Today, we are a national public charity based in Washington, D.C., dedicated to building a stronger, more equitable America in which everyone can read, write, and comprehend in order to navigate the world with dignity.

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