



Read to a Child



“The students had something to look forward to each week. It was something positive that they enjoyed—time just for them, a little extra attention.”

READ TO A CHILD TEACHER

Dear Friend of Read to a Child

When you were a child, who read to you?

Was it a parent, a grandparent, a special teacher or maybe a babysitter? Perhaps you have warm memories of the best place to read, or your favorite children's book. Maybe you remember the first time you were able to read along.

Not all children are as lucky: nationwide **83% of 4th graders from low-income families are not proficient in reading**. Yet there is a simple but powerful way to take action to address this tremendous disparity among children: *Reading to a child is the single most important activity for building the knowledge required for eventual success in reading—and consequently, in life.*

Read to a Child is working passionately towards our vision that one day, every child will have a caring adult reading regularly to him/her, increasing children's chances to live healthy, productive lives. Our flagship lunchtime reading program matches business professionals with children, one-on-one, for a rewarding, read aloud experience weekly during lunchtime at underserved elementary schools.

Read to a Child's accomplishments in the 2012–13 school year included:

- **About 35,000 hours of individualized reading sessions** in Boston, Detroit, Hartford, Los Angeles, and Miami
- **More than 88% of first-year students improved** in one or more of these areas: vocabulary, listening comprehension, ability to articulate thoughts, self-confidence, enthusiasm for books and reading, and overall reading ability
- **Engaged 1,400 weekly reading volunteers** in our lunchtime reading program

44 million adults in the U.S. can't read well enough to read a simple story to a child.

Our volunteer reading mentors give their student partners the time, confidence, and tools to reverse the cycle of illiteracy.

On behalf of our entire Board of Directors and dedicated staff, **thank you for sharing our passion for changing the future for our nation's children**—one book at a time. We invite you to become even more involved in the years to come.

Sincerely,



Chris Thomas (Board Chair)



Olivia Mathews (CEO)

Snapshot of our 5 locations

Boston Read to a Child celebrated its 10th anniversary in the greater Boston area! The lunchtime reading program was implemented in 17 public schools throughout Boston and surrounding communities in the 2012–13 school year. Over 1,000 adult mentors from 85 area corporations and organizations read aloud to their elementary student partners every week.

One first grade teacher remarked on the significant gains demonstrated by her students: “The students that participate in the lunchtime reading program definitely have a greater interest in books. Their attitude is measured in many ways: They want to read more, they know the different types of literature, they value books and can see how they are helped by books.”

The 10th anniversary gala at the Omni Parker House was the most successful fundraiser to date, attracting over 230 guests. Featured were two students from the program’s inaugural year, now in high school, who shared how their elementary experience shaped their choices. Both are currently mentors themselves to younger students, modeling their own early reading mentors and committed to giving others a similarly positive experience.

Connecticut The Connecticut lunchtime reading program is currently operating in Hartford and New Britain, with the support of many dedicated volunteers and corporate partners. The focus on reading aloud is impactful and fun for children and readers alike! Read to a Child is fortunate to have many long-term volunteers, including some who have participated in the program for ten years. In the 2013 end of the year surveys, volunteers shared how the program inspires them: “I have established a level of trust with my student, and a friendly relationship. I have come to appreciate the obstacles to success these children deal with every day, and the reasons for the high number of drop-outs.”



Detroit Approximately 47% of adults (more than 200,000 individuals) in the City of Detroit are functionally illiterate according to the The National Institute for Literacy. To change this for the next generation, Read to a Child brought the lunchtime reading program to children in Detroit's public schools in the 2012–2013 school year. Participating volunteers from local corporate offices gave hundreds of hours of their time to their student partners. The Detroit regional board held their first fundraiser to support program growth and was featured in Detroit's business journal, *dbusiness*.



Los Angeles Over 3,200 hours of individualized reading sessions were provided by 230 Read to a Child volunteers in seven Los Angeles County schools in the 2012–2013 school year. The 172 participating children demonstrated gains in literacy skills and socio-emotional development with just over 90% of students exhibiting clear progress in one or more of the areas measured.

The positive impact of these reading sessions was captured by Margaret Lynch, the Juan Cabrillo Elementary School principal, in a note she wrote to a reading volunteer: "Just wanted to let you know your attention reading weekly with Louis is making a difference for him: He's being recognized at our Student Success assembly tomorrow for his improved attitude and effort at school!"

South Florida This year, Read to a Child took over operations of the lunchtime reading program in South Florida. The program is serving children in Miami-Dade County, which has the fourth largest school district in the United States. Nearly half of Miami-Dade County third-graders fail to read at grade level so there are many more children Read to a Child can impact in the years to come.



PROGRAM STATS

(2012–2013 SCHOOL YEAR)

35,000 hours
of one-to-one reading time

1,400 volunteers

1,100 students

VOLUNTEER STATS

98%

of volunteers agreed
with the statement:

I feel good because
I have made
a contribution to
the community
in which I work.

94%

of volunteers agreed
with the statement:

By supporting
the lunchtime
reading program,
my company has
made a significant
contribution to our
local community.

TEACHER STATS

70%

of teachers report that their students read
more often by their own choice as a result of
participation in the lunchtime reading program.

87%

of teachers believe that their students gained
increased enthusiasm towards reading as a
result of the lunchtime reading program.

CHILD STATS

88%

of first year students made
measurable gains in one
or more of the following areas:
vocabulary, listening
comprehension, ability to articulate
thoughts, self-confidence,
enthusiasm for books and reading,
and overall reading ability.

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“I serve on the National Board of Directors because it is a high-impact nonprofit at a transformational time in its history.”

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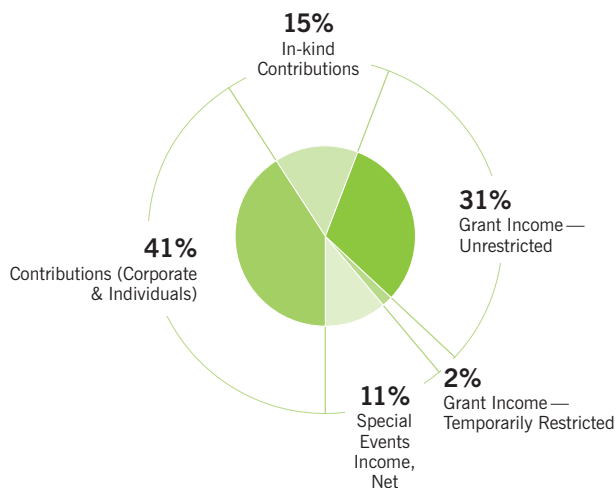
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Financials for the fiscal years ending 9/30/13 and 9/30/12

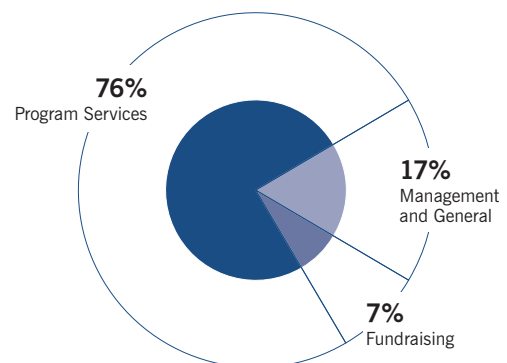
| Support and Revenue | FY13 | FY12 |
|---|--------------------|------------------|
| Contributions | \$459,683 | \$272,220 |
| Grant Income - Unrestricted | 352,277 | 96,001 |
| Grant Income - Temporarily Restricted | 26,667 | — |
| Special Events Income, Net | 117,305 | — |
| In-kind Contributions | 172,330 | 106,500 |
| Other Revenue | 626 | 821 |
| Total Support and Revenue | \$1,128,888 | \$475,542 |
| Expenses | | |
| Program Services | \$661,828 | \$268,382 |
| Management and General | 192,154 | 108,227 |
| Fundraising | 70,949 | 33,190 |
| Total Expenses | \$924,931 | \$409,799 |
| Increase in Net Assets | \$203,957 | \$65,743 |
| Assets | 9/30/13 | 9/30/12 |
| Cash and Cash Equivalents | \$436,558 | \$210,399 |
| Other Current Assets | 22,714 | 20,488 |
| Property and Equipment, Net | 35,370 | — |
| Total Assets | \$494,642 | \$230,887 |
| Liabilities and Net Assets | | |
| Deferred Income | \$63,875 | \$7,500 |
| Other Current Liabilities | 27,449 | 24,026 |
| Unrestricted Net Assets | 376,651 | 199,361 |
| Temporarily Restricted Net Assets | 26,667 | — |
| Total Liabilities and Net Assets | \$494,642 | \$230,887 |

Support and Revenue



Expenses

(excluding in-kind of \$172K or 19% of total expenses)



Donors FY13 (Fiscal Year Ending 9/30/13)

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