



### A STEPPING STONE FOUNDATION

*Literacy Elevates  
Arizona Families  
(LEAF) Program*

The LEAF program provides stepping stones for success to families with limited opportunities by preparing children for school success, teaching parents their children's developmental milestones, and promoting English language development while honoring the home language. Over a regular school year, preschoolers from Bret Tarver Isaac Preschool, Synergy Public School, and Westwood Elementary attend literacy-based preschool while their parents attend ESL, parenting, and life skills classes. Children in this program enter kindergarten ready and equipped to learn, while their parents are prepared and trained to support their children's educational journey.



### CENTRAL AZ REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION

Achieve Pinal is a collaborative program, leveraging volunteer seniors from AARP's Experience Corps, Read On Arizona resources, and Pinal Alliance for Economic Growth partners to serve second and third-grade students in ten school districts across Pinal County. This initiative harnesses the expertise and passion of highly trained AARP tutors to help children become proficient readers by the time they finish third grade. Through five hours of weekly personalized tutoring, students have demonstrated remarkable improvements in literacy, social-emotional learning, and overall attitudes and behaviors. This program also offers meaningful experiences and fosters connections for seniors in Pinal County.



### CHINLE PLANTING HOPE

*Reading Empowers  
Adventures and  
Dreams (READ) in  
Beauty Bookmobile &  
Literacy Program*

Located within Arizona's Navajo Nation, READ in Beauty was designed to address the educational challenges experienced by the disadvantaged youth of Chinle. The initiative promotes literacy by organizing reading-based community events and making literature accessible through a bookmobile that visits community gatherings, Chapter Houses, and outlying areas. The Bookmobile has a variety of resources, including storybooks for young children, educational materials for students in grades K-12, interactive books, and STEM activities. A significant portion of the collection features works by indigenous authors and covers topics that celebrate and preserve Navajo cultural traditions.



### GABRIEL'S ANGELS

*Animals, Books, and  
Children (ABC)  
Program*

The ABC program serves at-risk children from 1st to 3rd grade in the Phoenix and Tucson metropolitan areas. Each week, children are visited by a pet therapy team for a 20-minute reading session, which helps build a trusting bond and nurtures a love for reading in a non-judgmental environment. The teams collaborate with teachers to select books that match the child's reading level. For children just beginning to read, the team employs flashcards to help sound out words, which enhances literacy fundamentals. The program includes activities designed to cultivate key social behaviors essential for the children's overall development, tailored to fit various ages and abilities. Each child takes home a backpack filled with books and a whiteboard with alphabet letters for practicing reading and writing.



### LITERACY CONNECTS

*Reading Seed  
Children's Literacy  
Program*

Reading Seed focuses on supporting at-risk children from K to 3rd grade in 21 under-resourced schools across Pima County. The program employs trained volunteers who provide personalized one-on-one mentoring to students, aiming to boost reading skills, foster a positive identity as readers and learners, and improve reading outcomes by the third grade. Volunteers get assistance from Reading Seed and Library staff in selecting and obtaining books for their mentees from a Lending Library that houses over 25,000 titles. Through this program, Literacy Connects provides students with free, high-quality books that are culturally diverse and resonate with their identities, interests, and reading abilities. This initiative ensures that each of the one thousand participating children receives at least 24 free books, helping them to establish their home libraries.



### MAKE WAY FOR BOOKS

*Story School*

Serving five Arizona counties, Story School is an 11-session, weekly community-based program led by bilingual Family Literacy Specialists. A cohort of adults and children learn together through interactive literacy activities that promote emergent literacy and language skills, social-emotional development, and approaches to learning. Parents gain skills, knowledge, and confidence as their children's first, most essential teacher. Story School is offered at various locations, such as schools, nonprofits, and libraries, to reduce participation barriers and program costs. To extend learning opportunities at home, Story School provides families 20 high-quality books and access to the Make Way for Books Bilingual App, with activities, books, and tips they can access anytime.



### READ BETTER BE BETTER

Read Better Be Better is a 90-minute literacy program held twice weekly across eleven Maricopa County school districts, focusing on Title 1 schools. Trained Program Coaches, often education majors from local colleges, oversee middle school "Leaders" who mentor 3rd-grade "Readers." "Leaders" model and foster active engagement with various texts while developing leadership skills as they assist their elementary-aged "Readers" in developing stronger literacy skills. Each program site receives 25 culturally diverse books, prize books for students to keep, snacks, and board games. Read Better Be Better addresses Arizona's literacy challenges by fostering reading enjoyment, improving concentration, and developing leadership skills, offering a comprehensive approach to literacy and personal growth.



### VALLEYWISE HEALTH FOUNDATION

*Raising a Reader  
Program at the  
Family Resource  
Center in Maryvale*

The Valleywise Health Family Resource Centers are open to all in the community, serving as a vibrant place for families to learn, grow and thrive together. Through the evidence-based Raising a Reader Program program, caregivers engage in regular book sharing with children from birth to age eight to foster healthy brain development and a love of reading to improve literacy skills for school success. In addition to the Raising a Reader curriculum, each month, a family receives a Literacy Activity Packet with a specifically selected book and activities that include craft materials the child and caregiver(s) work together on at home. The program encourages families to create their home libraries, work together on crafts, and build strong relationships with one another.