

25 YEARS | When Adults Read With Children **EVERYBODY WINS!**

Dear Friend:

I hope this message finds you and your family safe and well.

For 25 years, Everybody Wins DC has used the power of shared reading to connect children in need with people who care. Whether it's weekly reading sessions with Power Lunch mentors, the distribution of free books to families and classrooms, or hosting read aloud events with special guests, EWDC knows that connections built over a book can help a child thrive in the classroom and beyond.

With COVID-19 closing schools across the region, we must find new ways to bring the benefits of shared reading to those that need it most. For this reason, **we've made the decision to close Power Lunch for the 2019-2020 program year so that we can focus on the immediate goal of supporting our school communities through distance learning opportunities and resources.**

In the days ahead, we will have more information about our planned remote shared reading activities for the school year. And while it is disappointing that our students and mentors won't get to finish their year of shared reading, we know this is the right decision so that we can best meet the needs of our students, our schools, and our communities.

- The 2019-2020 program year was a banner one for Power Lunch with **over 630 active volunteers from 160+ organizations reading with students at 12 schools across the region.** This is our 3rd year in a row of significant growth and that is because of you and your incredible support.
- In the past 6 months, **EWDC has received more than 8,200 free books from partners and supporters, more than half of which have already been distributed to students and community partners.** This already exceeds last year's total book distribution and we plan to continue getting free books into children's hands in the months to come.

Looking ahead, our work will be more important than ever. Students will head back to classrooms after having missed weeks, if not months, of in-person instruction and engagement. Our unique focus on literacy skills and social-emotional development, combined with the comfort and support a Power Lunch mentor can provide, will be essential as school communities come back together after this unprecedented disruption. That is why we are already hard at work planning for the 2020-2021 Power Lunch program year and are looking forward to seeing our students and mentors reading side-by-side.

Thank you so much for your dedication and commitment to our students and our mission. Please feel free to contact me at jhutchinson@everybodywinsdc.org if you have any questions or want to learn more about how you can help serve children, families, and communities through the power of shared reading.

With gratitude,

