EVERYBODY WINS!
When Adults Read With Children
SHARED READING REPORT 2018-2019
About EWDC

Everybody Wins DC (EWDC) is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving lives through shared reading.

EWDC was founded in March 1995 after Senator James Jeffords (R-VT) and Senator Paul Simon (D-IL) brought together a bipartisan coalition of 130 Senators and Senate staff to launch a reading-based mentoring program – Power Lunch – at Brent Elementary School.

Modeled after a similar program started a few years earlier in New York City, Senators Jeffords and Simon saw Power Lunch as a meaningful way to support students attending a public elementary school just a few blocks from the Capitol Building.

Now 25 years later, Everybody Wins DC brings shared reading programs to students in 11 elementary schools across Washington DC and Virginia and has made a lasting impact on a generation of students and volunteers.
A WORD FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

The 2018-2019 school year was a banner year for Everybody Wins DC (EWDC). We enjoyed a 30 percent increase in the number of children and adult mentors participating in our Power Lunch program.

We tripled the number of business sponsors for Power Lunch schools. We added four energetic and committed professionals to our Board of Directors as we continue our process of transitioning to a new and dynamic leadership team.

And we have inaugurated our Leadership Circle, a group of young professionals dedicated to working with our Board of Directors to augment our base of reading mentors and funding.

Our April Gala was a smashing success. We honored Jill Sommers (Patomak), Mike Sommers (API) and Peter Brusoe (Bloomberg) and heard inspiring testimonials to the value of Power Lunch from three unforgettable students.

Next year will be even better. And it should be. In March 2020, Everybody Wins DC will celebrate its 25th Anniversary serving students through our unique magic of a one-on-one reading and mentoring experience. We have exciting plans to celebrate this landmark event.

But before we get too far ahead of ourselves, Please review this report and see for yourself all we have achieved. We could not have done it without your support.

One last thing. Our Board and the whole team at Everybody Wins DC will not stop doing whatever we can to eliminate our current waiting list of hundreds of students who want a reading mentor, but have yet to be matched with a caring adult. If you want to become a Power Lunch Mentor or want more information about our shared reading programs, please visit our website: www.everybodywinsdc.org.

These children have volunteered to give up their recess once a week to read at lunch with a caring adult. With your help, we can celebrate our 25th year by making sure that no child remains on our waiting list by this time next year.

Cheers!

Mark D. Young
Everybody Wins DC Chairman
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP
Mr. Mark,
Thank you for reading with me this whole year. First, I don't really like to read books, but when I read with you every Wednesday I became stronger at reading and I like to read more. I wish I will read with you again next year.
-Sai
During SY18-19, EWDC’s shared reading programs served over 600 students.

EWDC’s signature mentoring program - Power Lunch - served almost 500 students in 11 public elementary schools across the Washington metro area.

An additional 100+ students benefited from EWDC’s free book distribution program - The Book Project - and StoryTime events where community leaders participate in shared reading activities with small groups of students.

In SY18-19, EWDC experienced exponential growth to its Power Lunch program, matching 115 more students with mentors than the previous school year.

30% Increase in Power Lunch Students
I have really enjoyed the experience with my reading mentor Scott because it's fun to read with someone that understands the same type of books you do, especially history books! I love history!

-Makai
OUR MENTORS

Power Lunch combines the power of mentorship with the benefits of shared reading to make a positive impact on students’ lives. Mentoring in your community is a powerful way to invest in the next generation.

In SY18-19, **606 mentors participated in Power Lunch**. These mentors came from **120 different partner organizations** - up from 90 partners in SY17-18.

The organizations fall into the categories of: Civic, Congressional, Corporate and Nonprofit.

Of the **606 mentors for SY18-19**, 295 were returning mentors from SY17-18. This is a **64 percent retention rate** between SY17-18 to SY18-19.

The remaining 311 mentors were either new to Power Lunch or returned to Power Lunch after a year or more away.
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THE TRANSFORMATIVE POWER OF MENTORSHIP

Meet Nina-Belle, Power Lunch Mentor at Thomson ES

Nina-Belle is an attorney at the United States African Development Foundation (USADF), an independent government agency that provides grants for projects that benefit underserved communities in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Born in Tokyo, Japan, Nina-Belle immigrated to the US when she was seven years old. As a first generation Cameroon-American, mentorship was an integral part of her understanding of the American experience.

"Having a reading mentor gave me someone to talk to, read with, build my confidence and help me feel more comfortable with getting to know people in a new country."

Nina's positive mentorship experience as a child led her to inquire about volunteering opportunities in her professional career. A USADF colleague - who also reads in Power Lunch - referred Nina to the program last year and she's been reading ever since.

Her student, Brendolyn, is a 2nd grader and also new to the Power Lunch program. "Brendolyn is self aware, self assured and intelligent-- she is capable of anything," says Nina-Belle.

Brendolyn is also very creative. In addition to reading during Power Lunch, the two create story games and are working on a kids book that features a fairy protagonist. "You want the reading experience to be very engaging, and fun!"

The benefits of the program are mutually beneficial. "For me, as an attorney, I am building on my communications skills when I read with Brendolyn; I am challenged to cut down the attorney jargon to communicate in ways that are more relatable to her."

"The Power Lunch program is a great way for adults to help students reach their full potential."
"Power Lunch brings the community together and connects individuals from diverse background together, thus bridging cultures and ethnicity together."

"Power Lunch gives students an opportunity to read in a judgement free environment."

"Power Lunch extends the range of students' connections. Relationships formed over food and books have impact months later. Students can only imagine as far as they can see. The adults that consistently show up and build relationships with our students are models for literacy and life those students can call up."

“It’s so powerful when students have adult role models, other than teachers and families, who are constants in their lives.”
“I like contributing to the community in which I work. Also, on a banal note, having to leave the office, read to a student, and then return has helped develop my task-switching and concentration.”

"The biggest benefit is seeing the progress my student made this year — shown most by the joy in his eyes after reading something new."

“Serving as a Power Lunch Mentor has been extremely rewarding. Watching someone blossom just because you took an hour out of your week! I've grown so much more patient as a person!

“Power Lunch is a kind of therapy. It gets me out of the office and gets my mind off the stresses of work life. It's a HUGE part of my week.”

“This year taught me about grit and about having confidence that I'm making a difference. I feel more connected to the neighborhood by my office, and to the mentors in my office.”
PLACING BOOKS INTO THE HANDS OF CHILDREN

School Year 2018-2019 Stats

4,274 
BOOKS DISTRIBUTED

65 Percent 
INCREASE IN DONATED BOOKS

Dog Man 
MOST POPULAR BOOK READ

8,134 
TOTAL HOURS READ

EWDC's Book Project extends the power of shared reading from school to home by giving away FREE books to Power Lunch students to build their personal home libraries.

It also gives FREE books to other students and teachers to help support general shared reading activities.

Studies show adolescent exposure to books is an integral part of social practices that foster long-term cognitive competencies spanning literacy, numeracy and information and communication technologies (ICT) skills.

Students not only receive books during the school year, but during the summer.

To curb the summer slide, which results in learning loss during the 2-3 months away from school, EWDC provides summer book bundles filled with new books and reading activities.
FUNDRAISING

EWDC fundraises to support all of its activities - **FREE** to students, families, and schools. Here's a snapshot of EWDC's recent fundraising activities:

- **Fundraising Events**: 56.4%
- **Corporate Contributions**: 23.1%
- **Foundation/Grants**: 14.2%
- **Individual Contributions**: 6.3%

**July 2018 - June 2019**

- **Agribank Ag Open**
- **EWDC Gala**
- **Lawyers for Literacy**
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