

ANNUAL REPORT 2019-2020

“What I am most proud of is that when other programs stopped, we never did.”

READ Center Program Manager
Nausha Brown Chavez



WITHOUT LITERACY, THERE IS NO EQUITY

CHANGING LIVES THROUGH ADULT LITERACY

With help from YOU, adults in our community are changing their lives.

How could we have known a year that started with so much promise and momentum would end in a pandemic?

I am so proud of The READ Center's students, volunteer tutors, staff, and board because we never let the outbreak of Covid-19 stop us from working together to change lives through adult literacy.

It was not always easy and not always pretty as students, tutors and staff navigated distance learning to complete the spring and summer trimesters. We built the airplane as we flew it, learning what worked best for our students while remaining flexible, committed, and patient.

Because our students lack literacy skills, digital skills, and often access to computers and the internet, the pivot from in-person instruction to distance learning has been nothing short of amazing. I have never been

prouder of The READ Center team than in our reaction to the current health and economic crisis. It showed the

strength, the commitment and can-do attitude of the entire READ family.

As we look to the future, we know that distance learning will continue to be an important part of our program model. READ is standing behind that commitment by adding a new staff person dedicated to developing strategies and initiatives to make digital learning an ongoing and integral part of READ's literacy programs. Digital skills are critical to support students' literacy goals and help them to navigate a world gone virtual.

We promise the READ family,

students, volunteers, and donors, that we will not stop helping our students improve their lives through literacy.

We extend our sincere thanks to all who supported The READ Center in 2019-2020. Our students need you now more than ever! —Nora Crouch, President

“The staff has supported each other throughout, sharing what we learn, operating as a mail house, ensuring everyone is taking self-care time, and making sure there is some laughter. I feel very grateful to be working with such a resilient, creative, open-minded group of people willing to learn and try new things—who discovered we can all do more than we thought.”

Chris Miller, Program Assistant

WHAT WE DO

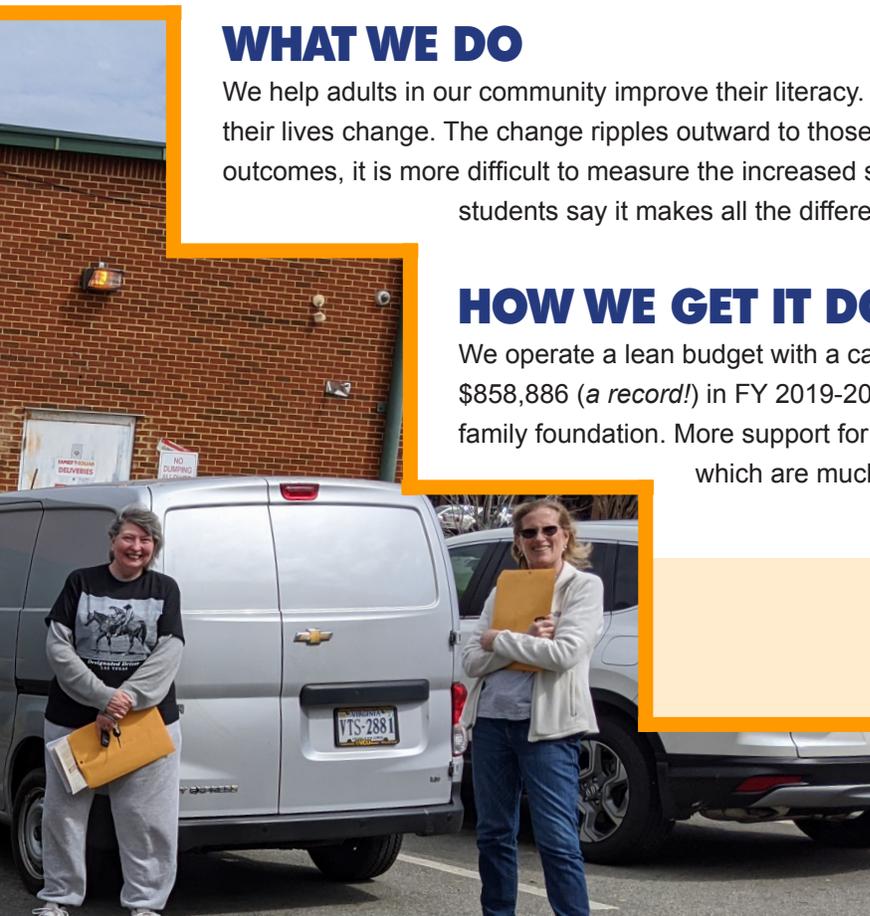
We help adults in our community improve their literacy. When students gain new skills, achieve new goals, their lives change. The change ripples outward to those in their families and community. While we can report outcomes, it is more difficult to measure the increased self-confidence and self-worth READ students gain. Our students say it makes all the difference.

HOW WE GET IT DONE

We operate a lean budget with a can-do attitude. Thanks to your generosity, we raised \$858,886 (a record!) in FY 2019-20 which included a \$300,000 multi-year grant from a family foundation. More support for READ, means we can expand services and programs which are much needed in the current health and economic crisis.

“My life has been a struggle of not liking myself because of my reading and writing. If I can overcome this, I feel that I can be a better person and I hope that I am on the right trail.”

Larry. READ Student



The "You Got This" student awareness campaign reached new students.

149 students helped

263 students registered

93% Student retention

138 student goals achieved

87% Volunteer Tutor retention

96% of students liked their class

127 volunteer Tutors gave 5,328 hours of time and caring

28% increase in Digital skills 96 seats in IXL (online reading and math program)

Retention is important to students making progress. It takes on average 100-150 hours for an adult learner to move one grade level.

"It shouldn't be that in a modern world there are adults who cannot read."

Basil Smith, READ Tutor

With 1,145 hours logged and 142,176 questions answered.

READ students improved reading and digital skills.

Improved reading and digital skills, improved health and financial literacy, increased involvement in children's education and community, obtaining a driver's license, employment, U.S. Citizenship and post-secondary training was achieved by READ students. Only one semester of data was collected due to the pandemic.

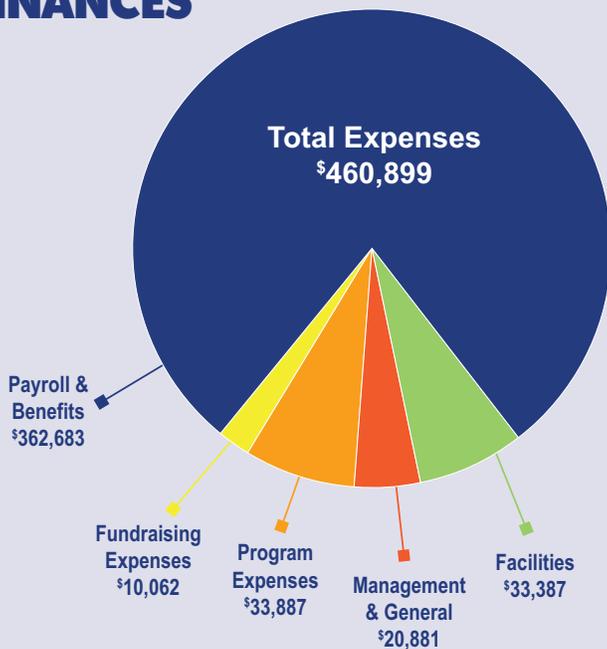


Ms. Deborah earned her Certified Nursing Assistant designation and got her first job in the field.

FINANCES

"I work on my G.E.D because in the future I want a better job. I want to be more successful. My goal is to finish my G.E.D at the end of this year so I need to work hard to complete my goal."

Marcia, READ Student



*READ received a \$300,000 of which \$100,000 can be used each year. Per accounting guidelines, the full amount is shown in the fiscal year it was received. Which means \$200,000 of the excess funds are time restricted and not available until future years. As the health and economic crisis hit, READ budgeted carefully and will use overages from this year to offset the budgeted deficit for the new fiscal year. Financial reports are available upon request and on the READ website.

THANK YOU DONORS

“I have proudly supported The READ Center for many years, and I’d like to tell you why. The READ Center’s mission is one that I believe in wholeheartedly and that provides an essential resource to all those they serve. Literacy is not only the most crucial tool we can utilize to thrive and succeed in the world but is in fact a foundational necessity impacting even our most basic daily needs as individuals. From being able to understand instructions on a prescription bottle to completing an application or simply reading our mail, literacy affects every aspect of our adult lives. To attempt to navigate the world without it in my opinion, presents challenges nearly impossible to overcome.

I know my financial support will be used wisely and constructively to the benefit of every READ Center participant. I greatly respect the READ Center staff for the admirable work they do and am honored to be a part of their endeavors.”

Dan Ryan, READ donor and supporter

For more information about
The READ Center
please visit our website
readcenter.org
or contact
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Karen LaForge at
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WHAT'S NEXT?

As a result of your support, READ hired a Distance Learning Coordinating to build new distance learning strategies and initiatives to serve students through the pandemic and in the future. We continue to look for new space to house READ offices, classroom space (some of our students cannot do distance learning) and a computer lab so we can provide students with the services they need to be literate in today’s world.

The 2020-2021 academic and fiscal year will be challenging, but the READ Center family will work together to support each other and continue to succeed.

The READ Center believes everyone needs and deserves a literate life because without literacy, there is no equity.

“When I see someone who can not read, I know what an uncomfortable feeling it is. No matter who you are, it is important for you to be able to write and read. People in America are lucky to be able to go to school.”

Inaam, READ Student

“READ is focusing on connecting our students with programming remotely—including everything from digital literacy classes to video conferencing platforms to training for staff. Ultimately, the priority is ensuring students and staff have a way to continue their work.”

Kristin Parson, READ Distance Learning Coordinator

“I found the motivation, enthusiasm and progress of students to be rewarding. I enjoy partnering with them as they learn to read.”

Linda Struck, READ Tutor

