Dear Friends:

For over 27 years, Everybody Wins DC has used reading to engage children’s minds, encourage their growth, and inspire their futures. Whether it be through one-on-one mentoring, read-aloud activities, or free book distributions, EWDC programs help children build the literacy and social-emotional skills essential to future success. And with educational disparities exacerbated by the global pandemic, our work is more important than ever. That is why we are incredibly proud of the work we’ve done this year to help children truly thrive.

As you will see on the pages of this report, our students are becoming more confident, improving their literacy skills, and developing a love of reading and learning. Even more important, we are helping children see that there is a world of opportunities at their fingertips, and that reading can help them achieve their dreams. We’re also doing it at no charge to families, schools, or community partners. That is why your support has been so meaningful.

Since our launch in 1995, EWDC has never charged a fee to participate in our programs. This is only possible because of the dedication and commitment of our supporters who give their time, their resources, and their love to our students. During the 2021-22 program year, we were honored to partner with almost 665 donors, 153 organizations, and 915 volunteers to bring our programs to the communities who needed us the most. We are excited to deepen these relationships and create new ones in the upcoming year so even more children can join the EWDC family and have their futures brightened through the power of reading.

Thank you for an incredible year and we can’t wait to continue our work in 2022-23 and beyond.

Sincerely,

Arielle Elliott, EWDC Board Chair
Jordi Hutchinson, EWDC Executive Director
Reading is fundamental to a child’s success in the classroom and in life. But for children to truly thrive, they must also be confident in their potential, understand their personal value, and have the tools needed to navigate life’s obstacles.

Unfortunately, too many students across the Washington, DC region are not getting the support they need to build these interconnected skills. With COVID-19 exacerbating educational and economic disparities, the success gap is widening each and every day:

- In 2021, only 51% of K-2 students were reading at or above grade level, an 18-percentage point drop from their K-2 peers in 2019. This decline was more substantial for students designated at-risk, who saw a 27-percentage point decline.

- In 2021, only 45% of DCPS students reported feeling loved, challenged, and supported at school. Black and Hispanic 3rd-5th grade students scored 14 points lower than their white peers on questions regarding self-management of behaviors and emotions.

- From spring 2020 to spring 2021, there was a 5-percentage point drop on the self-efficacy scale for DCPS students in grades 3-5, indicating they feel less academically confident. There was also a 5-point drop in the percentage of kids who believe they are prepared to thrive in life, with white students reporting feeling more prepared than did their Black and Hispanic peers.

To overcome these challenges, our children need more than testing and assignments. They need to feel engaged, encouraged, and inspired. They need to see their own value within the community. They need Everybody Wins DC.

For 27 years, EWDC’s unique reading programs have helped children develop social-emotional and literacy skills so they can reach their potential. Even more important, we’re using books to expand children’s horizons and foster a love of reading and learning. And when our children thrive through reading, we all benefit. Everybody wins.
EWDC: OUR IMPACT

Everybody Wins DC uses books to help children build the literacy and social-emotional skills needed to thrive in the classroom and in life. Through reading, we engage their minds, encourage their growth, and inspire their futures.

Here is a look at what EWDC accomplished in Program Year 2021-22:

- **7,749 Students Served**
- **790 Caring Volunteers**
- **153 Supporting Organizations**
- **2,398 Volunteer Hours**
- **46 Program Locations**

EWDC PROGRAMS - AT A GLANCE

- Power Readers: 1,000+ mentoring hours delivered
- StoryTime: 27 events completed
- Book Project: 53 book distributions + 83 Little Free Library restocks

During the 2021-22 program year, EWDC gave away more than **12,000 new books** to children and classrooms across the DC region, **doubling our 2020-21 distribution total**. In fact, the Book Project has expanded by 380% since the program launched in 2018. In addition, **72% of books EWDC distributed this year are considered diverse titles**, helping all children see themselves and their dreams on the pages they read.

“I believe that reading can inspire people because you can learn about people doing amazing things - and if they can do it, then you can do it as well!”

- James, EWDC Student
During the 2021-22 program year, EWDC provided thousands of children with program support through activities at the following locations:

**District of Columbia**

- Academy of Hope Adult PCS
- Bread For The City
- Brent Elementary School
- Burrville Elementary School
- Capitol Area Food Bank at Walker-Jones Education Campus
- CentroNía
- Excel Academy PCS
- Father McKenna Center
- Highland Dwellings (DCHA)
- House of Ruth's Kidspace Child And Family Development Center
- Inspired Teaching PCS
- J.O. Wilson Elementary School
- James Creek (DCHA)
- Jefferson Middle School
- Kenilworth Apartments (DCHA)
- LFL @ 1300 U St SE
- LFL @ 2247 Mt View Pl SE
- LFL @ 25th Pl NE
- LFL @ 3709 S St SE
- LFL @ 4034 Alabama Ave SE
- LFL @ 424 Oakdale Pl NW
- LFL @ 432 24th St NE
- LFL @ 437 Elm St NW
- LFL @ 925 Rhode Island Ave NE
- LFL @ Common Good City Farm
- LFL @ Operation Pathways
- LFL @ Salvation Army
- Marie Reed Elementary School
- Miner Elementary School
- Plaza West Apartments
- Potomac Gardens (DCHA)
- Savoy Elementary School
- Simon Elementary School
- Terrell House
- The Social Justice School
- Thomas Elementary School
- Thomson Elementary School
- Turner Elementary School
- Tyler Elementary School
- Ward 8 Mutual Aid Network at Barry Farm
- Washington Nationals Youth Baseball Academy
- Woodland Terrace (DCHA)

**Virginia**

- Capitol Area Food Bank at Arlington Mill Community Center
- Innovation Elementary School
- Key Elementary School/Escuela Key

**Maryland**

- JoAnn Leleck Elementary School
This year, EWDC’s 46 program locations extended across 6 of the 8 wards of Washington, DC, into Arlington, VA and Silver Spring, MD, with a focus on communities that have some of the greatest economic and educational needs.

Below is a visual representation of our reach over this past program year. As you will see, there is no marker for Power Readers sites. This is because every Power Readers site receives additional support through Book Project distributions, StoryTimes, and, in some cases, an EWDC-stocked Little Free Library. In this way, we hope to expand our impact beyond the hour per week that Power Readers students spend with their volunteer mentors.

Click here for an interactive version of our service map and to learn more about our program reach during Program Year 2021-22.
Power Readers is EWDC’s signature program, combining the power of reading with the power of mentorship. Running continuously since 1995, Power Readers connects volunteers from the community with students to read together for one hour a week. No lesson plans, no curriculum; just quality time spent together over a book.

Not only does Power Readers help children develop literacy skills and confidence, it gives them the opportunity to build an empowering relationship with a caring adult, something essential to positive social-emotional development.

This year, all Power Readers sessions were conducted virtually, as COVID-19 restrictions limited volunteer access to schools. Despite this challenge, EWDC offered sessions during the school day at Thomson ES (DC), JO Wilson ES (DC), and Innovation ES (Arlington, VA), with staff gathering students together during lunch to connect with mentors via an online reading platform. Students attending 17 other schools were able to enroll with EWDC directly and attended afterschool reading sessions from home.

Like all EWDC programs, Power Readers is 100% free for families, schools, and community partners. The program relies on the generosity of volunteers who give their time to help children thrive through reading.

79 volunteers from 44 organizations served as Power Readers mentors

92% of Power Readers mentors surveyed plan to return next year

Power Readers volunteers delivered 1,008 mentoring hours to 85 students
Power Readers doesn't focus on test scores or reading levels. Instead, we look at indicators such as self-confidence, perseverance, and reading for pleasure - all building blocks for future success. The program also focuses on giving children the opportunity to build meaningful connections with an adult they can look up to and model against.

33% INCREASE IN CONFIDENCE

Percentage of Power Readers students who said they are "usually or always confident" grew from 60% at start of the year to 80% at close of the year.

88% REPORT READING SKILL DEVELOPMENT

88% of Power Readers students reported learning or improving reading skills through Power Readers sessions with mentors.

20% INCREASE IN READING ENJOYMENT

At the end of the year, 100% of Power Readers students reported reading for fun, up from 84% at the start of the school year.

90% FAMILY SATISFACTION

90% of Power Readers families reported satisfaction with Power Readers and want their children to stay in the program next year.
"Sometimes I read by myself, and it’s not as fun. Now I actually have somebody to listen to me and talk to me about what I’m reading. It’s really fun!"
- Power Readers Student

“It’s like a book-movie when you read with a mentor and you take turns being the characters! That really boosted my love of reading.”
- Power Readers Student

“I liked reading with [my mentor] about Women’s History Month because it helped me set goals for what I want to do when I grow up.”
- Power Readers Student

“I love hearing [my student] sound out his words. It brings my heart joy when I see him do it on his own.”
- Power Readers Mentor

“[My student] takes more chances in her reading. She has just really blossomed as a reader!”
- Power Readers Mentor

“It brings me joy and satisfaction to see how [my student] has grown and developed over the years. We’ve been reading together for three years!”
- Power Readers Mentor

“When I started with [my student], she was not comfortable reading at all. Last week, she read most of a book to me! She is gaining confidence as she navigates learning/reading.”
- Power Readers Mentor
EWDC's StoryTime Program uses books in two exciting ways to help children grow. **Traditional StoryTimes** feature one central text, read aloud by a volunteer with a group of students. These events support literacy development, promote a love of reading, and expose students to new themes and concepts based on book selections.

EWDC's newest StoryTime activity, **Book Talks**, connect small groups of students with volunteers, each of whom introduces a selected text that aligns with their personal or professional path or represents an important theme. Children are encouraged to ask questions and interact with the volunteers, helping them to learn more about subject matter presented. These sessions show children how books can add value to their lives, teaching them about new opportunities or important life lessons.

**STORYTIME IMPACT**

"The kids were so excited to hear from an adult - who was not a teacher or a parent - about why books are so inspiring!" - **Marie Reed Librarian**

"Book Talks have been such an inspiring, easy way to share my love of reading and literature with students around the city. It's so easy to pop into a classroom virtually, share more about myself and my favorite books, and see the excitement of young readers - especially when my favorite book is one they've read, or one that's on their bookshelf!" - **Book Talk Volunteer**

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<th>53</th>
<th>BOOKS PRESENTED</th>
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<td>43</td>
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<td>STORYTIME PARTNER SITES</td>
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<td>90%</td>
<td>OF STUDENTS ENJOYED BOOKS PRESENTED</td>
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Here are some of our favorite StoryTime titles from the 2021-22 program year and the volunteers who shared them with EWDC students:

Joyce Wang, Bloomberg INDG
Melanie Carter, Dept. of Health and Human Services
Aryssa Damron, DC Public Library
Jennifer Briones, Credential Engine
Gwen Fortune-Blakely, Bipartisan Policy Center

EWDC hosted 24 Book Talks during the 2021-22 program year, each covering different themes important to student growth and development. Topics included finding a career path, handling a bully, persisting through challenges, exploring social justice, and forming positive habits.

Rachel DuFault of Bloomberg INDG introduced *The Little Engine That Could* to the kindergarteners at Savoy ES, discussing the importance of believing in yourself and helping others in need.

**The Junior League of Washington’s Done in a Day Committee** hosted a series of Book Talks this year, sharing each volunteer’s unique career path and love of books with our students. From education to communications to epidemiology, these events showcased how books have shaped the lives and careers of women in a variety of professional fields.
When children's homes are filled with books, they are more likely to succeed at school and in life. But it isn’t just the number of books that matter. A child needs to be excited by what’s on the page, relate to story being told, and have a joy-filled reading experience.

This is why EWDC's Book Project gives away thousands of free books each year, reducing barriers to access and putting books children want to read directly into their hands.

During the 2021-22 program year, EWDC distributed more than 12,000 free books to children across the DC region - doubling the number of books given away in the 2020-21 program year. The Book Project has focused these efforts on titles that elevate diverse voices and experiences, promoting empathy, inclusion, and understanding.

**The Book Project Impact**

In addition to serving EWDC students participating in Power Readers and StoryTime, The Book Project works directly with community partners to increase access to new and engaging reading materials, focusing on historically underrepresented communities or neighborhoods considered book deserts. **Not only did this put more books into children's hands, it helped more children become readers.**

86% of Power Readers families reported that Book Project deliveries motivated their children to read on grade level and read for fun.

- **12,034** Free Books Distributed
- **7,749** Children Served
- **136** Distribution and Delivery Events
- **38** Book Drives Hosted
- **8,713** Books Donated to EWDC
In June 2021, EWDC began a partnership with the national Little Free Library organization for their Read in Color Initiative. Together, the goal is to increase access to diverse books so all readers can see themselves, and their dreams, represented on the page.

As part of Read in Color, EWDC placed 21 new book-sharing boxes in historically underrepresented communities and continually filled them with books that highlight diverse characters, elevate marginalized voices, and promote equity, inclusion, and social justice. In addition, EWDC extended its commitment to Read in Color across all programs, ensuring that the books we use are representative of all readers and promote empathy and understanding within and across communities.

Through these combined efforts, EWDC put more than 8,600 diverse books into the hands of children during Program Year 2021-22.

EWDC Read in Color Book-Sharing Boxes
- Burrville Elementary School
- CentroNia
- Excel Academy Public Charter School
- Father McKenna Center
- Highland Dwellings (DC Housing Authority)
- Innovation Elementary School
- J.O. Wilson Elementary School
- James Creek Apartments (DC Housing Authority)
- Kenilworth Apartments (DC Housing Authority)
- Key Elementary School/Escuela Key
- Kidspace Child & Family Development Center
- Marie Reed Elementary School
- Plaza West Intergenerational Housing
- Potomac Gardens (DC Housing Authority)
- Simon Elementary School
- The Social Justice School
- The Terrell (Short Term Housing Shelter)
- Thomas Elementary School
- Turner Elementary School
- Washington Nationals Youth Baseball Academy
- Woodland Terrace (DC Housing Authority)

"Diverse books in our communities help kids build awareness of what's possible!"
- Marcus Manning, Youth Services Coordinator, DC Housing Authority
In December 2021, EWDC hosted the **Inaugural Association Book Drive Challenge** to support The Book Project's focus on access to diverse books for children across the DC region. Eighteen trade associations competed with hundreds of association employees, donating thousands of new books to go out to children, families, and communities across the region.

After a tight race, the **American International Automobile Dealers Association** was crowned the winner - their team donated over 42 books per employee! In addition, a special recognition was given to **American Fuel and Petrochemical Manufacturers**, who donated the largest number of books overall.

In just one month, these organizations donated over 6,300 new, diverse books. EWDC is grateful to all of our association partners, and we look forward to next year's competition.

**Thank you to the participating associations!**


**BOOK PROJECT PARTNERS**

A very special thank you to the following organizations who hosted book drives to support EWDC's distribution efforts:

Adat Reyim Preschool, Barnes & Noble, Bloomberg, Charles River Associates, Christ Congregational Church of Silver Spring, CTIA, Davis Polk, DC Water, EAB, Guidehouse, Korn Ferry, PwC, Silverstream Advisors, Skadden, Willis Towers Watson, Wilson Sonsini
SixDegrees.org, founded by actor, musician, and philanthropist Kevin Bacon as a way to harness the power of connection to support important causes, joined EWDC for program activities throughout the 2021-22 program year as an extension of its support of Read in Color and increasing access to diverse books.

**Read in Color at Plaza West:** SixDegrees.org joined EWDC for a Giving Tuesday event at Plaza West Apartments, a housing community where grandparents are raising their grandchildren. SixDegrees.org Board members helped prepare and distribute personally-selected books to the children and to other families in the local community.

**The Book Project:** SixDegrees.org hosted an EWDC service event at their Board meeting, where members wrote encouraging notes to our students. These notes were placed inside diverse books to be distributed to elementary school students in Washington, DC.

**Book Talk:** Kevin Bacon and SixDegrees.org Executive Director Stacy Huston participated in a special Book Talk where they (virtually) visited 3rd grade students at Marie Reed Elementary School. Kevin and Stacy shared books about people who inspired them, including Misty Copeland and John Lewis, and spoke about the important role books played in their lives.

Thank you to SixDegrees.org for being part of the EWDC family and bringing the power of reading to our students!
PARTNER SPOTLIGHT: API

For over 20 years, the American Petroleum Institute (API) has helped children thrive through reading as one of EWDC’s most dedicated partner organizations. During the 2021-22 program year, API not only supported EWDC through the Association Book Drive Challenge, but also held two service events, where volunteers prepared and delivered over 700 books to local Little Free Libraries. These events brought the joy of reading to hundreds of kids and families by filling book-sharing boxes in historically under-resourced areas with engaging, representative reading materials. Thank you API!

“API is a longtime supporter of EWDC and we whole heartedly believe that all children should have the opportunity to learn, develop, and grow through the joy of reading. From kickstarting the Association Book Drive Challenge to service opportunities like handwriting inspirational notes to accompany the books we donate, I’m proud of our team’s willingness to support EWDC’s mission and the impactful work they do in our community.” – Mike Sommers, API President and CEO

“You can place me permanently on the delivery list for the future - after reading and “seeing” with my own eyes what a “Book Desert” is and what the little libraries mean to a community, it touched me.” - Francis Weaver, API
PARTNER SPOTLIGHT: U.S. CONGRESS

EWDC launched in 1995 as a partnership with United States Senate to bring the power of reading to students at a DC public elementary school. Today, both houses of Congress - from both sides of the aisle - continue to support our students through all three of our programs.

Here are a few Congressional highlights from the 2021-22 program year:

POWER READERS

Power Readers Mentor Alexis Alavi, from the Office of Representative Darin LaHood (IL-18), returned this year to read with her mentee, Olive. After three years as Power Readers partners, Olive is now graduating from fifth grade, having built a lifelong love of reading with her mentor.

Congratulations Olive!

STORYTIME


Hope used her book to speak to EWDC students about the importance of civic education and to provide representation of kids of color in children's books.

THE BOOK PROJECT

Throughout the year, 7 Congressional Offices supported The Book Project by completing the *Congressional Book Box Challenge*. Through this activity, Hill partners prepared books for community distribution and wrote personal notes to students about what reading means to them. This effort put an additional 1,000 books into the hands of children.
Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati, a long-time EWDC partner, went above and beyond during Program Year 2021-22 to bring the power of reading to deserving children at Savoy Elementary School, a Title I DC Public School. After finding out that the school's library was in dire need of new, engaging, and representative educational books, Wilson Sonsini took action to help students expand their horizons and spark a love of reading.

In observation of Juneteenth, Wilson Sonsini hosted a book drive and fundraising campaign with the goal to fully restock Savoy's library. When it was complete, the drive raised over $9,000 to fill the library's shelves with new books, which will be ready and waiting for students to enjoy in the fall. On June 23, 2022, EWDC joined Savoy Librarian Renee LaRue, Assistant Principal Tyra Russell, and Richild Stewart of Wilson Sonsini to celebrate this donation and the impact these books will have on young readers.

Thank you to the entire team at Wilson Sonsini!

"The students will truly benefit. Thank you for brightening their lives and enhancing their education."

- Renee LaRue, Librarian, Savoy Elementary School
Each year, EWDC hosts a number of events that raise funds needed to keep EWDC programs 100% free for families, schools, and community partners. EWDC thanks all event sponsors and attendees for their support and the direct impact they have on children’s lives across the region.

**AG OPEN GOLF TOURNAMENT**

On September 20, 2021, over 120 players took to the links for the 25th Annual Ag Open. Participants representing the Agricultural Community and Capitol Hill enjoyed perfect weather and exceptional service from Westfields Golf Club, all for a great cause - EWDC students.

Thank you to Title Sponsor CoBank for their commitment to our students and congratulations to the S-3 Group for the win!

**LAWYERS FOR LITERACY**

On June 9, 2021, members of the legal community battled it out at EWDC’s annual trivia competition, Lawyers for Literacy. Nine teams competed through three rounds of trivia covering pop culture, geography, science, and more.

Congratulations to Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati for the win and thank you to Sidley Austin LLP for hosting this year’s event!

**EWDC CELEBRATE**

After last hosting in 2019, this year marked a return to EWDC’s annual spring fundraiser, EWDC Celebrate. On May 12, 2022, over 200 guests gathered at Planet Word Museum to honor EWDC’s impact through reading. The event raised over $345,000 to help expand EWDC programs and bring the power of reading to more children and more communities.

During this year’s event, CTIA was presented with EWDC’s Distinguished service award for their 20+ year commitment to EWDC and our students. EWDC also recognized Marcus Manning of the DC Housing Authority with a Community Champion Award for his work in helping bring EWDC programs directly to where children live and play.
During the 2021-22 program year, individuals from the following organizations supported our work through volunteerism, service activities, or book drives. Together, we served more than 7,000 students and helped them thrive through the power of reading.

AARP
Accenture
Adat Reyim Preschool
Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP
Alliance for Automotive Innovation
American Bankers Association
American Beverage Association
American Exploration and Production Council
American Fuel and Petrochemical Manufacturers
American International Automobile Dealers Association
American Investment Council
American Petroleum Institute
Atlantic Media
Barnes and Noble
Bethesda Elementary School
Bloomberg INDG
Bloomberg LP
Bureau of Labor Statistics
Carefirst
Charles River Associates
Consumer Brands Association
Consumer Technology Association
Cornerstone Research
Credential Engine
CTIA
DAR Manor House Chapter
Davis Polk
DC Water
Department of Homeland Security
Department of Justice
EAB
Edison Electric Institute
EVERFI
Eversheds Sutherland
FHI 360
FINSECA
Georgetown University Center for Social Justice
Gonzaga
Google
Guidehouse
House Committee on Appropriations
Interstate Natural Gas Association of America
January 6th Select Committee
Junior League of Washington
Korn Ferry
Library of Congress
National Education Association
National Retail Federation
Office of Representative Darin LaHood (R-IL-18)
Office of DC City Councilmember Brianne Nadeau
Office of Representative Austin Scott (R-GA-8)
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Office of Sen. John Thune's (R-SD)
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Planet Word Museum
PriceWaterhouse Coopers
Question Games
Reading Partners
Ropes and Gray
Salesforce
Sandy Spring Bank
Sibley Hospital
Silverstream Advisors
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP
The American Council of Life Insurers
The Business Council
The Washington Post
U.S. African Development Foundation
U.S. Coast Guard
U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission
U.S. Department of Education
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
U.S. Department of Labor
U.S. Securities & Exchange Commission
U.S. Senate Sergeant at Arms
US Tire Manufacturers Association
Van Metre
Venable LLP DC
Washington Nationals Baseball Academy
Willis Towers Watson
Wilson Sonsini
World Wildlife Fund
Since our launch in 1995, EWDC has never required payment from a family, school, or community partner to participate in our programs. We believe that the ability to pay should not be a barrier to the benefits reading can provide. That is why we rely on the incredible support of individuals, corporate partners, foundations, and others to ensure we have the funds needed to help children truly thrive through reading.

Corporate Donors ($1,000+)

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Agricultural Retailers Association
Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP
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Capitol Hill Community Foundation
Community of Literary Magazines and Presses
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Junior League of Washington
Luminescence Foundation Inc.
Max and Victoria Dreyfus Foundation
Nora Roberts Foundation
SixDegrees.org
The Riecker Charitable Foundation
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