



Family Reading Partnership

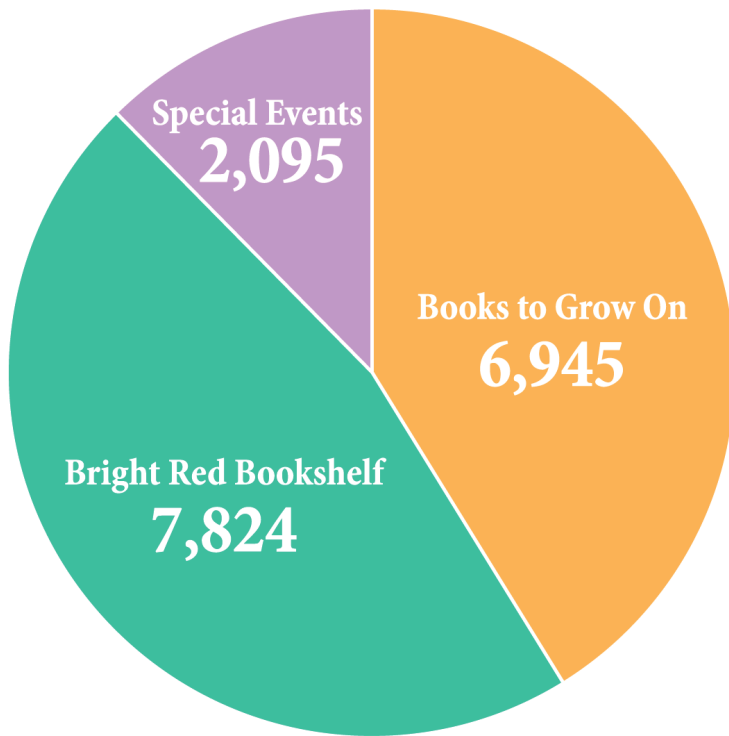
2021-2022 Annual Report



Books to Families

16,864

Where They Go



Total Book Donations Received

4,491

Your support has sustained our work during this overwhelming two-year rollercoaster. Your dreams for a world in which **every child has access to a plethora of books**, and the family support to grow and learn, have motivated us to keep improving and reinventing. **Your investment in our children is essential**, and our work continues to be needed.

At Family Reading Partnership, this time has been spent critically reviewing our organization, and building a strategic plan to improve our relationships, program reach, and impact. Personally, I felt comforted by this work, even on the days full of unsolved conundrums. I loved the opportunity to talk with many of you about your hopes for our community, and I look forward to many more of those discussions. The time spent imagining what can be with our team and program partners has refreshed my sense of pride and promise as we set off on this new path. You can read the snapshot and full versions of our 2022-2025 strategic plan here:

<http://www.familyreading.org/frp-strategic-plan/>

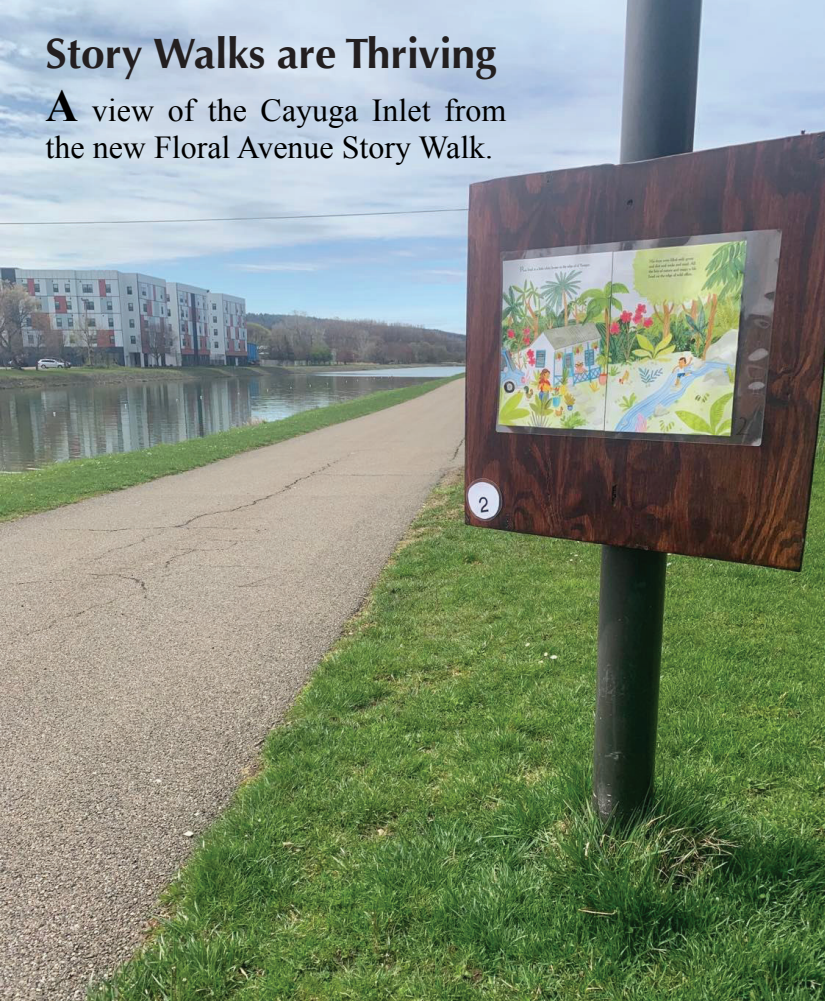
I am emerging from my pandemic cocoon feeling exhausted, but also reinvigorated. I am so excited about our year to come (stay tuned for some REALLY big news in the next few weeks!), and I am so grateful for all of the voices that have and will shape our future. Thank you for believing in us and making it possible to support the children and families in our community with books to expand their horizons!

With Gratitude,

Amber Smith

Story Walks are Thriving

A view of the Cayuga Inlet from the new Floral Avenue Story Walk.



A Quiet Moment -Anonymous BRB tender

Last September the Finger Lakes Toy Library, a Bright Red Bookshelf host site, relocated to the Shops at Ithaca Mall. FRP's bookshelf now sits in the Mall corridor, and is frequented by toy library visitors and passersby alike. As a volunteer tender I typically do not see the results of my work. I put the books on the shelf, but rarely get to see children picking them out. One day last fall I was lucky enough to see the impact of this program in action. A father and his very upset pre-school-aged child were walking in the hallway. The father was desperately trying to calm the clearly aggravated kiddo, without much success. There were tears and yelling and physical struggle. **And then Dad spotted the Bright Red Bookshelf.** He managed to get the child's attention and steer their eyes book-ward. And it stopped. The crying and shouting and kicking all came to a complete halt. I don't know what title they spied, but it was interesting enough to make them entirely forget their frustration. The child grabbed the book, held it out to the father, and they snuggled up in a big comfy chair right there in the Mall to read. Instead of stress and discord, these two were now bonding and learning together, their day turned around by an engaging book. My heart just about exploded!

Bright Red Bookshelves are back and better than ever!

The Bright Red Bookshelf (BRB) program was forced into closure for 15 months in the early days of COVID-19. During that time, we were busy reviewing and rebuilding the program to remedy known flaws.

We struggled with the reality that too many books not aligned with our mission and values were finding their way to the BRBs. Romance novels and old, torn books affixed with FRP stickers were appearing on our bookshelves! We made changes to our donated book screening process and are now able to confidently supply our tenders with children's books that meet our new, higher standards. **We want children to feel that they are receiving a special gift**, not someone else's discard, when they choose a book from a Bright Red Bookshelf!

Many of the shelves needed better caretaking and a larger supply of books. They were often sitting empty or displaying a sad selection with just a few old books placed by community members. **We recruited and trained new volunteers** to ensure that each bookshelf has at least one dedicated tender who frequently delivers high-quality books.

Despite an outpouring of generous donations, we found that we did not have enough books to fill the shelves with children's books that adequately represented our mission and community. The BRBs were **lacking in books that feature characters with diverse skin tones, ethnicities, and family structures** and too many of the donated books we received were in poor condition. We are now varying the sources by which we acquire materials in order to provide a mix of new and gently-used books. We have worked with donors to increase the quality and diversity of the books we receive from their book drives, and we are writing grants to purchase specific titles that fill in the gaps left by donated books.

These improvements are only the beginning of the process to bring the BRB program up to date and improve its community impact. We are already seeing the results of this work. Volunteers love putting brand new books out onto the BRBs, and an average of **250 books per week are now flying off the shelves!**

Our Amazing Volunteers

Monica and Eldridge Anderson
Joylene Black
Building Ourselves Through
Sisterhood and Service
Nora Burrows
Katherine Sue Burton
Linda Caughey
Challenge Industries
Katherine Chason
Marty Conger
Rob Costello
Vera Cropf
Nicole Decker
Vivian Goldsmith
Katie Hale
Nancy Howland
Stacia Humby
Kellie Hummel

JM Murray
Irene Komor
Learning Web
Kathy McLaren
Kara McNell
Marty Moses
Jeani Parr
Lydia Pettis
Bonnie Rathbun
Penny Romantic
Anna Roberts
Casey Soules
AnnMarie Streeter
Christine Uliassi
Unity House
Neil VanDeusen
Audrey Warner

2022-2023 Board of Directors

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Lucy Xin



“Do your little bit of good where you are;
it’s those little bits of good put together that
overwhelm the world.”

- Desmond Tutu



“No one can whistle a symphony. It takes a whole orchestra to play it.”
- H.E. Luccock

Family Reading Partnership Program Partners

The Advocacy Center
 Arthr Kuckes Childcare Center
 Attorneys for Children
 Autumn Orchard
 Ballet & Books
 Beverly J Martin Elementary
 Bright Horizons
 Buttermilk Falls Pediatrics
 Caroline Food Pantry
 Cassavant Elementary
 Catholic Charities
 Cayuga Birthplace
 Cayuga Family Medicine
 Cayuga Medical Center
 Cayuga Women's Health
 Cheryl Nemecek
 Child Development Council
 Coddington Road Childcare Center
 Cornell's Big Red Barn
 Corner of the Sky Daycare
 Couples Birth Preparation Workshop
 Criminal Justice Court
 Danby Community Park Association
 Danby Federated Church
 Danby Food Pantry
 Downtown Ithaca Childcare Center
 Dryden Central Schools
 Dryden Family Medicine
 Dryden Food Pantry
 Dryden Head Start
 Dryden Village DPW/Rail Trail Task Force
 Enfield Elementary School
 Enfield Food Pantry
 Family & Children's Service
 Family Medicine Associates

Family Practice Association of Dryden
 Finger Lakes Library System
 Finger Lakes Toy Library
 The First National Bank of Groton
 Friends of the Tompkins County Public Library
 Gently Born Midwifery
 Global Roots Play School
 Greater Ithaca Activities Center
 Greenstar Cooperative Market
 Groton Central Schools
 Groton Family Practice
 Groton Food Pantry
 Groton Library
 Groton Old Home Days
 Groton Recreation Department
 Guthrie Medical
 Hasbrouck Community Center
 Holistic Childbirth
 In His Hands
 Indian Creek Midwifery
 Ithaca City Court
 Ithaca City School District
 Ithaca Farmers Market
 Ithaca Free Clinic
 Ithaca YMCA
 Izzy Reads
 Jillian's Drawers & Mama Goose
 Karen Burke
 Key Bank
 Lansing Central Schools
 Lansing Library
 The Learning Web
 Lil Angels Daycare
 Lil Lions Daycare
 Loaves & Fishes

M&T Bank
 Newfield Elementary School
 Newfield Public Library
 No Mas Lagrimas/No More Tears
 Northeast Pediatrics & Adolescent Medicine
 NYS Department of Motor Vehicles
 OB-GYN Associates of Ithaca
 Overlook at West Hill Apartments
 Owl's Nest School
 Planned Parenthood of Greater New York
 Poet's Landing Apartments
 Racker
 Salvation Army
 Sciencenter
 Southside Community Center
 Southworth Library
 St John's Emergency Shelter
 Sweet Peas Childcare Center
 Norma Switzer
 Talktime Dryden
 Tompkins Community Action (Head Start)
 Tompkins County Department
 of Social Services
 Tompkins County Health Department
 Tompkins County Public Library
 Tompkins County Sheriff's Department
 Town of Newfield
 Trumansburg Elementary School
 Trumansburg Family Health Center
 Trumansburg Kid's Village
 Varna Community Center
 Wegmans Food and Pharmacy
 WellBeing Pediatrics & Adolescent Medicine
 Yoga Farm

The Board of Directors and Staff of Family Reading Partnership appreciate the support of the following Donors.

Donor Honor Roll April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022

Program Sponsors

Books to Grow On: \$54,500

Welcome Baby: Cayuga Medical Center
and Wegmans
2 month: Caroline and Ed Cope
4 month: WellBeing Pediatrics & Adolescent
Medicine and Legacy Foundation
6 month: Lewis G. Schaeneman Jr. Foundation
12 month: JM McDonald Foundation
and AnnMarie and Paul Streeter
18 month: Mario St. George Boiardi Foundation
and Northeast Pediatrics & Adolescent
Medicine
2 year: The Park Foundation
3 year: Circlelink Fund
4 year: Triad Foundation
Welcome to School Book: M&T Bank

Story Walks: \$2,250

Floral Avenue: Laura Larson
and Odyssey Bookstore
Dryden: Lorena Garmezy & Kevin Murphy
and Carrie Hrousis

Talk, Sing, Read, Play with Me: \$8,000

United Way of Tompkins County



Unrestricted Donations Received

\$139,462

Sponsorships Received

\$56,750

Grants Received

\$12,700

Bright Red Bookself Donors

Caroline Arms
Barnes & Noble Ithaca Customers
Elizabeth Bleicher
Ayree Coletti
John Confer

Ellis Hollow Community Center
Vivian Goldsmith
Julie Greco
Stacia Humby
Kellie Hummel

Mama Goose Customers
Jeni Parr
Emelia Provencher
Kristy Tompkins
Cindy Tatem

Yohko Tsuji
Ryan Wilcox

And so, so many anonymous Friends
of BRB!

Donations made in Honor of

Breanne Cope
in honor of Liana
Fran and Roy Dexheimer
in honor of Jim Byrne
Talia Dubovi
in honor of Will Heptig
Brian and Jo Ann Earle
in honor of Owen Orion Earle
Maureen Ferrell
in honor of Lori Cady
Sandy and Glenn Galbreath
*in honor of Robin & Edward
Dubovi*
Lorena Garmezy and Kevin Murphy
in honor of Alice Garmezy
Linda Hemmerich
in honor of Emily & Joseph Metz
Carrie Hrousis
in honor of Alice Garmezy

Roz Kenworthy
in honor of Joan Ormondroyd
Lisa Pate
in honor of Carla Carick
Katheleen Reidy, Ph.D.
and Bob Meek
*in honor of Mimi Schaffner's
Birthday*
Susan Robinson
in honor of The Kryger Family
Nancy and George Schuler
in honor of Cora Mollie Schuler
John and Patricia Sipple
in honor of Tommy Sipple
Gale and Nick Smith
in honor of Amber Smith
Richard and Margaret Steinacher
*in honor of Family Reading
Partnership Staff & Volunteers*

Heather and Charles Tallman
*in honor of All the hard working
teachers in this county.*
Joan Van Vranken
in honor of Mimi Schaffner

Donations made in Honor of Diane Conneman

Patricia Casler
Katie Forker
Carl Ginat and
Sally McConnell-Ginat
Margaret Hansel
Joe and Emily Metz
Ann Shumate

Donations made in Celebration of

Philip and Mary Lu McPheron
in celebration of Max and Stella
Maureen Parmar
in celebration of Susan Parmar
Rosemary Louise Prasad
*in celebration of Margaret
Hohenstein*

Donations made in Memory of

J. Robert Barlow
in memory of Nancy S. Barlow
Michele Barry
in memory of Barbara Cappucci
Joyce Billing
in memory of Michael Billing
Elizabeth J. Chapin
in memory of Mary Chapin King
Steve Chase
in memory of Lorraine Chase
Diane Conneman
in memory of Hertha S. Wehr
Aosta B Edelman
in memory of Ann Mathews
Ed Ferraro
in memory of Lillian Ferraro
Denise Gelberg
in memory of Kathy Kelly

Lee Greaves
in memory of Ann Mathews
Spencer Hill
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Norma and Tony Leone
in memory of Dorothy Babiarz
Norma and Tony Leone
*in memory of Barbara Sullivan
Petrillose*
Sue Maloy and Louis Munch
in memory of Marty Allee
Catherine Marchant
in memory of George Boiardi

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*in memory of Richard
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in memory of Berry Powell
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in memory of Rose Sanford
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in memory of Martha Allee
Jeff and Suzanne Snedeker
in memory of Edie Tougas
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in memory of Stu Stein
Betsy Stroomer
in memory of Patty Elwin Davis

Yigal & Diana Yankelevits
*in memory of Ann Christine
Mathews*
Neil VanDeusen
*in memory of Jeannette Brown
Bostwick*
Suzanne Wapner
*in memory of Lottie Wapner
Fredane*
Lucas Webb
in memory of Jonathan Hausrath
Rachel Woodard
*in memory of Sue and David
Woodard*

\$10,000 +

Two Anonymous
Bibliomaniacs
BorgWarner
Community Foundation of
Tompkins County
Lewis G. Schaeneman Jr.
Foundation

\$1,000 - \$9,999

Two Anonymous Bibliophiles
Mario and Deborah Boiardi
Thomas Bruce and
Judith S. Pratt
Caroline and Ed Cope

Lorena Garmezy and
Kevin Murphy
Bradley and Mary Grainger
Phyllis Hewett and William
Highland
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J.M. McDonald Foundation
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Park Foundation
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Redd
Karen Sass
Diane and Dick Shafer
Triad Foundation
Wegmans
WellBeing Pediatrics &
Adolescent Medicine
AnnMarie and Paul Streeter

\$500 - \$999

Anonymous Bookworm
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Merry Buckley
Derek and Nora Burrows
CFCU (Community Credit
Union)
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Alice Colby-Hall
Kristie Devine
Barbara and Paul Eshelman
Maureen Ferrell
Katie Forker
Greenstar Cooperative Market
Carl and Susan Haynes
Carrie Hrousis
Martha Hsu

Carla Ingrando and
David Winterstein
Jessica and Scott McArt
Cheryl Morris
Odyssey Bookstore
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William Tomek
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Tompkins County
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Jodi Wadach
Suzanne Wapner
Weitsman Shredding LLC
Victoria White

\$100 - \$499

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Aurora Banuelos
J. Robert Barlow
Sharon Barrick
Debra and Richard Benson
Joyce Billing
George Boyer and
Janet Millman
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Carole Dennis

Jennifer DeStefano
Fran and Roy Dexheimer
Barbara and Tom Dimock
Duane Diviney and
Jerald Shing
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Brian and Jo Ann Earle
Leslie and Richard Ehrlich
Lisa Eisenberg
Adam and Tonya Engst
Ed Ferraro
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Sally McConnell-Ginet
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Yigal & Diana Yankelevits
John Young
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Up to \$100

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