



### Get Started as a Literacy Volunteer

Dedicated volunteers like you enable RIF to create real impact for children in communities nationwide. Want to get started as a literacy volunteer? You can play an important role and make a difference for the children in your community. Here are five ways to resolve to get involved:

1. Reach out to a local RIF program site and offer to volunteer. Contact [LiteracyNetwork@rif.org](mailto:LiteracyNetwork@rif.org) to get started.
2. Offer to come to a school to do a read-aloud. Use the [RIF Read-Aloud Guide](#).
3. Fundraise for RIF to make your own impact.
4. Create a local children's book club to engage them in reading.
5. Host a book drive for a school or organization in your community. Use the [RIF Book Drive Guide](#).

### RIF Hits a Home Run with Reading

RIF hit a home run for reading with a book celebration event at the Washington Nationals Youth Baseball Academy in partnership with State Farm. The event kicked off with a youth baseball coach leading a read-aloud of *We are the Ship*, the true story of Negro League Baseball by Kadir Nelson. The engaging story was followed by questions on African American history and relevant video clips.

After the read-aloud the students participated in a baseball activity that encouraged them to use teamwork to maximize success.

Finally, each child selected three books from a diverse selection of reads to take home and keep as their own. Chapter books and sports books were particularly popular, and each student headed home with a tote bag filled with new books, stickers and bookmarks to use in their new books.



### Chilly Reads for a Winter Day

Nothing warms up a chilly winter like warm and fuzzy characters! Use the characters in *Corduroy*, *Winnie the Pooh* or *Toad and Frog All Year* to lead discussions about how authors develop characters that we like and care about! Ask children what clues they use to learn about characters. Then celebrate the world's most beloved bear this January 18 on Winnie the Pooh Day with themed reading games and literacy materials.



### Join RIF to Support Children's Literacy

Commit to making a difference in the lives of children through the power of books and reading in 2019. A monthly donation of \$10 provides books to two classrooms of children per year. Help RIF bring the power of literacy to more kids by pledging to give monthly.



### Books for Ownership Matching Grants

RIF's Books for Ownership Matching Grant program kicks off March 1, 2019, start planning now so you can take advantage of the opportunity to receive a RIF book award for your school or organization. A previous matching grant awardee, Concerted Services, Inc., provided more than 1800 books to 960 children they serve. One of the program recipients, Clinch County Head Start, focused their book celebration event on the theme of "Hopping into Books." Staff dressed in a frog costume encouraged the children to hop and make sounds like frogs as part of the STEAM-themed literacy event. How will you make an impact on children in your community in 2019? To learn about RIF's Books for Ownership Matching Grant program criteria and how to apply, follow the link to learn more.



### Read for Success

RIF's Read for Success is a reading intervention program that addresses the literacy backslide that happens during the summer months. When implementing the program last year, Reading First Hosing Group in Washington, DC, worked with high school student volunteers to introduce STEAM concepts to elementary school-aged campers and improved 73% of the children's literacy skills over the summer. "Providing the campers with books of their choice to read every day during our six-week camp was by far the highlight of our camp!" noted Patrick Williams, Resident Services Manager. Contact [readforsuccess@rif.org](mailto:readforsuccess@rif.org) to learn how to introduce Read for Success in your program.

