



MAKE WAY FOR BOOKS

The Early Literacy Resource Center for Southern Arizona

2012-2013 Annual Report



SHARING STORIES CHANGING LIVES

Big sister Charlotte's love of books began in the MAKE WAY FOR BOOKS Raising A Reader program as a baby. Years later, Charlotte shares her favorite books with her little sister Emily who is now a part of the same program. Together these sisters are doing much more than reading children's books; they are sharing stories that will change their lives.



MAKE WAY FOR BOOKS

The Early Literacy Resource Center for Southern Arizona

Dear Friends,

This year we celebrate MAKE WAY FOR BOOKS' 15th anniversary of empowering families, children, and early childhood educators to make early literacy and reading a priority every day. Over the last 15 years we have served over 150,000 children and parents, placed 226,405 books into homes, and provided programs and opportunities for children to fall in love with books and reading. We are grateful for the support and generosity of all of our volunteers, donors, board members, advocates, and staff who make this impact possible.

Together we have made books available in homes, preschools, childcare centers, clinics, WIC offices, and many other locations families frequent. We have provided professional development and early literacy support to early childhood educators and home-care providers. And we have empowered parents and families to make reading to their children part of their daily routine. However, for every child, family, and educator that we have impacted, there are still others waiting for assistance.

The need in our community is great. Three out of every four 4th graders in Arizona cannot read proficiently. However, this problem begins long before children enter 4th grade. In Pima County 33% of children enter kindergarten not "ready to read." Poverty amplifies achievement gaps in Tucson where one in three children live in poverty. Learning inequalities become apparent by age four when children from low-income families will have heard an average of 30 million fewer words than their more affluent peers. Education is essential to the civic engagement, productivity, and success of children who will be the future students, adults, and leaders of our community.

Our commitment to a better community begins with an investment in the future of our children who deserve the right to quality education and the early literacy skills necessary for success before they step foot into a kindergarten classroom. With your continued support, we will intensify our efforts to ensure that the children, families, and educators of southern Arizona have access to quality books, early literacy education, and a more equal opportunity to succeed.

We graciously present our 2013 annual report and share our favorite MAKE WAY FOR BOOKS stories; the stories that are truly changing lives.

With gratitude,



Mary Jan Bancroft

Mary Jan Bancroft
Founder



Jenny Volpe

Jenny Volpe
Executive Director



Cheryl
Ridgley
at Pio
Decimo

MAKE WAY FOR BOOKS' story starts 15 years ago at Pio Decimo where our founder first volunteered and realized that preschool centers and educators needed more support. Pio Decimo had very limited literacy resources and many families did not have books at home.

“With MWFB and by reading stories, our kids are developing a love of learning and reading, and gaining a sense of pleasure from it. Hopefully they walk out of Pio Decimo with a love of reading and excitement that will sustain them through kindergarten, ready for success,”
Molly Tylutki, Director of Pio Decimo, 35 Years

Cheryl Ridgley has now been the Storytime Reader at Pio Decimo for 10 years. Each week Cheryl brings stories to life using puppets, rhymes, and wonderful storytelling.

“Thanks to MWFB, children can check out fun and exciting books to share with their family. One teacher told me that she has a preschooler who had never been read to. Since he has started taking home books, he demands to be read to nightly,”
Cheryl Ridgley

SHARING STORIES IN THE CLASSROOM

2012 - 2013 STORYTIME VOLUNTEERS

TEN YEARS PLUS MAUREEN BIKE / PAT MACKAY / MARIE GRANINGER / DEE ANN SAKRISON / SUE SMITH
FIVE TO TEN YEARS CHERYL RIDGLEY / JOHN ROSS / MARSHA SCHULL
ONE TO FIVE YEARS JENNIE MERKLE / ARTHUR GOLDBERG / ROSE ANN ESSIG / LIZ BENHAM / KAY SPENCER / DEREK SCHULL / FREDA JOHNSON / MARY ROBERTS / BARBARA ARISSA / COLETTE PRICE / AUDREY CIONE / RHODA BABIS / ANDI SANES / VIOLETA PHILLIPS / SUZY HUNT / RITA POLLAK / CHARL MAYNARD / JANET CASTILLO / GAIL FRANKLIN / NAT FRANKLIN / ELLINOR ANGEL
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45 Storytime Volunteers read books weekly to

800 children in

40 preschools and

child-care centers. That's

15,240 minutes of reading last year.



Jada & Jasmin

RAISING A READER

Jada and her mother Jasmin first met MAKE WAY FOR BOOKS through Raising A Reader. Each week Jada received a red book bag filled with four books to take home, share, and return for a new set the following week. Jasmin and Jada participated in activities and craft projects that built on the stories they read together. Each week Jada took one book home to keep. After the first class, Jasmin started recruiting her neighbors to bring their children as well.

“ Before Raising A Reader, I tried to read to Jada often, but it wasn't until the program that I learned how to make the books come alive for her. ”
-Jasmin



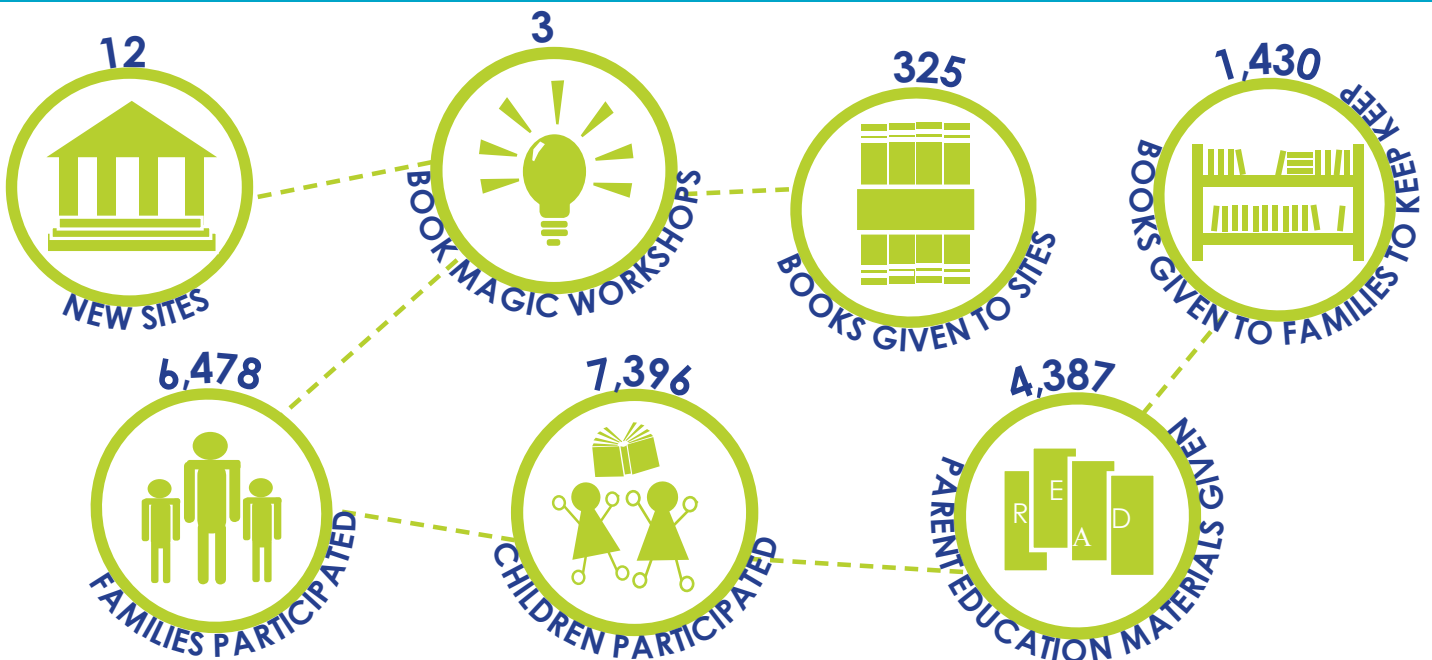
The families in Jada and Jasmin's Raising A Reader group grew close throughout the 12 week program and did not want it to end. Inspired by a love of reading, and supplied with a special lending library donated by MWFB, the families created their own "Raising Our Family" group that still reads together today. The mothers at "Raising our Family" have grown with their children and the stories they have shared are changing the lives of not only the children but also their parents, who with increased confidence, see themselves as their child's first, best teacher.





Book M.A.G.I.C. (Making a Giant Impact on Children) is a bilingual family literacy program that reaches out to families who often do not have access to formal childcare by meeting them in their homes, play groups, parent classes, resource centers and in other community settings. The Book M.A.G.I.C. program empowers parents to be their child's first, best teacher by providing them with early literacy information and strategies, take-home books, and engaging reading readiness activities.

MAKING A GIANT IMPACT ON CHILDREN





CONNECTING LANGUAGE & CULTURE

In the MWFB Make Way for Babies & Toddlers program, families are educated on the importance of reading to their children beginning at birth. New parents receive kits filled with baby books, reading strategies, and early literacy information. However, reading aloud can be a struggle for many new parents who have limited English language skills. MWFB programs empower parents to pass on the gift of their language and culture to their children by reading and speaking to them in their primary home language.

MAKE WAY

FOR BABIES



THREE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS



854 BOOKS DISTRIBUTED THROUGH EARLY LITERACY KITS



748 FAMILIES RECEIVED EARLY LITERACY KITS

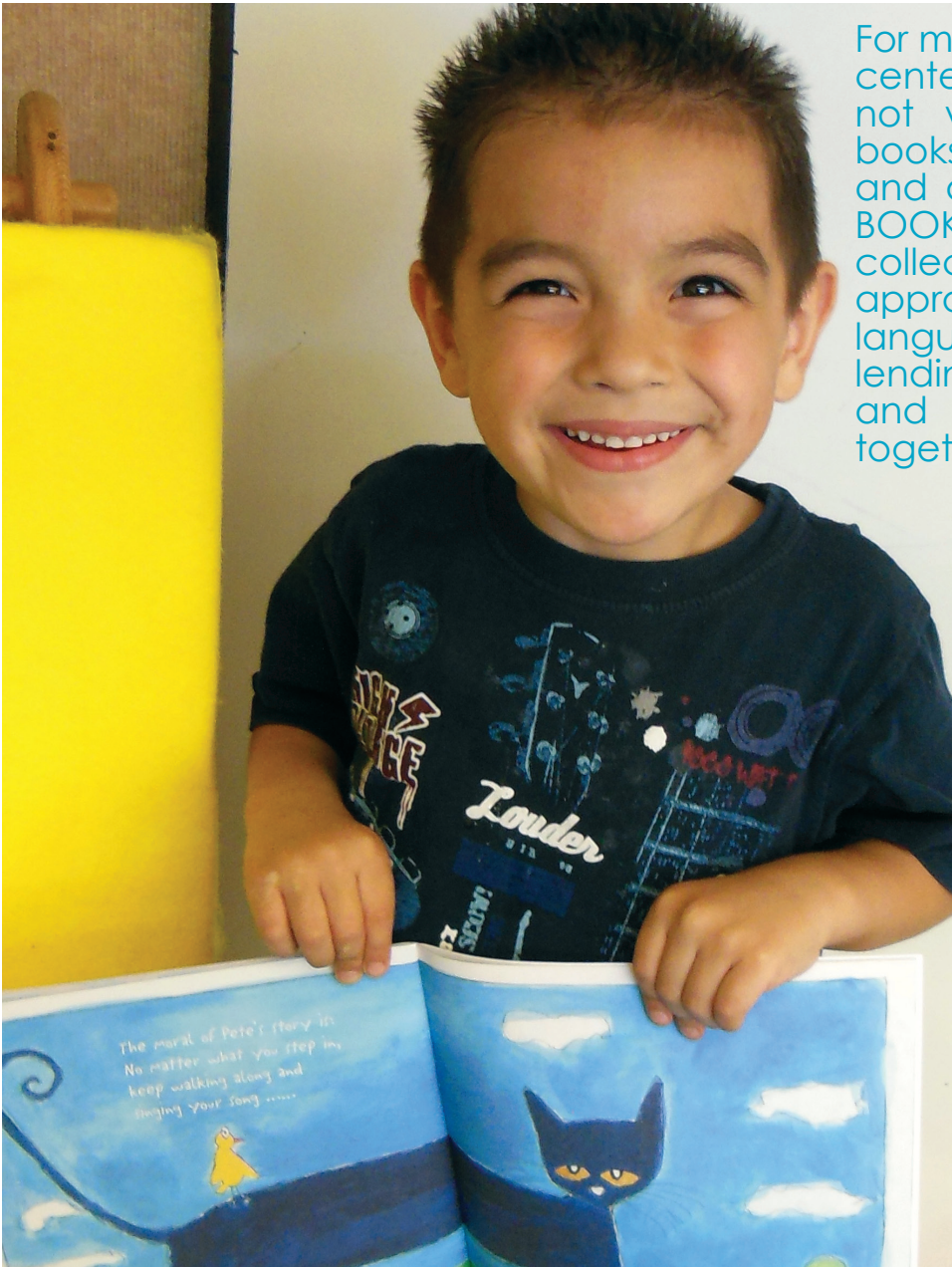


BLUE BOOK HOUSES

33 SITES

5,231 BOOKS DISTRIBUTED

MWFB partners with Pima County Public Library to provide new and gently used books at social service agencies and medical clinics throughout Tucson and southern Arizona. Families can enjoy books while awaiting services and then take them home to keep.



For many families and childcare centers, high-quality books are not within budget. To make books available in classrooms and at home, MAKE WAY FOR BOOKS provides classroom collections of high-quality, age appropriate books in multiple languages as well as a large lending library so that children and parents can share stories together at home.

“The children love to check out books. They love sharing the stories with their parents. They love being able to take books home, it gives them something to bond with their parents,”
Kidz Co Site Director

“When I check out books I like to read them to my baby brother,”
Desert Willow Preschooler

ENCOURAGING LITERACY AT HOME

MAKE WAY FOR BOOKS gives children free books to take home throughout the year at preschool and childcare centers, family literacy programs, and community events.

Last year **20,878** books were given to children to keep.



6,344 books added to lending libraries & 13,992 books were checked out.



6,344 books added to lending libraries & 13,992 books were checked out.



PARTNERING WITH PARENTS

659 parents & 863 children attended Family Literacy Nights

MAKE WAY FOR BOOKS brings parents together to celebrate books and reading. At Family Literacy Nights MWFB offers reading strategies and activities to parents of varying literacy levels to get their children excited about lending libraries and reading at home.



MWFB hosts reading challenges to get families and educators excited about reading. Educators are challenged to read five books to their children for five days. In 2013, Mayor Rothschild joined the MWFB Reading Challenge at Casita Feliz Daycare.





EMPOWERING EDUCATORS IN CLASSROOMS

MWFB supports early childhood educators throughout southern Arizona by providing one-on-one mentoring. In 2012-2013, more than 400 teachers received consulting from MWFB Early Literacy Consultants. Throughout the year, MWFB offered 30 different early literacy workshops focusing on reading strategies and best practices, extension activities, and early literacy and language development in the classroom.

654 Early Childhood Educators participated in MWFB Workshops

“I love attending Make Way for Books workshops. You have new ideas and resources I can take back to the classroom,”

Ocotillo Learning Center Workshop Participant



WORKSHOP HIGHLIGHT

Going beyond traditional storytimes, *A Curious World: Exploring and Discovering through Books* encourages teachers and children to use informational and narrative books to discover their world together and to answer children’s burning questions.



Jessica



Jessica is one of many child-care providers in southern Arizona working to make reading a priority for the children she cares for at home. At MWFB workshops, home-care providers like Jessica learn reading strategies and tips to help children develop reading readiness skills. They also receive rotating kits with books, reading kits extension activities, and book collections for children in their care.

"I felt comfortable and very welcome in this program and the group of women you have already come to form a relationship with. I loved to see the set up you had for the children. Thank you," -Jessica

SUPPORTING EDUCATORS IN THE HOME

MWFB offers bilingual quarterly workshops specifically tailored to home providers throughout the year. These literacy *cafecitos* are an innovative model that gives these professionals support and an opportunity to share best practices.



MWFB SERVED
39 HOME PROVIDERS
WITH
205 CHILDREN
AND SUPPLIED
353 BOOKS



**\$100 PLACES
30 HIGH-
QUALITY
NEW PAPER
BACK AND
BOARD
BOOKS INTO
THE HANDS
OF CHILDREN**



**\$1,000 SUPPORTS
30 UNDER-
RESOURCED
PARENTS WITH
EARLY LITERACY
KITS**



**HOW CAN YOU HELP
CHANGE A
LIFE?**

**\$500
PROVIDES
EARLY LITERACY
EDUCATION FOR 50
CHILD-CARE TEACHERS**



**\$2,000 ESTABLISHES
A LENDING LIBRARY
OF HIGH-QUALITY
HARDCOVER PICTURE
BOOKS**



**EVERY GIFT, NO
MATTER THE
SIZE, HELPS
MAKE WAY FOR
BOOKS REACH
ANOTHER CHILD**



**\$10, 000 PUTS
AN ENTIRE
LITERACY
PROGRAM
IN TWO
PRESCHOOLS**



YOU CAN MAKE YOUR GIFT IN SEVERAL WAYS:

ONLINE BY CREDIT CARD

Visit www.makewayforbooks.org and click on "donate"

CREDIT CARD BY PHONE

Call MAKE WAY FOR BOOKS 520-721-2334

BY CHECK

Mail your check to MAKE WAY FOR BOOKS at 3955 E. Fort Lowell Road, Tucson, AZ 85712

MAKE WAY FOR BOOKS accepts gifts of marketable securities.

Please consider making MAKE WAY FOR BOOKS a part of your planned giving.

Making a Tribute Gift is a meaningful way to honor or pay memory to someone special in your life.

MAKE WAY FOR BOOKS is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization. Contributions are tax deductible as provided by law.

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 Forrest Davis
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 Duane Wild
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If we have omitted your name, please accept our apologies and be sure to let us know!

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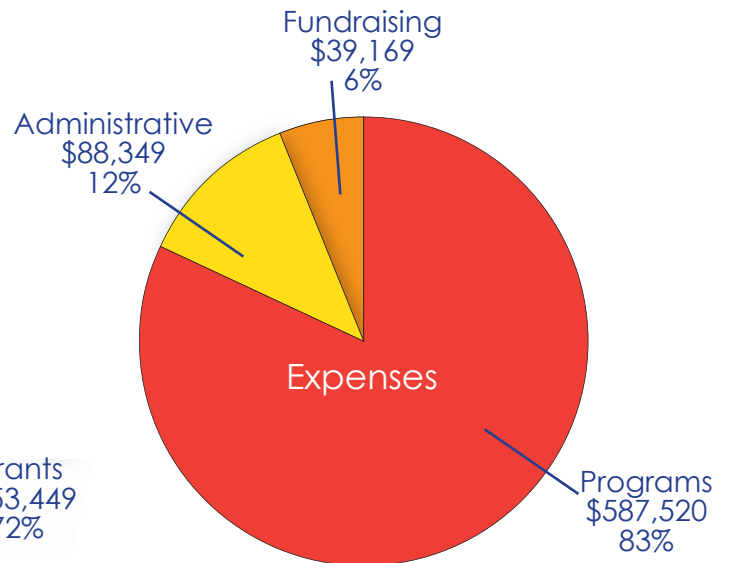
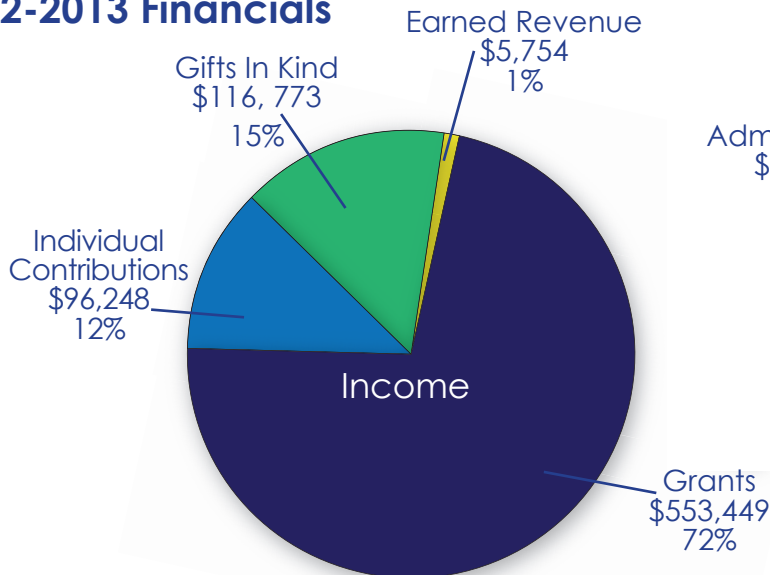


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for Southern Arizona

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“Our mission is to foster and support the success of children in our community through cultivating the love of books and reading.

MAKEWAYFORBOOKS provides a full continuum of early literacy education, programs, and resources to make sharing books an important and enjoyable part of families' lives. Our highest priority is to serve families with young children (age birth through five) and early childhood professionals in underserved areas throughout Tucson and southern Arizona.

Our vision is that all families and educators in our community will provide meaningful shared literacy experiences for the young children in their lives.

As a result, all children will enter school with the necessary skills to be successful and will be inspired and motivated by a life-long love of books and reading.

MAKEWAYFORBOOKS seeks to affect change by working to establish a solid foundation for the young children in our community. We envision southern Arizona as a place where all children will thrive.”