



LITERARY SOCIETY
OF THE SOUTHWEST

Enriching ARIZONA LITERACY

2022-2023 GRANTEES



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 Westwood Elementary (Alhambra School District) 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, and their parents are prepared and trained to support their educational journey.



CHINLE PLANTING HOPE

Reading Empowers Adventures and Dreams (READ) Program

Located in Arizona's Navajo Nation, READ was created to address the educational challenges experienced by the disadvantaged children of Chinle by bringing a library directly to the community via a bookmobile. In addition to childhood storybooks, books for K-12, interactive books, and learning games, the bookmobile will be equipped with laptops, internet, and a charging station for cell phones. Some books will feature indigenous authors, illustrators, and subject matters that help preserve Navajo cultural traditions. Literacy programs will be created to empower Navajo children to have adventures that enable them to dream of and create a better future for themselves.



FAMILY PROMISE

Children's Literacy Program

A new endeavor within Family Promise, Children's Literacy program is designed to instill an interest in reading, healthy dialogue, and lifelong learning among children experiencing homelessness. Its main aim is to help break the cycle of poverty within the family through literacy engagement and support. The program will formally launch for children at shelter sites and those who have graduated from the shelter within the last two years. Books will be purchased to build the lending library with an equitable collection per age range covering topics such as diversity and inclusion, social and emotional learning, and supporting reluctant readers. A weekly storytime will engage children in dialogue followed by a related craft or activity. Each child chooses up to four books to start their library.



GABRIEL'S ANGELS

Animals, Books, and Children (ABC) Program

The ABC program serves at-risk children in 1st through 3rd grades in the metropolitan Phoenix and Tucson areas. Each week, a pet therapy team spends 20 minutes reading with a child, building a trusting relationship and fostering the love of reading without the fear of criticism or judgment. The team works closely with teachers to choose books at the appropriate reading level, and, for non-readers, the team uses flashcards to help in sounding out words and the alphabet to enhance literacy basics. Activities to develop core behaviors crucial to successful social development are incorporated for every age group and skill level. The child receives a backpack with books and a whiteboard with alphabet letters to practice reading and writing at home.



LITERACY CONNECTS

Reading Seed Children's Literacy Program

The Reading Seed program serves at-risk children ages 5-9 to increase reading proficiency, develop healthy identities as readers and learners, and positively impact third-grade reading levels. The program staffs and maintains a Lending Library and purchases and distributes high-quality books carefully selected to match a child's reading level and interests, so an at-home library begins to develop. One thousand two hundred children will each receive at least 24 free books during the school year.



READ BETTER BE BETTER

Literacy Program Summer 2023

This is a twice-weekly literacy program, serving Title 1 schools and helping children master the foundational skills necessary to become independent learners. The staff works closely with schools, selecting 3rd-grade "Readers" and middle school "Leaders" for one-to-one cross-age tutoring. "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. The program includes 25 diverse and representative books per program site, prize books for students to take home, snacks, and board games.



VALLEYWISE HEALTH FOUNDATION

Raising a Reader Program at the Family Resource Center in Maryvale

Raising a Reader Program is an evidence-based program that engages caregivers in regular book sharing with children from birth to age eight to foster healthy brain development, healthy relationships, a love of reading, and improve their literacy skills for school success. Each month a family receives a Literacy Activity Packet. The packet has 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.