

FY24 Annual Report

Program Service Accomplishments

OUR PROGRAM MODEL

RIF's programs and resources bring books and literacy resources to children at home, in the classroom, and in the community.



PROGRAMS THAT DRIVE IMPACT

Books for Ownership

Books for Ownership is RIF's flagship reading program that enables children to select new, age-appropriate books to take home and own and is supported with resources for families, educators, and volunteers to create a continuous focus on reading.

Read for Success

Read for Success is a research-backed, supplemental reading program designed to improve reading proficiency and encourage a passion for reading. It is based on research that shows both reading to children and independent reading are key components of literacy development.

Skybrary

Skybrary is RIF's interactive library of digital books and video explorations, many hosted by beloved storyteller LeVar Burton, designed to engage young readers, and foster a love of reading anytime, anywhere. With child-friendly navigation, Skybrary provides children ages 2 - 9 access to nearly 1,000 eBooks with read-to-me narration and interactive animation.

CREATING A CULTURE OF LITERACY

RIF's supplemental reading resources and strategic initiatives support RIF programs and help families, teachers, program sites, and volunteers create an ongoing culture of literacy.

Literacy Central

Literacy Central is an award-winning, digital destination for families, educators, and volunteers with activity calendars, read-aloud videos, and other book resources that support the books children and educators turn to every day. Each book that RIF distributes includes supplemental literacy resources on Literacy Central to help foster a culture of literacy. Learn more at www.RIF.org/Literacy-Central

Literacy Network

Literacy Network is RIF's community of individuals, community partners, program sites, volunteers, and literacy advocates committed to children's literacy. RIF's community shares a like-minded vision that all children deserve the opportunity to become proficient readers. We provide a breadth of literacy resources on our web portal to support local literacy efforts to drive community impact. Learn more at www.RIF.org/Literacy-Network

Rally to Read 100

Rally to Read is RIF's six-month reading engagement initiative to inspire a joy of reading among our nation's young readers. Each year from the beginning of October through the end of March, the initiative unites classrooms and families across the country to pledge to read 100 books, offers monthly themes with featured read-alouds from notable authors and illustrators with companion activities, awards 10,000 books in a sweepstakes, and culminates with an inspiring virtual event on Read Across America Day.

Summer Reading

From May to August, RIF offers a themed summer reading program to help reduce the summer slide. RIF's summer reading program encourages children to continue reading and maintaining valuable literacy skills they acquired throughout the school year. In addition to providing booklists and collections that allow children to visit great destinations from the pages of a good book, RIF also offers fun activities, engaging videos from Skybrary, book club guides available in English and Spanish, plus much more. Learn more at www.RIF.org/Summer

EDUCATOR EXPERIENCES

"I've participated in several [RIF events] and it's amazing to watch! It's seriously one of the best "feel good" volunteer events, especially when you see the reaction of the person you helped. Not a dry eye in the house!"

- Representative from A Sense of Home, recipient of a RIF book donation in partnership with A.P. Keenan, Hawthorne, CA

The biggest benefit of the RIF program is the fact that they could take the books home to keep and to share with their grownups. I think that this fosters a sense of ownership of reading and strengthens family bonds which makes students more likely to associate reading with positive feelings and memories".

- RIF Program Implementer at Believe in Books Literacy Foundation, Intervale, NH

"My favorite part was having a few Pre-K books left over and my older students picking their books and saying 'Oh, I need to get this book for my baby brother/sister!'"

- Nikeya Jarrett, Librarian at Anne Beers Elementary, Washington D.C.

"It really makes my heart melt to see them get so excited to read books. They read anything and everything and it's amazing to watch that lightbulb go off and see that happen."

- BFO Program Coordinator, Ensley Elementary School, Pensacola, FL

PARENT EXPERIENCE

"I'm trying to get my sons reading. I just built them new bookshelves in their room and I'm excited to be here and get new books to fill them."

- Parent at a book celebration event in August at The Jimmy Carter Presidential Library in Atlanta, GA

STUDENT EXPERIENCES

“Thank you very much for the prizes for our Black History Month Trivia Contest. I really look forward to reading all of the books.”

- Ava, student at Wellwood International School in Baltimore, MD. Ava’s school received literacy kits from GEICO’s employee engagement in April.

Student: “Do we get to keep these books?” Volunteer: “Yes.”

Student: “We don’t have to bring them back to the library?”

Volunteer: “Nope, these are yours forever!”

Student: “Did you hear that, guys? We get to keep these books forever!”

- Students at McAuliffe Elementary and Driscoll’s Employee, Bakersfield, CA

MISSION MOMENTS

April, RIF and KIA supported 373 students at Alfred Zampella Elementary School (PS 27) in Jersey City, NJ. At the event, author Amulya Veldanda Vadali read her book, *Cosmo Faces the Forest of Fear* to groups of kindergartners and first graders. She led them through a rhyming warm-up before introducing Cosmo the dog in an interactive read aloud. After the read aloud, students selected three books to add to their at-home libraries and began their own author journey by creating their own book.



October, RIF and representatives from the Department of Education visited Anne Beers Elementary in Washington, DC for their Book Character Day celebration. Children brought their favorite books and dressed up like a character in the book. RIF led literacy-related activities for the school’s Pre-K students, including a read-aloud, coloring pages, and book distribution. RIF staff also guided Early Childhood center activities which included a kitchen playset and chef outfits.



Club RIF, consisting of Chaparral high school student volunteers, has been supporting children in the greater Phoenix area for over 30 years. On February 26th, Club RIF hosted a small book celebration event at Yavapai Elementary, a Title I school. Fifteen children were able to receive 2 books each, participate in face painting, coloring their own bookmarks, and getting a meet & greet with Clifford the Big Red Dog.

Marshalltown Community School District (MCSD) near Des Moines, IA students selected up to ten books, both in English and Spanish, at the Orpheum Welcome Center in Iowa in August through their summer Bobcat University program. This program was made possible through a matching grant from RIF. MCSD Director of Instruction, Shauna Smith, emphasized the importance of keeping the cycle of reading going for all students. “It’s just kind of interesting to see that spark of love for reading,” Smith said. This was the second-year students from Bobcat University who were able to take part in this grant.

MISSION MOMENTS



More than 220 schools participated in this year's International Paper BFO program. This spring, schools are thinking of creative ways to distribute the books, including one school in Bloomingdale, IL, who reported, "Thank you for the books! We are truly enjoying them and preparing to use them for our earth day display!" Another school in Forest Park, GA said each student picked several books of their choice and also got to sample French cuisine and pastry.

KEY INITIATIVES



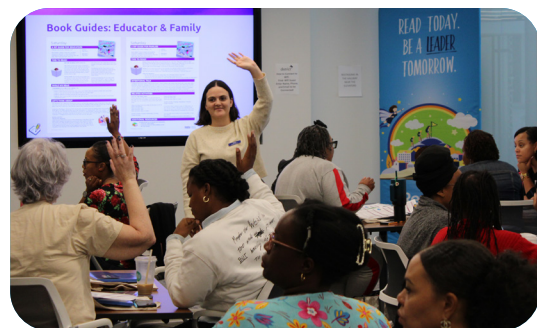
RIF launched its new book nook prototype at schools in Jackson, MS in April through the Department of Education FY24 Mississippi Earmarks funding. Students and teachers gathered in the hallways to "ooh" and "aah" as the new furniture was installed. One teacher said, "My students aren't going to be able to wait till their library hour next week to use the new space!"



Through the support of the Lisa & Douglas Goldman Fund, RIF met with educators at four San Francisco schools in September to cover the Read for Success program and to provide tips and resources for engaging students through read-alouds.

From October 9-12, RIF attended the 55th Annual National Indian Education Association Convention and Tradeshow in Palm Springs, CA. RIF kicked off the conference by hosting a free professional development session, focused on Funds of Knowledge. By also tabling at the convention, RIF was able to build relationships and make inroads with educators at schools in tribal communities across the country for future partnerships, as well as distribute Rally to Read and Skybrary resources.

RIF facilitated a four hour in-person professional development training for librarians participating in the Read for Success Early Childhood program at the RIF office on October 10. The librarians showed great enthusiasm and interest in the program and shared their excitement as they explored the new classroom collection books and related play materials. Librarians shared they were excited to learn about the interactive read-aloud methods and how to integrate the program into their curriculum.



One librarian shared, "I am very pleased to know that there are various ways to enhance the Pre-K curriculum a to make reading more exciting. Great training!" Another shared, "This is an outstanding opportunity presented by RIF to further promote early literacy tools that will build teacher capacity."