

2023-2024



Annual Impact Report





All kids deserve a chance to *thrive*

Dear Friends:

As we close the book on another amazing year, we are proud of all Everybody Wins DC has accomplished to help kids thrive through reading. With one-on-one mentoring, group read-aloud events, and free book distributions, EWDC has made a positive impact on thousands of lives across the greater DC area.

Since EWDC's launch in 1995, our goal has been to help children build a strong foundation for future success. Key to this work are three focus areas: strengthening literacy skills, supporting social-emotional development, and showing kids that reading can bring joy to their lives. During the 2023-24 program year, we did all that and more.

Throughout the pages of this report, you will learn about EWDC's programs, the students we serve, and the volunteers who give their time to our mission. You will also see the excitement EWDC brings to our school partners and the connections we build within and across communities. That is what makes EWDC so special, and we're honored to continue the work started by Senators James Jeffords (VT) and Paul Simon (IL) and a bipartisan team of Congressional staff nearly 30 years ago.

Thank you to all who gave your time, talent, and resources to make the 2023-24 program year such an incredible success. We are grateful to have your support as we continue our work to engage children's minds, encourage their growth, and inspire their futures.

With gratitude,

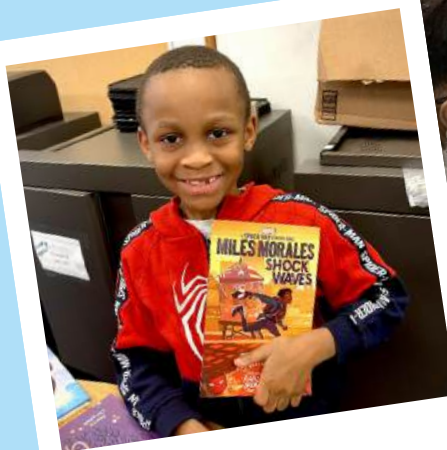
Jill Sommers
Chair, Board of Directors

Jordi Hutchinson
Executive Director

Our Story

In 1995, Everybody Wins DC connected a group of elementary school students with volunteers from the U.S. Senate to read together for an hour a week. No assignments, no exams. Just quality time spent reading, laughing, and learning. Almost immediately, EWDC's impact was clear: students were reading more, having fun, and building essential academic and interpersonal skills.

The success of those early reading sessions helped EWDC become who we are today: a regional non-profit that brings free reading programs to communities across the greater DC area. Now, with almost 30 years of service, EWDC has had a positive impact on thousands upon thousands of children and volunteers.



Our Mission

Everybody Wins DC helps children build the skills they need to thrive in the classroom and in life. Our programs help students become stronger readers, more confident individuals, and find joy in books. But that's not all. When children participate in our programs, whole communities benefit. Volunteers can make a meaningful impact in the community, schools receive needed support at no cost, and organizations are given an easy and efficient way to have an impact through service.

Through reading, everybody wins.

The year in review

Between July 2023 – June 2024, EWDC created 8,115 reading impact moments for over 5,000 children.

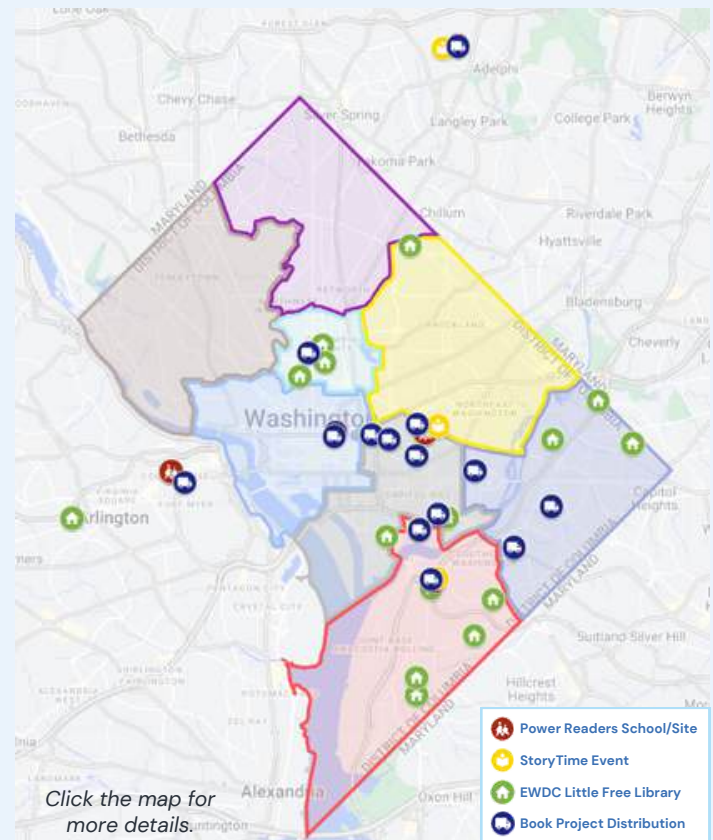
For almost 30 years, EWDC has served children and classrooms across the greater DC area, bringing free reading programs to those who need and deserve support. The 2023–24 program year was no different, connecting thousands of children to activities that build literacy skills, support social-emotional development, and foster a love of reading.

EWDC partner schools for school year 2023–24 included:

- J.O. Wilson Elementary School (DCPS)
- Chisholm Elementary School (DCPS)
- Thomson Elementary School (DCPS)
- Savoy Elementary School (DCPS)
- Van Ness Elementary School (DCPS)
- JoAnn Leleck Elementary School (MCPS)
- Innovation Elementary School (APS)



EWDC's Reach



Children Served

EWDC's three programs – Power Readers, StoryTime, and The Book Project – reached 5,551 children in Washington, DC; Arlington, VA; and Silver Spring, MD.

Volunteer Engagement

1,387 individuals gave 3,347 volunteer hours to support our students through reading activities.

Books Distributed

EWDC gave away 13,107 free books, of which 79% elevated underrepresented voices and celebrated the diversity of our communities.

Program Sites

EWDC supported mentoring activities, read-alouds, and book giveaways at 31 locations across the DC area.

Power Readers

Power Readers is a reading-based mentoring program that matches volunteers from the community with elementary school students to read together for an hour a week during the school year. There are no lesson plans. Our volunteers aren't teaching kids to read. Instead, Power Readers gives children a safe and judgement-free space to practice their reading and find joy in books. At the same time, the personal attention from a mentor helps students build core social-emotional competencies, something critical to success in the classroom and beyond.

Here is how Power Readers supports student outcomes:

Building Reading Skills

Weekly sessions with a mentor provide regular reading practice in a judgement-free setting.

Social-Emotional Growth

Regular time spent with a mentor helps children build confidence, self-value, and interpersonal skills.

Fostering Positive Attitudes About Reading

Weekly sessions are rooted in the joy of reading rather than the stress of learning, helping promote and maintain positive reading experiences.

"Power Readers made me feel confident that I could do anything I put my mind to!"

– Power Readers Student



2,010

Mentoring Hours Delivered

131

Weekly Mentoring Sessions

7

Power Readers Schools





Power Readers Results

The 2023–24 program year, the second back in schools after the pandemic closed EWDC programs in 2020, brought incredible growth to Power Readers. **Student enrollment increased by 24% and total mentoring hours delivered increased by 49%.**

Even more important was the program’s impact on literacy and social emotional development:

- At the start of the program year, 6% of Power Readers students reported that they were “not good” at reading and 19% considered themselves “okay” readers. Only 35% of Power Readers students surveys rated their reading skills as “good.”
- **By the end of the program year, zero Power Readers students labeled themselves as “not good” at reading, “okay” readers decreased by 37%, and those who believed they were “good” at reading increased by 46%.**
- Power Readers students reported **an 18% increase in empathy measurements, including understanding and wanting to help others, over the course of the program year.**
- Students also reported **growth in reading enjoyment, with a 20% increase** in those reporting they loved reading at home.



99%

of students said Power Readers made reading more fun



94%

of students reported an increase in self-confidence



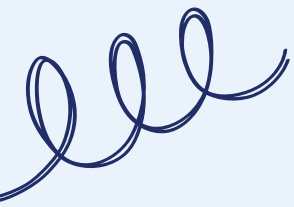
96%

of students said Power Readers made them stronger readers



“I feel more confident because I think that my mentor is proud of me and that makes me feel good about myself!”

–Power Readers Student



The Book Project

The Book Project, EWDC's free distribution program, surrounds children with stories that engage, empower, and inspire. The program gives books to all Power Readers and StoryTime participants, hosts school and community distributions, and supports 22 Little Free Libraries that offer families direct access to new books. The Book Project also prioritizes stories that elevate and celebrate voices, communities, and perspectives too often left off the page of children's literature.

Here is how The Book Project supports student outcomes:

Building Reading Skills

Research shows that the number of books at home is tied to reading performance and proficiency.

Social-Emotional Growth

Books distributed promote key social-emotional competencies, including perseverance, empathy, and confidence, while also elevating diversity, empathy, and inclusion for all.

Fostering Positive Attitudes About Reading

Increasing access to books that engage and inspire children, creating reading motivation and excitement.

13,107

Free Books Distributed

79%

Promote Diversity,
Empathy, and Inclusion

171

Distribution Events and Book
Deliveries

"EWDC books had a positive impact on my students. Many of the students do not have access to books in their homes."

– Teacher,
J.O. Wilson Elementary
School



StoryTime

StoryTime is EWDC's read-aloud program, connecting small groups of students with a special guest over a book and guided discussion. In addition to being a proven model to build literacy skills, StoryTime events bring reading joy and excitement to classrooms and use selected texts to introduce age-appropriate themes, such as empathy, career exploration, goal setting, and overcoming obstacles. These reading experiences also open students' minds to new ideas and opportunities through volunteers sharing their own reading experiences or personal journeys.

Here is how StoryTime supports student outcomes:

Building Reading Skills

Reading aloud to children models positive reading behavior, builds vocabulary skills, and increases reading motivation.

Social-Emotional Growth

Books selected for read-aloud events highlight themes that support social-emotional learning, helping children build self- and social-awareness and see their own pathways to success.

Fostering Positive Attitudes About Reading

StoryTime events bring reading joy to classrooms and, through discussions with volunteers, show kids how books can have a positive impact on their life.

"[During StoryTime], my students saw characters that resembled them represented as main characters in a fun, relatable book."

– Teacher, J.O. Wilson Elementary School



39

Read-Aloud Events

740

Student Participants

100%

Events Promoted
Social-Emotional Learning



Special Project: Diversity in STEM

In 2023, EWDC launched a special project to use Power Readers, The Book Project, and Storytime to promote STEM learning and career exploration among Black, Hispanic, and other students from underrepresented communities. Through reading, we're inspiring children from all backgrounds to see a future in STEM.

Special program year 2023–24 diverse STEM activities included:

- Hosted a diverse STEM read-aloud event at Van Ness Elementary School featuring a Black female scientist who builds satellites.
- Supported Chisolm Elementary School's STEAM Night with a set of diverse STEM books for students.
- Restocked EWDC's Little Free Libraries with diverse STEM books in honor of National STEM Day.
- Joined Career Day at two elementary schools, connecting diverse STEM professionals with students and giving away books that highlight diverse inventors and scientists.
- Hosted a Women's History Month read-aloud event that featured local women in STEM.



5,762

Diverse STEM Books
Distributed

105

Events & Distributions

4,033

Children Served



"Patricia's Vision was a great book to get our students excited about the field of ophthalmology and the medical world at large. Seeing a woman persevere and disrupt her industry instills the importance of never giving up. Especially in STEM where women and women of color are significantly underrepresented in comparison to their male counterparts. The discussion that followed [the StoryTime] and questions asked by our students affirmed that this book resonated and sparked their curiosity about this field."

– Librarian, Chisolm Elementary School

Volunteer Highlights

Thank you to all the volunteers who gave their time to support EWDC students during the 2023-24 program year! Whether it was serving as a Power Readers mentor, hosting a StoryTime read-aloud, or delivering books to classrooms, your service helped a child thrive through reading.



Why our volunteers give their time:

1,387

Volunteers

52

Partner Organizations

3,347

Volunteer Hours

"I want to support others to have the same opportunities and gifts I got from books and reading."

"It's so refreshing and rewarding to spend time in the community because it puts into perspective what really matters in life (and it's not billable hours)."

"[Volunteering with EWDC] is always a great way to feel connected to the community and share my love for learning and reading!"

"If I can inspire at least one child to become an avid reader, then I can possibly change that child's life and thereby the world."



Special thank you to some of EWDC's major volunteer partners during the 2023-24 program year, including:

API
BLOOMBERG
CTIA
BOOZ ALLEN HAMILTON
EAB

Spreading Reading Joy

When kids are excited by books, they read more. When they read more, they build the skills they need to succeed. That's why EWDC brings reading excitement to classrooms through special StoryTime and Book Project events that create joyful book experiences for children.

Special thank you to One Maryland Collective and the University of Maryland for helping EWDC spread reading joy throughout the 2023-24 program year!



University of Maryland Football Team



University of Maryland Women's Basketball Team

Special Events

EWDC events raise funds needed to keep programs 100% free for families, schools, and community partners. EWDC thanks all event sponsors and attendees for their support and the impact they have on children's lives.



Read to Dream

EWDC's annual spring celebration, Read to Dream, raised more than \$330,000 to support EWDC students and schools. Special thank you to major sponsors, including: American Petroleum Institute, Bloomberg Philanthropies, and Mark Young & Rachel Carren.

Lawyers for Literacy

EWDC's annual trivia night, hosted by Sidley Austin, had 13 teams of lawyers, summer associates, and legal professionals battle it out over 4 rounds of questions. In the end, Finnegan took home the trophy!



Ag Open

The 2023 CoBank Ag Open golf tournament brought together 31 organizations from the agricultural community, Congressional staff, and EWDC friends in support of EWDC programs. Congrats to International Dairy Foods Association for the win!

In Their Words



"It is always such a bright spot in my week to spend an hour connecting and laughing with my student." –*Power Readers Mentor*

"The best part of Power Readers this year was that it made me more confident, because when I am reading books, I feel like I am the best reader!" –*Power Readers Student*

"Finishing a book made me proud."
–*Power Readers Student*

"Power Readers made reading more fun because it makes things more interesting. Having someone to read with is exciting." – *Power Readers Student*

"Watching my students open up more each week as they grew more confident with their reading and communication skills was amazing to watch! It was such a joy to be a small part of their unique journey." – *Power Readers Mentor*

"It's such a joy...to build a relationship with a student and watch them grow as a reader and a person. I feel so much more connected to DC, too, by getting to know not just my reading buddy but their classmates (and the other mentors)." –*Power Readers Mentor*

"Power Readers made me a stronger reader by having a special time to read with one person and choosing books that I like." – *Power Readers Student*

"The Power Readers Student (that's me!) is a great reader because my mentor helped me read better." – *Power Readers Student*

"I learned that an adult could be a friend." –*Power Readers Student*

"Both my mentor and the EWDC program coordinator encouraged me to try my best. I also learned about kindness from both of them." – *Power Readers Student*



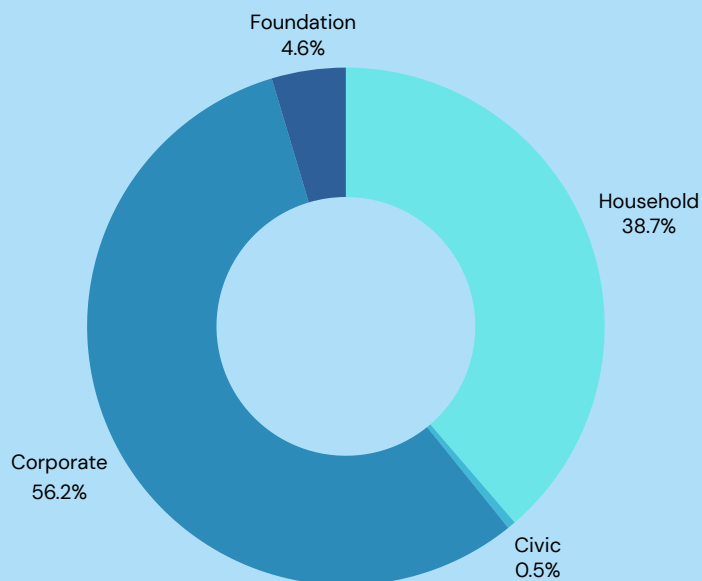
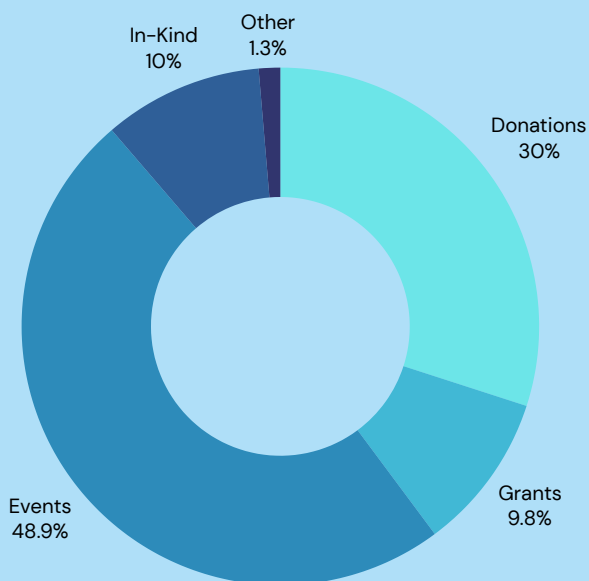
Financial Support

Since our launch in 1995, EWDC has never required payment from a family, school, or community partner to participate in our programs.

Instead, we are grateful to receive financial support from individuals, corporate partners, foundations, and others to ensure we have the funds needed to help children thrive.



Program Year 2023-24 Funding Overview



Subject to change upon final audit of FY24 financial reports.



From CTIA, an EWDC financial & program partner:

"CTIA is proud of our continued partnership with Everybody Wins DC. The work that EWDC does to help students develop critical skills is creating lasting impact. We are thrilled to have CTIA team members involved with the program and reading with local students."

Program Year 2023-24 Supporters

Thank you to the following individuals and institutions that supported EWDC at the \$2,500+ level during the 2023-24 program year.

\$20,000+

Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP
Amazon
American Petroleum Institute
BlackRock

Bloomberg Philanthropies
CTIA
John Fish
Mark Young & Rachel Carren



\$10,000-\$19,999

Anjali Ramakumaran
CoBank
Daniel Gerkin
Huron Philanthropies
International Monetary Fund

Jill & Mike Sommers
JLL
Mike & Cathy Burton
National Retail Federation
Richard Mintz

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher
& Flom LLP
The Jones Foundation
UPS
Venable Foundation

\$5,000-\$9,999

American Bankers Association
American Forest & Paper
Association
American Investment Council
Barbara Faculjak & Jim McCarthy
Capitol Hill Community
Foundation
CGCN
Finnegan Law
Google

Jared & Lorilee Binstock
Joshua Silverstein
Kirkland & Ellis LLP
Max and Victoria Dreyfus
Foundation
MGM Resorts International
Monumental Sports and
Entertainment
Natalie Hall

National Rural Electric
Cooperative Association
Nora Roberts Foundation
Pactolus Private Wealth
Management, LLC
Peter H. & Dana Gunn Winslow
Foundation
PhRMA
Powers, Pyles, Sutter & Verville, PC

\$2,500-\$4,999

Agricultural Retailers Association
American Association of Crop
Insurers
American Farm Bureau Federation
American International Automobile
Dealers Association
American Trucking Associations Inc
Amy Bess & Jeff Leshner
Andrew Paciorek
Anna & Pierre Chauvet
Arielle Elliott
Bipartisan Policy Center
Blackbaud
Blue Star Design Build
Booz Allen Hamilton
Brooke Terry

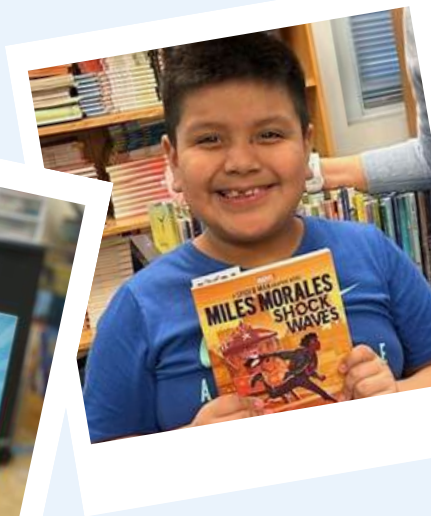
Bunge North America
Business Roundtable
Caudron, Megary, and Blackburn
Wealth Management Group
Christine Amoonarquah
Corteva Agriscience
DC Rotary Club
DLA Piper
Furey, Doolan & Abell LLP
Garry & Vivian Schweitz
Karen & Jim Beardsley
Lineage Logistics LLC
Mary & James Salander
Mary Ann Roberts
Megan Wolf
National Corn Growers Association

National Home Library Foundation
Nick Pearson & Lauren O'Brien
Rob Portman & Annette Simon
Rural Community Insurance
Services
Sarah Nordstrom
Saul Ewing LLP
Sidley Austin LLP
Sue Prutting
Tanya & Scott Kreter
Truist
Watkinson Miller PLLC
White & Case LLP
Wiley Rein LLP
Wilson Sonsini Foundation

Program Year 2023-24 Book Donors

Thank you to the following organizations and individuals that hosted book drives or made in-kind book donations to support EWDC programs and students during the 2023-24 program year.

American Bankers Association
American Exploration & Production Council
American Investment Council
American Petroleum Institute
APCO Worldwide
Association of American Railroads
Bloomberg Law
Booz Allen Hamilton
Coakley Williams Construction
Consumer Bankers Association
Consumer Brands Association
Cornerstone Research
CTIA
EAB
Edison Electric Institute, Inc.
Fast Enterprises
Finseca
Getting It In Cyclists
Google
Hindi's Libraries
Institute for Higher Education Policy
International Franchise Association
Junior League of Washington
Kyndryl



LeeAnna Pachter
Lexia Learning Systems LLC
Manor House Chapter, NSDAR
Margaret Whetten Chapter, NSDAR
Meghan Gurdon
Michigan State University Alumni: DC Spartans
Nation's Capital Alumnae Club of Pi Beta Phi
National Mining Association
National Public Radio
National Retail Federation
NSDAR Leadership
Perkins&Will
ProVisors, DC/Metro Area
Rotary Club of Arlington
Scholastic Corporation
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP
The LiTEArary Society
U.S. Travel Association
UPS
White & Case LLP
Whiteford, Taylor & Preston LLC
Willis Towers Watson



Meet EWDC

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*Board term ended in June 2024.

EWDC Staff

Rody Baron
Director of Development

Talia Ford
Program Associate

Carlotta Generali
Senior Manager, Grants and Impact

Jordi Hutchinson
Executive Director

Yashika Okon
Senior Programs Manager

Chloe Parsons
Development Associate

David Wilks
Accountant and Operations Manager

2023-2024 Program Coordinators

Brandy McCarthy
Lisa Hedgepeth
Lisa Gisvold
Arleice Mathis
Quanice Walters



We couldn't have done it without your *generous support*


*Thank you to all
our donors and
volunteers.*



 @everybodywinsdc

 www.everybodywinsdc.org

 info@everybodywinsdc.org

 (202) 216-9467

 1420 New York Ave NW, Ste. 650
Washington, DC 20005