

Enriching ARIZONA LITERACY

2020-2021 GRANTEES



LITERARY SOCIETY
OF THE SOUTHWEST



FRIENDS OF THE SCOTTSDALE PUBLIC LIBRARY *Storytime Room*

The Storytime Room provides early reading programs for students from low-income families at a higher risk of not meeting Arizona's standards in reading. Interactivity is a crucial component of early literacy, and our grants furnished the Storytime Room with three sets of virtual reality goggles and eight iPad Mini tablets to enhance the reading experience. When the Storytime session involves an unfamiliar concept, such as a foreign country or new culture, children of all ages and income levels can use these platforms to better engage with the content. They will also learn new technology in the process, setting them up for future success in school and beyond.



GIRL SCOUTS ARIZONA CACTUS-PINE *Summer Camp Program at Parsons Leadership Center*

A literacy component is integrated into their summer camp program serving more than 500 K-5 girls. As the girls explore the pillars of Girl Scouting (STEM, the outdoors, entrepreneurship, and life skills), they will be reading the books we provide to help them learn and grow while working on their reading skills. Each camper will have a genre-specific book to take home at the end of the week, along with the badges and patches she earns. By incorporating books and reading in a camp setting, these girls will find friendship, build confidence, and discover the joy of reading alone and with others.



LITERACY CONNECTS *Reading Seed Children's Literacy Program*

Our support purchased books for children served by the Reading Seed program. Reading Seed recruits and trains volunteers to work one-to-one with children in Title I schools reading below grade level who are chosen by their teachers as most likely to benefit from the program. Students are provided with free books weekly, chosen specifically to match their reading level and interests. The goals of the program, achieved through increased practice and support, are for students to increase reading proficiency and to enjoy reading.



MAKE WAY FOR BOOKS *Virtual Story School*

Our support provided each family enrolled in the Virtual Story School with a backpack filled with school supplies and high-quality books to use throughout the program. The Virtual Story School is an innovative, two-generation model that provides ongoing, bilingual, early literacy and learning opportunities for underserved children ages 3-5 and families without access to high quality early education. Through the two-generation model, children and parents learn together and both gain critical skills. Each week of the 10-week series focuses on literacy, language, and social emotional skills that are foundational for children's future success.



READ BETTER BE BETTER *At Home Program*

A highly structured afterschool reading comprehension program in elementary schools where older, trained students assist younger students to improve their reading skills. The program was held remotely because of COVID-19 and was renamed Read Better Be Better At Home. We paired 438 2nd through 4th grade students with 397 leaders and continued our core mission of connecting students through reading, but in the home instead of at school. RBBB program coaches conducted a total of 1,528 weekly phone check-ins with caregivers to monitor student reading progress, answer questions, and provide additional resources and information.



READ ON ARIZONA *Raising Arizona Readers Project*

The Raising Arizona Readers Project identifies book deserts in high-need, high-poverty areas of the state. A special emphasis will be on Read On communities with families most impacted by COVID-19 (based on cases and unemployment filings) that have young children with little or no access to books. The project's main goal is to distribute high-quality, culturally responsive books to families with young children and help them begin to build a home library and reading routine as a family to amplify the important of early literacy.