

# THE EWDC UPDATE

Winter 2026

This winter weather may be dreary, but our programs are anything but! From a new StoryTime series to exceptional partner engagement, our programs are in full bloom (despite the frost)!

## New Author Illustrator StoryTime Series

Last year, we saw significant growth with our StoryTime read-aloud program. This year, we looked for ways to expand and deepen our impact – and thus, the Author Illustrator series was born! This StoryTime series brings children’s authors and illustrators in to share their work with students and engage in a discussion or activity. A recent highlight is Shidan Youssefian, author of *Life Really Socks*, visiting J.O. Wilson Elementary School!

**Are you or someone you know a children’s author looking to spread reading joy? Email [volunteers@everybodywinsdc.org](mailto:volunteers@everybodywinsdc.org) to get involved!**



*EWDC 2025-26 Impact: 151 students matched with mentors, 22 StoryTimes delivered, and 7,153 free books distributed (as of 2/23/26).*



## 2025 Association Book Drive Challenge

Our 5th annual Association Book Drive Challenge was our largest one yet in both scale and impact. 26 associations competed to see who could bring in the most books, and in the end, they raised the equivalent of **14,478 books!** Congratulations to American Investment Council for winning the Team Award (most books per employee) for the second year in a row, and to American Petroleum Institute for winning Literacy Leader (most books overall)!



## Read to Dream 2026

We have officially launched Read to Dream 2026! This year’s gala will be May 7, 2026, at Pearl Street Warehouse.

Learn more about the event and help us make children’s dreams come true through the power of reading at [bit.ly/R2D-2026](https://bit.ly/R2D-2026).

**Read to Dream tickets are available at [bit.ly/R2D-2026](https://bit.ly/R2D-2026), or by scanning the QR code:**

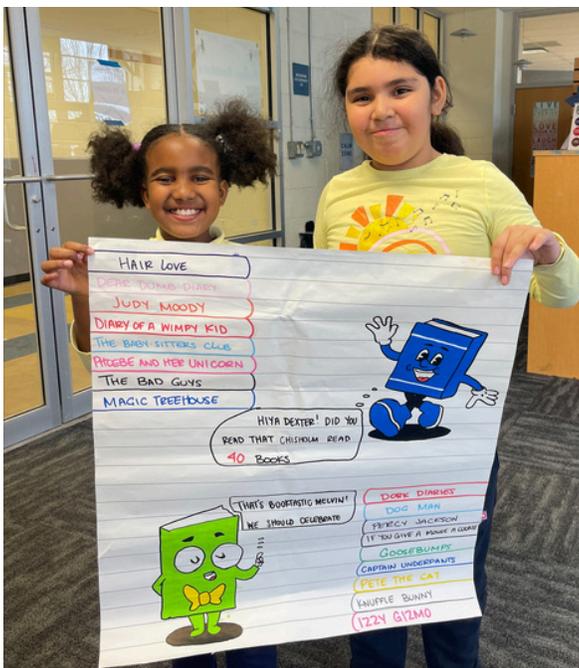


# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

It's the most wonderful time of the year... Because Power Readers is in full swing! We love seeing the bonds between our reading pairs strengthen and solidify as we reach the midpoint of the program year.

*"I wish I had Power Readers everyday!"*

**-Student at Van Ness Elementary School**



**Thank you to our partner organizations who hosted winter book drives!**

Accenture Federal Services  
ASAE NextGen Advisory Committee  
Bipartisan Policy Center  
Bloomberg  
Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP  
Daughters of the American Revolution  
International Club One Women's Group  
JLL  
Monumental Sports & Entertainment  
PBGC's Office of Information Technology  
Peraton  
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP  
UPS

*"[My mentee] and I had such a fun day reading; Power Readers is my new favorite part of the week!"*

**-Morgan, Power Readers mentor at Thomson Elementary School**



## Oct - Feb Highlights

- Ford's Theatre selected us as the supported charity for their 2025 production of *A Christmas Carol*.
- We hosted our annual Ag Open golf tournament at Army Navy Country Club. Congratulations to S-3 Group for taking home the trophy!
- We held 14 information sessions and service events with our partner organizations.

Read to Dream tickets are available at [bit.ly/R2D-2026](https://bit.ly/R2D-2026), or by scanning the QR code:

