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Dear EWDC Family and Friends:

Since 1995, Everybody Wins DC has used reading as a way to engage, encourage, and inspire children, putting them on a path to success. School year 2020-21 was no different. Yes, we had to make some adjustments to our programs, but their impact was as strong as ever: Our students learned valuable skills to help them thrive in the classroom and in life. Our schools and communities received critical support through book distributions and reading-based experiences. Our volunteers and organizational partners were able to give back in a safe yet meaningful way.

We are incredibly proud of what the EWDC community has accomplished this year on behalf of our students. The pages of this report are filled with incredible numbers and amazing testimonials. But we also know that these successes alone aren’t enough. COVID-19 has had a disproportionate impact on many of the families served by EWDC and exacerbated educational inequalities that put Black, Hispanic, and low-income students behind their peers. That is why EWDC pledges to do more than ever to help children overcome obstacles and succeed. And we will do it like we always have: through reading.

As children return to their classrooms in school year 2021-22, EWDC is excited to return with them, bringing the lessons we learned this year about how to best meet our communities’ needs. Yes, there will still be mentors, StoryTimes and book distributions. But there will also be greater emphasis on our children’s voices, on equity and inclusion, and promoting social justice. Anything less isn’t fair to our students, our communities, and EWDC as an organization. This is how we make a difference. This is how our impact grows.

Thank you all for an incredible year of reading. Your support is what makes EWDC possible. We can’t wait to continue this journey into next school year and beyond.

Sincerely,

Jordi & Arielle

Jordi Hutchinson
EWDC Executive Director

Arielle Elliott
EWDC Board Chair
About EWDC

When children read or are read to, they build a foundation for success in the classroom and in life. That’s why since 1995, Everybody Wins DC has used reading to engage children’s minds, encourage their growth, and inspire their future. Our work to create student-centered and joy-filled reading experiences through mentoring, read-alouds, and book distributions give children the skills and support they need to thrive. And when children thrive, we all benefit. Everybody wins.

The following Impact Report examines EWDC’s program work, successes and accomplishments during school year 2020-2021.
Many children across the Washington DC region are struggling to succeed. In some neighborhoods, more than 40% are living in poverty. 81% of Black 4th graders performed below grade level in reading. Less than half of all 3-12 graders feel loved, challenged, and prepared to have a positive impact on society. In other words, too many students aren’t developing the skills they need to thrive or getting the support they need to prepare for future educational, career, and economic success.

While there isn’t a simple answer to solve every child’s problems, there is something that can make a difference: reading. Research shows that when a child reads or is read to, it can change that child’s life for the better. That’s why Everybody Wins DC brings reading-based programming to children and communities that need it the most.
EWDC's reading programs help students develop the literacy and social emotional skills that are critical to success in the classroom, community, and beyond.

Here's a look at what we accomplished in SY2020-2021:

- **4,500 Students Served**
- **110 1-on-1 weekly mentoring sessions**
- **20 Virtual Read Aloud Sessions**
- **20 Community Book Distributions**
- **6,700 new books received with the help of grants, community partners, and supporters.**
- **20 new partner organizations joined the EWDC community.**
- **200 Virtual Event Attendees**
- **1,270 Volunteer Hours Logged**
- **85% Mentors Who Returned from Prior Years**
- **6,000 Books Distributed**
WHO WE SERVE

During SY2020-2021, EWDC’s reading programs served 4,500 students in Washington, DC, Maryland, and Virginia schools and community organizations.
During SY2020-21, EWDC programs served students attending the following schools:

**Washington, DC Schools**
- Amidon-Bowen Elementary, Ward 6
- Anne Beers Elementary, Ward 8
- Brent Elementary, Ward 6
- Bridges (Charter School), Ward 5
- Christian Family Montessori (Private), Ward 4
- Columbia Educational Campus, Ward 1
- Garrison Elementary, Ward 2
- Hyde Addison Elementary, Ward 2
- Kipp DC Shaw Campus (Charter School), Ward 1
- LAMB (Charter School), Ward 4
- Langdon Elementary, Ward 5
- Ludlow-Taylor Elementary, Ward 6
- J.O. Wilson Elementary, Ward 6
- Marie Reed Elementary, Ward 1
- Maury Elementary, Ward 6
- Mundo Verde (Charter School), Ward 5
- Noyes ES, Ward 5
- Plummer Elementary, Ward 7
- Ross Elementary, Ward 2
- Savoy Elementary, Ward 8
- School Without Walls at Francis Stevens, Ward 2
- Sheridan School (Private), Ward 3
- Thomson Elementary, Ward 2
- Tyler Elementary, Ward 6
- Walker-Jones Education Campus, Ward 6

**Montgomery County, MD Schools**
- Jo Ann Leleck Elementary

**Prince Georges County, MD Schools**
- Al-Huda School (Private)

**Virginia Schools**
- Glebe Elementary
- Key Elementary
When COVID-19 shut schools in March 2020, it changed everything about EWDC and how we support children through reading. Power Lunch became Power Readers, a virtual mentoring program offered throughout the day. StoryTime moved online with live and pre-recorded sessions for kids and their caregivers. The Book Project hosted socially-distanced distribution events in the community, started home delivery of books, and partnered with neighborhood organizations to reach high-need families.
Since EWDC’s beginning, the Power Lunch program connected caring volunteers with students to read together during students’ lunch and recess period. But with everything that has happened this year, offering support only during lunchtime just wasn’t enough.

At the start of school year 2020-2021 EWDC made an adjustment, expanding the program beyond the traditional lunch hour in order to bring the power of reading to more students and at times that better align with families’ needs during remote learning.

To reflect this change, Power Lunch rebranded as Power Readers! Although the name is different, the goal remains the same: mentors and kids, enjoying quality time connecting over a book.

**POWER READERS BY THE NUMBERS**

- Power Readers sessions during SY2020-21 were **100% virtual**
- **110** students served weekly through 1-on-1 mentoring sessions
- **49** mentor organizations represented
- **993** mentoring hours logged
- **85%** of mentors returned from prior years
- **29** school/community groups represented

Power Readers isn’t an assignment from a teacher, or a required activity. Participation is **100% voluntary**. Students are in Power Readers because they want to be there, not because they have to be there. There is no better proof of this than the fact that for over 25 years, kids have been giving up one recess period a week to read with an EWDC mentor. That is the power of the relationships we build through reading. Even more special is that these connections can last for years.

Once a child enters the program, he can stay all the way through the end of elementary school (and in some special cases beyond!).

*Ben and Salvatore enjoying their Power Readers session*
Everybody Wins DC is such a tremendous resource to the Washington DC community. My family has been apart of the Power Readers program for several years. My now 9th, 6th, and 4th graders have each loved reading with an adult (other than mom and dad) in such a supportive atmosphere. This year, with distance learning turning school on its ear, my 4th and 6th grader are excited to reconnect with reading mentors who have become trusted resources over the years. It has been a joy to witness their love of reading grow!

- School Without Walls at Francis Stevens Parent
PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT: STORYTIME

Reading aloud to children not only helps them develop critical cognitive skills, but it also strengthens social and emotional development. That is why EWDC offers read-aloud experiences as part of its core programming.

And while StoryTime has taken many forms throughout EWDC’s history, it has always been about engaging a child’s mind through the power of stories. This year has been no different.

Moving StoryTime to a virtual platform allowed EWDC to create more opportunities to connect with students and families through reading aloud. **This year, EWDC engaged 200 participants over 20 StoryTimes!**

(Bilingual StoryTime with Transperfect: Justice Sonia Sotomayor’s Just Ask!)

During SY2020-21, 9 schools and community groups participated in StoryTime activities:

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT: STORYTIME

92% of StoryTime events during the 2020-2021 school year featured BIPOC main character.

Below is a snapshot of our favorite StoryTime events:

Bloomberg Financial Literacy Workshop & StoryTime with Jubilee Housing

In anticipation of tax season, Bloomberg participated in a StoryTime for students and a workshop for parents and caregivers on financial literacy themes. The StoryTime engaged 10 kindergarten - 2nd grade students enrolled in Jubilee Housing’s virtual afterschool program. Bloomberg volunteers used A Boy, a Budget, and a Dream to introduce basic budgeting and goal-setting techniques in an approachable manner.

Career Exploration with Ludlow-Taylor

Over the course of two lunchtime sessions, 3rd graders at Ludlow Taylor Elementary School met 5 EWDC volunteers who virtually shared books and other texts that inspired their professional paths.

From poems-turned-personal-mantras to popular novels with deeply personal lessons, this gathering of texts - versus a sustained reading of a single text - showcased how reading can have a real-world impact on your life.
PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT: STORYTIME

Here are just a few of the books we read during StoryTime events this year and what participants and partners said about the experience.

“Our son loves being part of these discussions!”
- Parent of Garrison ES 3rd Grader

“Thanks so much for reading with us. I hope there will be more opportunities like this for our children!”
- Afterschool Staff, Jubilee Housing

“I’m happy you have found creative ways to support our kindergarten culture virtually!”
- Librarian, Amidon-Bowen ES

“Our girls loved the book & resonated with the story. We would love to continue our partnership!”
- Staff, Girls on the Run DC
Last year, EWDC launched the Shared Reading Library - an online platform providing read aloud videos of popular titles on demand for students to access any time of the day. Volunteers have submitted over 80 videos that have collectively been viewed over 3,000 times.
Having books in the home is directly linked to a child’s future success in the classroom and in life. Unfortunately, not all children have equal access to this critical resource.

That’s why EWDC launched The Book Project, a distribution program that puts thousands of free books and literacy supports directly into children’s hands and their homes.

This program became even more important when COVID-19 closed schools, libraries and book stores, turning many communities across the DC region into literal “book deserts.”

**THE BOOK PROJECT BY THE NUMBERS**

During school year 2017-18, EWDC gave away 2,600 books to students and classrooms. In school year 2019-20, EWDC more than doubled The Book Project’s impact - 5,231 free books distributed to help build families’ personal libraries.

This year, EWDC distributed 6,000 books, an increase of 130 percent over three years.

Schools and programs supported by The Book Project include:

- Edgewood/Brookland Family Support Collaborative
- Excel Academy
- Garrison Elementary School
- Glebe Elementary School
- Greater DC Diaper Bank
- Homeless Children’s Playtime Project
- House of Ruth
- J.O. Wilson Elementary School
- Joann Leleck Elementary School
- Jubilee Housing
- Ludlow-Taylor Elementary School
- Marie Reed Elementary School
- School Without Walls at Francis Stevens
- Thomson Elementary School
During SY2020-21, The Book Project expanded its reach to new communities and neighborhoods. EWDC books were distributed to families and groups in all 8 wards of the District along with partners in Montgomery County, MD and Arlington and Alexandria, VA.

The Book Project will continue its work throughout the summer, helping students combat summer slide. In addition to distribution events, EWDC is hosting its first ever Summer Reading Bingo Bonanza, and is stocking Little Free Libraries in high need communities so families have easy access to the books kids want to read.

During SY2020-21, EWDC received 6,700 new books through grants, sponsorships and donations from community partners and supporters to help make all this possible.

While the number of books EWDC gives away is an important measure of impact, it isn’t the whole story. There is so much more to The Book Project and how our work to distribute books has a positive impact on lives across the region. Here are a few words from Book Project recipients on what the program has meant to them.

"[The Book Project distributions] brought back memories of when there were book fairs at my school growing up." - EWDC Volunteer

"We received a book on Ruby Bridges. My daughter really enjoyed that because getting mail is exciting. She has now learned about Ruby Bridges and it lends to her self worth because my daughter is African American, and can go ‘wow, this girl who looks like me did something really important.’" - EWDC Parent
Access to books is one issue. Access to books that resonate with the reader is something else entirely. Right now, less than 30% of all children’s books depict non-white lead characters or storylines. That means for the majority of children in the DC region, they aren’t seeing themselves on the page. This lack of representation inhibits personal growth and limits opportunities for education, inclusion, and social justice.

To help address this critical issue, EWDC is partnering with the Little Free Library organization for the Read in Color initiative, an effort to bring diverse books to communities across the nation.

Together with Little Free Library, EWDC will place 21 new book-sharing boxes across the region and fill them with over 4,000 children’s books that celebrate diverse characters, voices, and communities.

EWDC launched this special project in June 2021 at CentroNia, an early childhood and family support organization in Washington, DC.

In partnership with Little Free Libraries, and by working with amazing organizations like CentroNia, we will be putting thousands of diverse books out into 21 new book-sharing boxes across the city. That’s thousands of opportunities to give a child a chance to see themselves on the page or hear their story told in a positive and inspiring way.

- Jordi Hutchinson, EWDC Executive Director
This year, EWDC elected not to host a gala, but instead, our first-ever Digital Celebration Week.

From June 7 through June 11 EWDC highlighted each of our core reading programs – The Book Project, StoryTime, and Power Readers – and the students, volunteers, and partners who made it all possible.

THANK YOU AWARD RECIPIENTS!

Congratulations to the recipients of the 2021 Volunteer of the Year, Mentor of the Year, and Partner of the Year awards. Each recipient is being recognized for their outstanding support of Everybody Wins DC and the students we serve.

Phyllis Hines-Purdue,
Volunteer of the Year

Terry Johnson,
Mentor of the Year

EVERFI,
Partner of the Year

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2020-21 VOLUNTEERS

THANK YOU 2020-21 POWER READERS MENTORS!

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2020-21 VOLUNTEERS

THANK YOU 2020-21
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Washington Post
Winston & Strawn
World Wildlife Fund

THANK YOU 2020-21
STORYTIME VOLUNTEERS!

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Junior League of Washington
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2020-21 SPONSORS & GRANTORS

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EWDC recognizes that in order for any vision to thrive it must be championed. Not one item in this year’s Impact Report would be a reality without the commitment of our corporate partners, organizational funders, and individual donors. To learn more about supporting EWDC programs, please contact Director of Development & Communication, Rody Baron at rbaron@everybodywinsdc.org.

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