EWDC

EVERYBODY WINS DC

ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT

Program Year 2025-26

Building Readers, One Page at a Time

Letter from EWDC Leadership

Dear Friends:

The 2025-2026 program year was one for the books!

Everybody Wins DC served more students, reached more communities, and gave away more books. But most importantly, we had a bigger impact when it came to building readers. You will see that impact across the pages of this report – how Power Readers improved students' literacy confidence, how StoryTime brought reading joy to classrooms, and how The Book Project connected kids with stories they were excited to add to their home libraries.

Our work is not without its challenges. Only 31% of 3rd graders in DC are reading at a proficient level, and interest in reading is dropping among children. **But for more than 30 years, EWDC has found ways to meet kids where they are and show them that reading is fun and can bring positive value to their lives. We're making a difference by changing the story about books and reading.**

Thank you to the volunteers, supporters, and friends who made this incredible year possible. You helped thousands of children build a reading foundation upon which they will truly soar.

With gratitude,

Jordi Hutchinson
Executive Director
EWDC

Nick Pearson
EWDC Board Chair
FirstEnergy

Senator Kennedy and Larenai, one of the many students he read with during his tenure with EWDC

Everybody Wins DC: Mission and History

Everybody Wins DC is building readers.
Because when children read, they can succeed.

Kids who read – and enjoy reading – have stronger academic performance, higher graduation rates, better career prospects, and improved social-emotional/health outcomes. Unfortunately, too many young students aren't getting the support they need to become engaged and excited readers, with disparities often along racial and economic lines. That's why EWDC delivers free reading activities and resources to thousands of students across the greater DC area. We're helping kids build positive relationships with books and reading that will set them up for success at school and in life.

EWDC launched in 1995, matching over 100 Senators and Senate staff with students at a public elementary school near Capitol Hill to read together for an hour a week. Since then, we've served almost 100,000 children across all our programs, delivered more than 480,000 mentoring hours, and given 280,000 free books to kids and families. Today, EWDC offers programs to students across the greater DC area, including one-on-one mentoring, group read-aloud events, and free book distributions.

We're removing obstacles to reading, building excitement for books, and giving kids what they need to succeed.

"Sen. Jim Jeffords shares a laugh with Ted Kennedy's reading partner, seven-year-old Jazzmin Harrison, to celebrate the conclusion of a yearlong program - Everybody Wins! - in which 200 students at Robert Brent Elementary School were matched with Senators and aides who read to the students during lunchtime. Ten Senators and over 200 staffers turned out for the celebration."

- Roll Call, June 4, 1998

THE PROBLEM

Too many children across the DC area aren't reading and therefore not building a strong foundation for future success. This disproportionately impacts communities of color and under-resourced neighborhoods.

Why aren't they reading? The most common reasons include underdeveloped skills, limited access to books, and negative attitudes about reading.

- In 2026, only 31.2% of 3rd graders in DC could read at a proficient level.
- More than 60% of low-income families have no books at all in their homes.
- Reading books for fun, as well as positive attitudes about reading, is decreasing among young children, with a marked decline by age 9 that doesn't rebound.

THE SOLUTION

It's simple: help all children become readers so they can succeed at school and in life. This means meeting kids and communities where they are, and providing the support and resources needed to overcome reading challenges.

For over 30 years, this is exactly what EWDC has done.

OUR APPROACH

At EWDC, our work is guided by three core principles:

- Build foundational literacy skills.
- Create access to new and engaging books.
- Make reading fun.

Each of our programs - Power Readers, StoryTime, and The Book Project - accomplishes these goals in different ways. And even within programs, activities might differ across school communities based on specific needs. That's what makes EWDC unique. We work hand-in-hand with our partners to create reading opportunities that best align with what can help their populations succeed.

EWDC's programs reach over 5,000 children each year, all at no cost to families or school partners. Rather than create another barrier to reading by imposing fees or payments, we keep the focus where it should be: our kids.

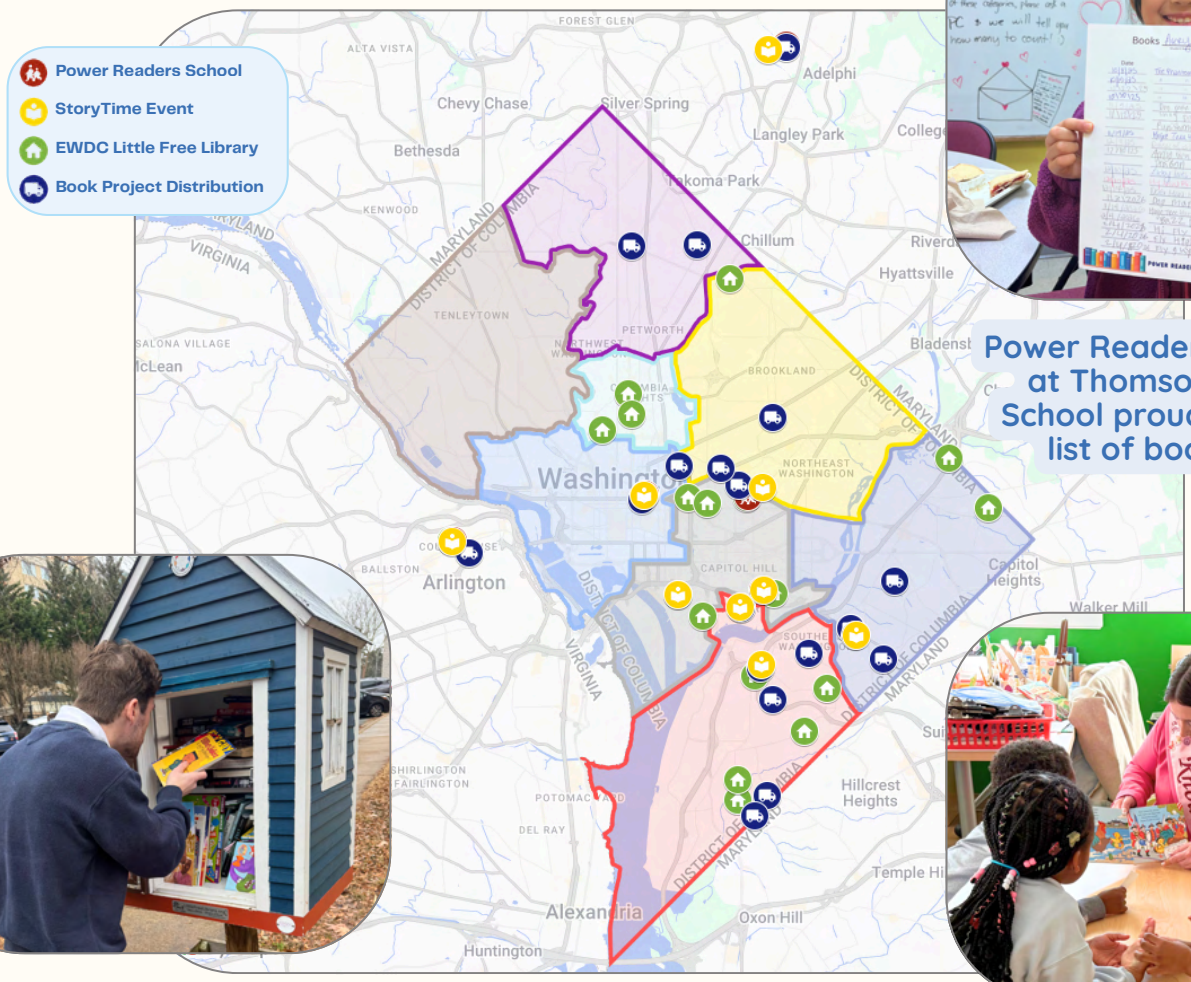
EWDC'S FOOTPRINT

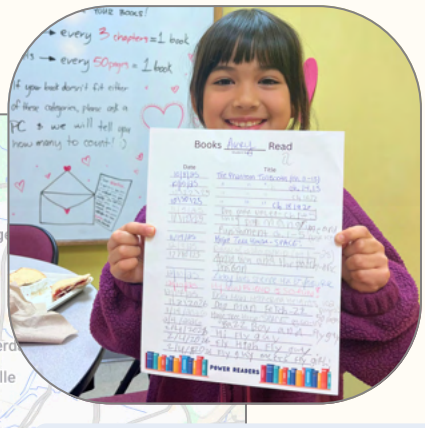
EWDC's mission comes to life in classrooms, schools, libraries, housing communities, and neighborhood spaces across the DC area. During Program Year 2025-26, we served **5,347 children** through Power Readers, StoryTime, and The Book Project at **35 locations** spanning the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia.

To ensure our programs have the greatest impact, EWDC prioritizes populations that face significant challenges when it comes to building readers; whether it be systemic obstacles, language barriers, or limited access to literacy resources. By partnering with and listening to educators, community organizations, and volunteers, we bring our work to those who need it the most.

The map below highlights the schools, community partners, and book access sites that made up EWDC's service footprint during the 2025-26 program year.

Click on the service map below for more details.





Power Readers student Avery at Thomson Elementary School proudly showing the list of books she read

Restocking of EWDC's Little Free Library at Innovation Elementary School by program partner Targeted Victory

School-wide StoryTime event at Randle Highlands Elementary School hosted by the Cherry Blossom Program

POWER READERS STATS

2,326
MENTORING HOURS

23%
GROWTH IN HOURS OVER LAST YEAR

167
STUDENTS ENROLLED

94%
SAID POWER READERS MADE READING MORE FUN

POWER READERS

EWDC's flagship program, Power Readers, matches volunteers with elementary school students to read together for an hour a week. There are no assignments, no curriculum, and no testing. Instead, the program creates a judgement-free and joy-filled space for students to practice reading with the support of a caring adult. At the same time, the one-on-one attention builds students' confidence and social-emotional skills, while also having a positive impact on the volunteers who serve as mentors.

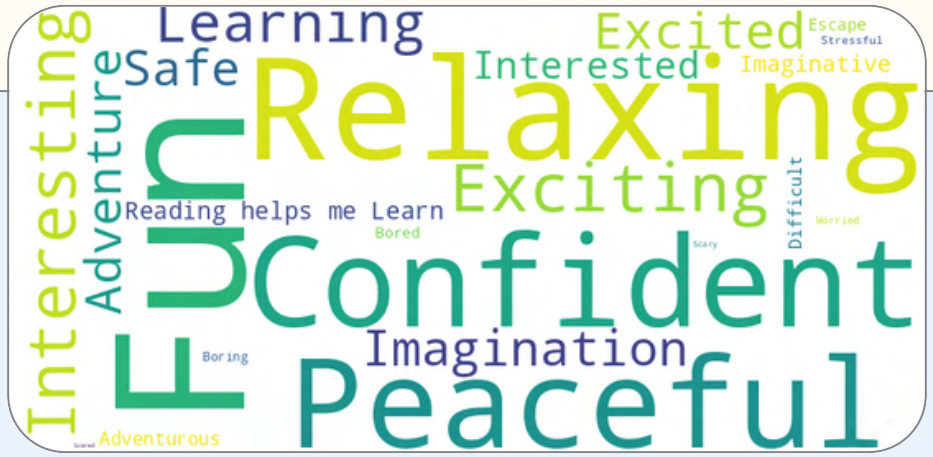
Program Year 2025-26 Impact:

- **92%** of mentors saw growth in their mentee's reading development
- **91%** of students said Power Readers made them stronger readers
- **99%** of mentors said the program had a positive impact on their lives
- Students who reported being "**very confident**" in their reading abilities **increased by 18%**
- Students who reported the highest level of **pride** in their reading **grew by 21%**

How Power Readers Students Feel About Reading

At the start of the program year, Power Readers students were asked to describe how they felt about reading. Of the responses, 23% of students included “boring, stressful, difficult, and scary.” By the end of the year, the number of students using any of those words to describe reading dropped by 22%. Students also expanded their view of reading beyond being an academic tool, with “learning” no longer being one of the most common selections. Instead, students described reading as “**fun**, **confident**, **peaceful**, and **relaxing**.” In other words, our students discovered that reading can bring positive value to their lives beyond classroom assignments, a key determinant in building life-long readers.

Below is a visual representation of the words Power Readers students used most often at the end of the year to describe their feelings about reading.



Match Spotlight: Blayr and Molly

On November 15, 2022, Blayr, then a 1st grader at J.O. Wilson Elementary School, and Molly, a Team Lead at Bloomberg Industry Group, sat down for their first Power Readers session. The two have spent 4 years reading together, helping Blayr build reading confidence and curiosity while having fun. EWDC honored Molly at Read to Dream 2026 as Mentor of the Year, with Blayr making the introduction. We are proud to support Blayr and Molly on their reading journey!

“[My mentor made me feel more confident] because we read together!”

-Blayr, May 2023

“Reading has always been an important part of my life, and getting to share the joy of books with my mentee is the highlight of my week. I've been reading with Blayr for several years and watching him grow both as a reader and a person has been a privilege I cannot overstate.”

-Molly, Read to Dream May 2026

"[The best part is] you get to read with a person - your mentor - and they can help you, and it makes it more fun when you're with someone."

-4th Grade Power Readers Student

STORYTIME

StoryTime is EWDC's read-aloud program, bringing volunteers into classrooms and community settings to read to students and participate in a guided discussion or themed activity. These special reading events model positive literacy behaviors and foster excitement for books by creating joy-filled experiences for students and volunteers alike. At the same time, StoryTime events offer an opportunity to explore or reinforce important topics in age-appropriate ways.

57 READ-ALOUD EVENTS

1,444 STORYTIME ATTENDEES

THEMES PRESENTED PERSEVERANCE, SOCIAL JUSTICE, INCLUSION, CAREER EXPLORATION, GROWTH MINDSET

StoryTime with Kaiser Permanente at JoAnn Leleck Elementary School

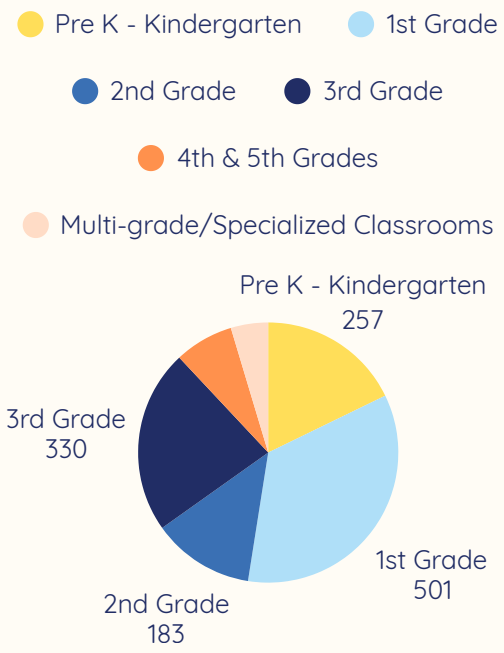
Author Series StoryTime at Randle Highlands Elementary School

Author Series

EWDC hosted **6 authors** for **9 StoryTimes** that served **241 students**. Having authors share their work directly with students increases engagement, humanizes the writing process, and creates a sense of pride among participants. Many students also report that meeting an author sparks a greater appreciation for books and reading.

StoryTimes by Grade Level

Students Served



Small Group Experiences

During the 2025-26 program year, EWDC piloted a new format for select StoryTimes: small group experiences.

Instead of one guest reader in front of a full classroom or large group, we asked teams of volunteers to participate, each reading to 4-6 students. This gave our students more personalized attention and heightened the event's impact for all participants.

Based on positive feedback, EWDC will continue to offer small group StoryTimes in Program Year 2026-27.

Amazon Small Group StoryTime at Savoy Elementary School

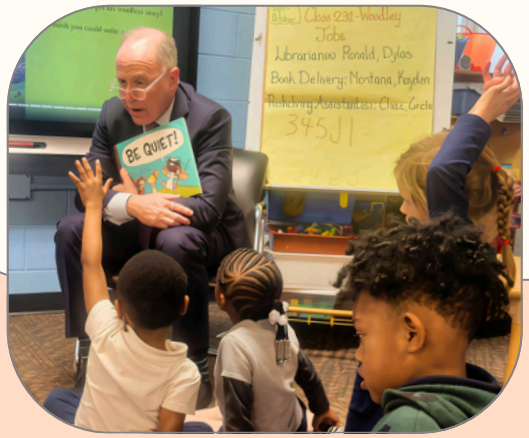
Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck Small Group StoryTime at Savoy Elementary School

"The intention to correlate reading with a positive environment is quite remarkable. The children clearly enjoy being social and this is a key age to develop a positive relationship between themselves and reading/education. I also believe representation matters. It was quite beautiful to see how the children reacted to things they not only relate to, but people they can imagine to be like them or even a role model."

- Gelysia Anderson, StoryTime Guest Reader, Randle Highlands Elementary School

"I love that we got to read [the book] twice. It was funny!"

- StoryTime Student, Amidon-Bowen Elementary School



Amidon-Bowen Elementary School StoryTime with DC Attorney General Schwalb... who read the book twice!

THE BOOK PROJECT

EWDC's distribution program gives away thousands of free books each year, increasing children's access to engaging and empowering stories, helping families build robust home libraries. The program offers books to all Power Readers and StoryTime participants, hosts school and community distribution events, and delivers books to EWDC's network of Little Free Libraries. The program prioritizes stories that elevate and celebrate underrepresented voices in children's literature, giving all young readers a chance to see themselves and their communities reflected on the page.

During Program Year 2025-26, EWDC distributed free books across **35 schools and community sites** throughout the DC area.

5,347 CHILDREN SERVED

12,529 BOOKS DISTRIBUTED

The Book Project Impact

The Book Project helps remove barriers to book access while ensuring children see themselves and their communities reflected in the stories they read. To help in this effort, EWDC hosted **176** distributions events and deliveries. Of the books distributed, almost **70%** featured inclusive characters, stories, and perspectives. Approximately **35%** of all books went directly to schools, housing sites, and communities in **DC Wards 7** and **8**.

Among Power Readers partcipants:

- Students reporting no or few books at home decreased from **23%** to **18%**
- **95%** of students said they liked the books they received from EWDC

Book Drives

Every year, EWDC donates over 10,000 free books to thousands of children across the DC area. During the 2025-26 program year, EWDC gave away almost 13,000 free books to kids and community partners. This would not have been possible without the support and generosity of our book donors. Together, EWDC supporters hosted **69 book drives** which generated **4,896 books** (valued at over **$43,000**) for EWDC programs. This means that nearly **40%** of the books distributed by EWDC came directly from partner organizations and individual volunteers.

4,896 BOOKS DONATED

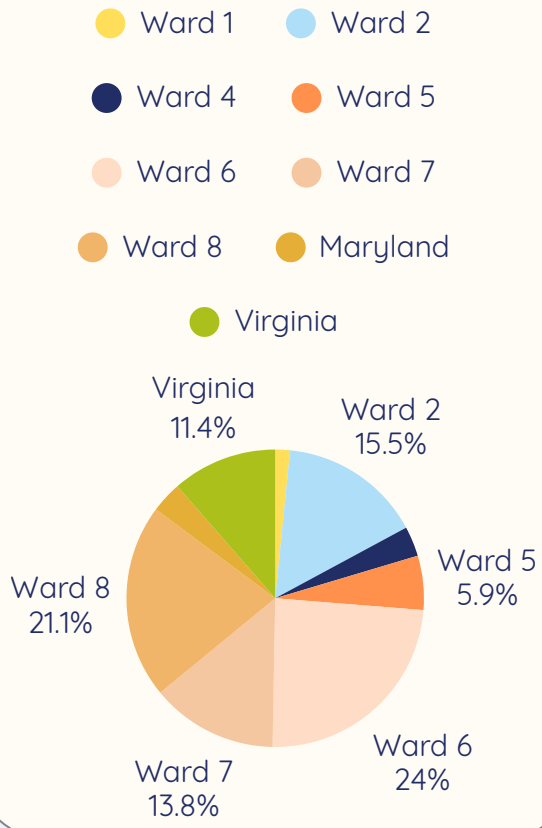
69 BOOK DRIVES

Adobe Book Drive and Book Processing Service Event

"I believe the books distributed had a positive impact on my students by increasing excitement around reading, encouraging independent reading at home, and helping students see themselves reflected in the stories they read."

-Media Specialist, JoAnn Leleck Elementary School

Books Distributed by Geographic Area



THANK YOU TO OUR BOOK DONORS (100+ BOOKS)

Accenture
Adobe
American Bankers Association
American Petroleum Institute
Bloomberg
Boston Consulting Group
Business Roundtable
CTIA
Edison Electric Institute
Camille Fallen
Interstate Natural Gas Association of America
Little Free Library
Nuclear Energy Institute
PhRMA
Recycled Materials Association (ReMA)

OUR VOLUNTEERS

Partners in Impact

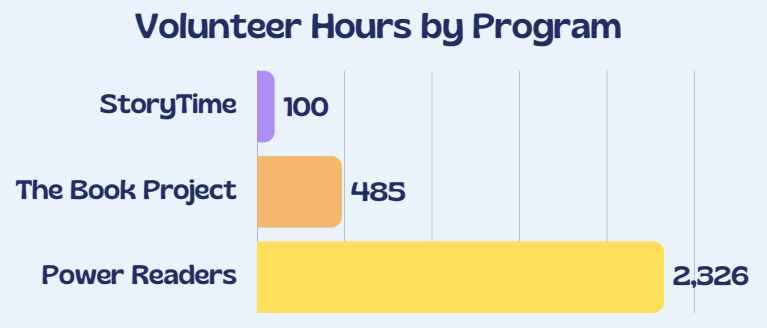
From EWDC's very first days, volunteers have been at the core of our success. We began with a group of bipartisan Senators and Senate staff who spent one hour each week reading with students at a single public elementary school. During Program Year 2025-26, we had almost 600 volunteers supporting more than 5,000 students in communities across the DC area. EWDC is powered by the positive impact of those who choose to make a difference by giving back through reading.

PROGRAM YEAR 2025-26 VOLUNTEER IMPACT

2,911 VOLUNTEER HOURS

591 VOLUNTEERS

35 PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS



Every hour volunteered represents encouragement, individual attention, and the support needed for our students to become readers. To each volunteer who gave their time, talent, and enthusiasm to EWDC this year: thank you. Your commitment created thousands of moments of connection and reading joy.

PhRMA Volunteers Preparing Books

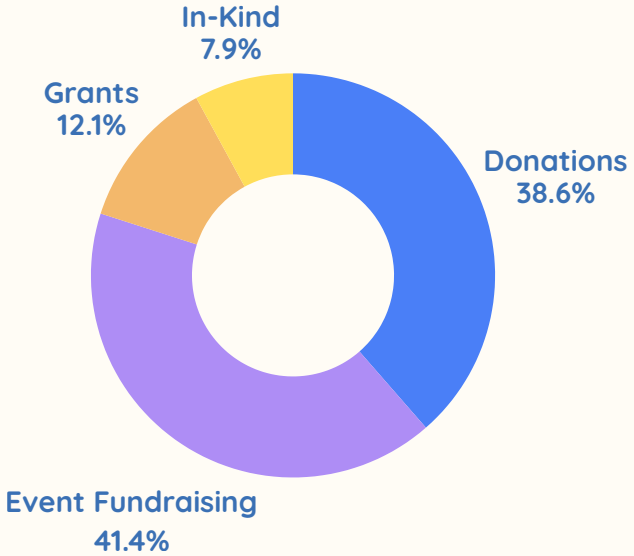
A Volunteer Mentor and her Power Readers Student

Tuckernuck Volunteers Hosting a StoryTime

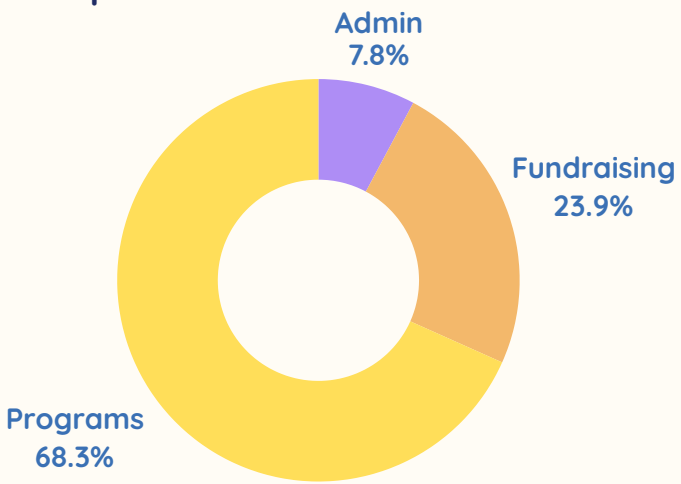
OUR FINANCES

Since our launch in 1995, EWDC has never required payment from a family, school, or community partner to participate in our programs. Instead, EWDC receives incredible support from individuals, corporate partners, foundations, and others to ensure that we can deliver programs that help kids overcome obstacles to become readers.

Revenue



Expenses



*Financial reports are subject to change upon completion of final FY26 audit.
Email **info@everybodywinsdc.org** to request full reports.

PROGRAM INVESTMENTS DURING 2025-26

Here are some ways EWDC invested resources into our programs and our communities:

School-based Program Coordinators to run Power Readers in 6 partner schools

Responsive operations to continue supporting our schools during renovations, like virtual programming at J.O. Wilson Elementary School

Book purchases for specific community-based needs such as bilingual Spanish books

"When I made my first donation, I dedicated it to [...] my inner child, who never had anyone read her a bedtime story. This is for you. Those words were written for the little girl I once was. But today I realize they are also for every child who deserves to know they are seen, valued, and deeply loved."
-Mimi Munoz

"I love being a [donor] - it is an easy way to give back, and it makes me feel proud that I can help kids in my community become stronger readers!"
-Kelly Vielmo

OUR SUPPORTERS

Thank You

During Program Year 2025-26, EWDC raised more than $1,050,000 in donations and in-kind support from over 790 individuals and organizations. Through donations, grants, and in-kind gifts, these supporters are helping children reach their potential through reading. **Thank you to our Program Year 2025-26 donors for your support!**

$50,000+

Amazon
Ford's Theatre

$40,000-$49,999

American Petroleum Institute

$30,000-$39,999

Bloomberg
CoBank
Taste of the South

$20,000-$29,999

Congressional Sports for Charity
CTIA
Monumental Sports & Entertainment
Peter H. & Dana Gunn Winslow Foundation
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom
UPS
Mark Young

$10,000-$19,999

Michael & Cathy Burton
Chowdhary Family Fund
John Fish
Elisa Geier
Dan Gerkin and Allyson Bloom
International Monetary Fund
John E. Fowler Memorial Foundation
National Retail Federation
Qualcomm
Anjali Ramakumaran
S-3 Group
Venable

$5,000-$9,999

Adobe
Alston & Bird
American Bankers Association
American Farm Bureau Federation
American Forest & Paper Association
American Investment Council
Scott and Beth Campbell
Capitol Hill Community Foundation
Chevron
DLA Piper
Finnegan Law
Julia Geier Hankowsky
Kate and Patrick Hanniford
Vicki Hicks
Scott Johnson
Richard Mintz
National Rural Electric Cooperative Association
National Turkey Federation
Rob Portman and Annette Simon
Powers, Pyles, Sutter & Verville, PC
Sue and Bill Prutting
Maggie and Marty Roesch
Sara and Brad Snyder
The Farm Credit Council
White & Case

$2,500-$4,999

FIA
Agricultural Retailers Association
American Association of Crop Insurers
American Sugarbeet Growers Association
Amgen
Christine Amoonarquah
Karen and Jim Beardsley
Amy Bess
Jared and Lorilee Binstock
Boehringer Ingelheim GmbH
Bunge North America
CME Group
Martha Dantzic
DC Rotary Club
Ducks Unlimited
FGS Global
Marc and Kara Filer
Foley & Lardner
Daniel Garen and Sashka Dimitrievska
Georgetown Public Affairs LLC
Growth Energy
International Dairy Foods Association
J.R. Simplot Company
Tanya and Stephen Kreter
Manor House Chapter NSDAR
Mary and James Salander
Andy and Faye Mitchell
Monument Advocacy
Keith Murphy
National Cotton Council
National Home Library Foundation
Noel Epstein
Andrew Paciorek
Nick Pearson and Lauren O'Brien
PhRMA
Recycled Materials Association (ReMA)
Renewable Fuels Association
Rural Community Insurance Services
Saul Ewing
Jill and Mike Sommers
Tom Sullard
Target
Targeted Victory
The Russell Group
Truist
U.S. Beet Sugar Association
Watkinson Miller PLLC
Wilson Sonsini Goodrich and Rosati
Yum! Brands

GET INVOLVED

Every child deserves the chance to become an engaged and excited reader. With your help, we can make that possible. Here are just a few of the ways to be part of EWDC's mission.

READ WITH A STUDENT

Become a Power Readers mentor and spend an hour a week reading with an elementary school student. Mentors provide encouragement, consistency, and a caring presence that helps students gain confidence and develop positive attitudes toward reading. Or, bring stories to life by serving as a StoryTime guest reader and create memorable read-aloud experiences that foster reading excitement and introduce students to new ideas, perspectives, and possibilities.

HOST A BOOK DRIVE

Organize a book drive with your workplace, school, friends, or neighborhood group. Book drives are key to the success of EWDC's distribution program and expand children's access to high-quality reading materials. A single drive can help hundreds of young readers build their home libraries and fall in love with reading.

BECOME A PARTNER

EWDC's organizational partners provide critical support for program activities. Through financial contributions, volunteer engagement, book drives, and more, these partnerships are essential to our mission. Bring EWDC to your workplace or to an organization you are a member of and help more kids succeed through reading.

MAKE A DONATION

Keep our programs free for all families and schools by making a financial gift to EWDC. Your donation sustains our work and has an immediate impact on the children we serve. Whether it's $5, a transfer of stock, attending an EWDC fundraiser, or including EWDC in your estate planning, every dollar makes a difference.

Join Us! There are many ways to help children become readers, and every contribution matters. Learn more and get involved by visiting **everybodywinsdc.org**, following us on social media at **@everybodywinsdc**, or emailing us at **info@everybodywinsdc.org.**

WHO WE ARE

EWDC Staff

Jordi Hutchinson, Executive Director

Yashika Okon, Director of Programs and Community Partnerships
Talia Ford, Program Manager
Ari Hyman, Program Associate

Rody Baron, Director of Development
Chloe Parsons, Partnership and Engagement Manager

Carlotta Generali, Director of Impact and Operations
Alana Stolnitz, Operations Lead

School Year 2025-26 Program Coordinators

Juanita Dale
Desiree Hilaire
Torey McDermott
Charlie Melchior-Fisher
Yasmeen Nutt
Samira Sariolghalam
Tyler Williams

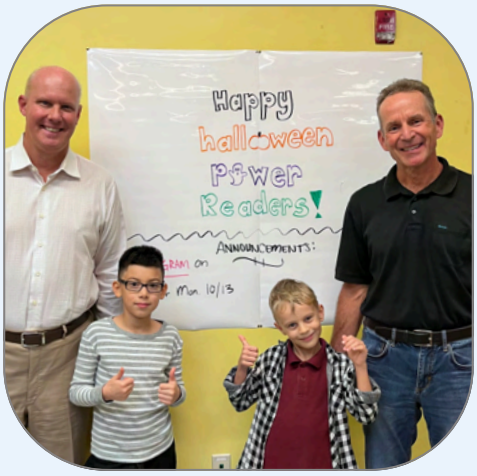
Board of Directors

Nick Pearson, FirstEnergy - **Chair**
Jessica Morris, Amgen - **Treasurer**
Jared Binstock, Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom
Jason Beckwith, Washington Nationals
Matt Bravo, S-3 Group
Scott Campbell, Seminal Coaching
Anna Chauvet, Finnegan
Chris Cook, Infleqtion
Marc Filer, PwC
John Fish, Retired
Dan Gerkin, Paul Weiss
Sarah Germain-Kunk, Altria
Kate Hanniford, Baker McKenzie
Scott Johnson, Foley & Lardner
Kimberly Marcus, Monumental Sports & Entertainment
Marianna Patterson, Amazon
Rob Portman, Powers Pyles Sutter & Verville
Sara Snyder, Adobe
Mark Young, Retired

Members whose terms ended during Program Year 2025-26:

Arielle Elliott, NOTUS
Jacquie Moen, Everfi

Program Coordinator Yasmeen reading a StoryTime book to students at Savoy Elementary School



Board Members Dan Gerkin and Scott Campbell with their Power Readers mentees at Thomson Elementary School

Board Member Kimberly Marcus accepting the Community Champion award on behalf of Monumental Sports & Entertainment at EWDC's Read to Dream fundraising event

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

Thank you to all our donors and volunteers.

EWDC
EVERYBODY WINS DC

info@everybodywinsdc.org
@everybodywinsdc
www.everybodywinsdc.org
1420 New York Ave NW, Suite 650, Washington, DC 20005
(202) 216-9467

Charity Navigator
FOUR-STAR
2026

SPUR LOCAL
26
CRITICAL NONPROFIT

Platinum
Transparency
2026
Candid.