

Make Way for Books

Your quarterly newsletter • February 2016

Thanks to you, powerful learning experiences are possible everywhere...

“Before, I didn’t think about things to do with my kids, so they were bored a lot...” For families like Deanna’s and so many others in Tucson, transportation is a problem, putting many educational programs out of reach.

Because of you, our staff travels out into the community five days a week to meet families like Deanna’s where they are. We provide family literacy programming for young children who do not have access to preschool or childcare by meeting them at locations such as neighborhood schools, gathering spaces in communities like San Xavier, and even apartment complexes throughout Tucson.

Through standards-based literacy activities, young children develop literacy and language skills week after week. And, thanks to you, parents learn how to share books effectively and transform everyday activities, like grocery shopping or waiting at the bus, into powerful learning experiences.

“Thank you so much for providing this program. I feel like it has made me a better mom to my girls. Now I try to do activities like the ones we did in this program. I try to make the book more interesting when we read together. You motivate me to improve myself so I can be a better mom.”

You make stories like Deanna’s possible.



Did you know? 82% of the brain’s neural connections are formed in the first three years of life? During these years, the quantity and quality of words parents share with their young children is the strongest influence on building language, literacy, and cognitive skills!

Thanks to you, 95% of children who participate in our programs gain emergent literacy and language skills!

Support your community and have some fun!

Make Way for Books 18th Birthday Party/Fundraiser! March 22 from 5-8 p.m. @ Arizona Beer House

Help us celebrate 18 years of giving children the chance to read and succeed! A food truck will be at the event to serve delicious bites. We will be raffling off prizes at the event! Buy your raffle tickets at makewayforbooks.org/donate. This is a free, pet and family-friendly event!

Thank you to these great local businesses donated to our raffle:
Kneaders | Arizona Beer House
Antigone Books | Frog & Firkin
Fed by Threads | Soulshine Massage
Lodge on the Desert | Peter Piper Pizza
Ideal Image | Robert Markley Salon Spa
Bookmans Entertainment Exchange
Arizona Lottery

Tucson Festival of Books March 12 and 13 @ University of Arizona

Please bring family, friends, and children to the Tucson Festival of Books at The University of Arizona! Stop by the Tent for Tots, where we will bring stories to life for young children throughout the weekend. Visit our Book Bus and booth at the corner of Cherry Ave. and the mall where you can buy shirts, hats, raffle tickets, and other merchandise!

Arizona Gives Day at La Cocina April 5 @ 201 N Court Ave.

We are hosting a fundraiser and Arizona Gives Day celebration at La Cocina! Our board member Greg Curtis will be on percussion with the Kristin Chandler band!



Children discover a new book at Cover to Cover.

Dear World Changers,

The latest research confirms what you and I already know: early literacy and language experiences in the birth to five years transforms lives! In fact, the latest science shows that literacy and language experiences in the first three years are directly related to all areas of learning, including reading, writing, math, and approaches to learning!

Recently, Rotary Club of Tucson Foundation chose us as the primary beneficiary of their Tucson Classics Car Show for the next five years. Proceeds will support Cover to Cover, our innovative strategy to provide high-quality early literacy programming for children who do not have access to preschool or childcare.

In December, alongside Terri Clark from Read On Arizona, I had the honor of representing the state of Arizona during a Literacy Institute at Harvard University. At the Institute, programs like Cover to Cover, which successfully break down barriers and impact our most vulnerable young children, were recognized as the most critical strategies to narrow the achievement gap and raise third grade literacy rates.

With your support, we continue to build upon the latest scientific research to create lasting change for children and families. Thank you for making this innovation possible.

With utmost gratitude,

Jenny Volpe
Executive Director



Your

Your support builds teachers' skills!

Thanks to you, we have provided 34 professional development workshops for more than 550 early childhood professionals since July! One educator shared, "I gained skills I can use with my children. They get excited just from seeing me take out a book and they love when I read them stories. I hope you can always continue supporting us with these classes because they are so helpful to us!"



gifts

We are now at 14 elementary schools thanks to you!

Children and families are gathering at 14 neighborhood schools each week for our Raising A Reader family literacy program. Thanks to you, children and families participate in standards-based literacy activities and storytimes that foster children's emergent literacy and language skills. Each week, families receive 5 books to share together. According to four-year-old Niko, "Reading feeds my brain!"



at work

You help children get Ready4K!

Make Way for Books is partnering with Stanford University to provide families with free text messages to help prepare children for kindergarten. The Ready4K! text messages include fun facts and easy tips that have been proven to increase children's kindergarten readiness! Families are very excited about this new resource and many parents have called us to make sure they can participate. It's all thanks to you! Please contact us to learn more!

Thank you for putting our youngest children first!

Giving for 10+ years

As an engineer, Vikki Seppala's work has taken her to locations all over the world. She wants every child to have the opportunity to pursue a higher education and knows that early education is critical to getting there! That's why she has given to Make Way for Books for the last 10 years! Thank you Vikki for changing the lives of our youngest children!

Thank you to our generous supporters!

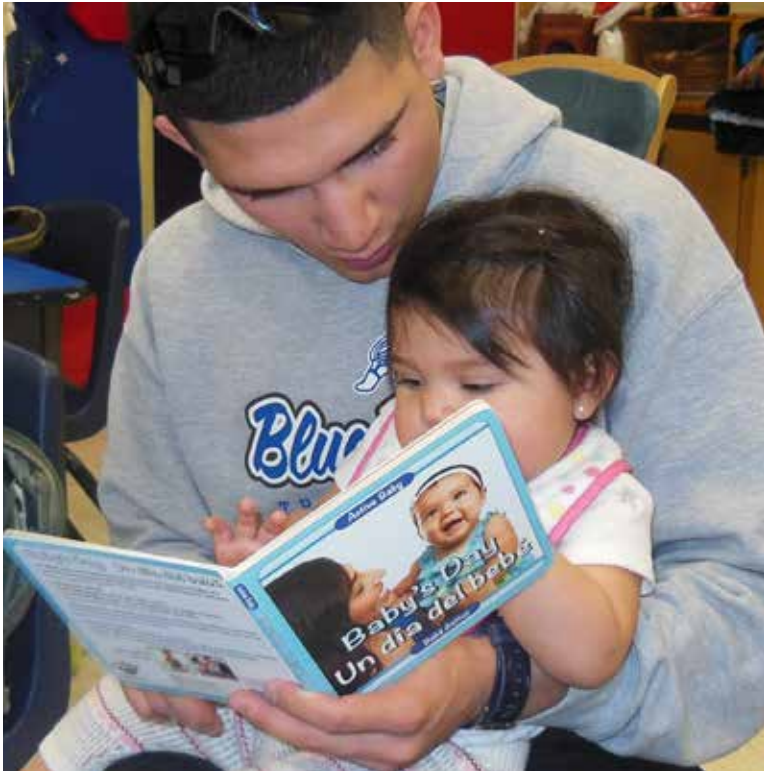
Thank you to Rotary Club of Tucson Foundation for choosing Make Way for Books as their five-year beneficiary.



Thank you to the Lois Lenski Covey Foundation for providing a \$3,000 grant to support our lending libraries!

Creating multigenerational change

Your support helps teen parents gain skills to be their child's first, best teacher.



Teenage parents face many challenges in continuing their own education while also providing educational experiences for their young children.

With your support, we are addressing some of those challenges by providing early literacy programs for the whole family at locations such as Teenage Outreach Pregnancy Services and Teenage Parent High School.

Thanks to you, parents like Frank learn that meaningful experiences like singing, reading, and talking with their children build the literacy and language skills they need to thrive in school and beyond. Parents learn that these simple activities are opportunities for powerful bonding experiences.

Iliana, another young parent, shared, **“My daughter loves reading and every night it brings us closer together!”** As parents like Frank and Iliana gain skills and confidence in their ability to be their child's first, best teacher, they also gain hope for their family's future. **You make it all possible!**

Filling homes with hope, joy, and books!

Thanks to you, we will be able to place thousands of books in over 40 Blue Book House bookshelves located in clinics, social services offices, and other locations throughout Pima County!

Thank you to the following groups who together have collected more than 7,000 books!

Agua Caliente Elementary School Bella | Novelas Book Club | Child and Family Resources
Cover to Cover Book Club | CSL Plasma Locations | Desert Sage Book Club | Doolen Middle School
Exo Coffee Shop | Gabrielle Nguyen's Bat Mitzvah Project | Lauffer Middle School AVID
Mildred & Dildred | Northern Trust | Paulo Freire Freedom School | Tanque Verde Elementary School
TMM Family Services Restore | Tucson Hebrew Academy | UA Bookstores | UA Cares
Valley of the Moon

eegee's

And thank you to eegee's for providing free eegee's drinks to classrooms and clubs who helped organize the book drives!

ELEANOR'S EYEBROWS

TIMOTHY KNIPMAN AND DAVID

RUE HENDRA