



Read to a Child
ANNUAL REPORT
2025

Dear Friends of Read to a Child:

FY2025 was a significant and record-breaking year for Read to a Child. During the school year we had the privilege of serving 1,121 children in our signature Read Aloud Mentoring Program, representing 10% growth across our four regions. Despite the higher costs associated with virtual programs, FY2025 saw us end the year with a surplus and a strong financial position, including the best net assets in organization history.

The school year ended with our best program evaluation results ever! We are also thrilled to report that 79% of our expenses were earmarked for programs at our 30 Title 1 school partners across Greater Boston, Hartford, Los Angeles, and Metro Detroit. Title 1 schools are designated when poverty is 40% or higher among all enrolled students. As many of you know, due to our generous supporters we offer the Read Aloud Mentoring Program at no cost. In the past year, this amounted to an incredible 18,636 reading sessions!

During 2025, we were delighted to elect Kate Beattie of Foley & Lardner LLP as Secretary of our National Board of Directors. We also added three new members to our Regional Advisory Boards: Caitlin Brosnihan of MathWorks in Greater Boston; Hartford Public Schools Assistant Superintendent Dr. Albert Sackey in Greater Hartford and Maya Harel of Davis Wright Tremaine LLP in Greater Los Angeles. We also want to take this opportunity to thank all 40 of our National and Regional Board members for their incredible dedication and support in 2025 and for their hard work enabling Read to a Child to continue to grow to serve more students.

We are also incredibly grateful for the amazing 1,184 volunteer reading mentors who dedicate a weekly lunchtime to the students in our program, many remaining with their reading buddy for four years before starting all over again with a new kindergartener or first grader! Their passion for the program is truly inspiring and humbling.

Please read through this annual report to see some highlights of the incredible work of our 56 dedicated, passionate and professional staff members delivering high quality programs and ensuring our ongoing vibrancy and sustainability.

We also want to extend our deepest thanks to the numerous corporations, foundations, and individual donors who make all this work possible. It is only through your support that we are achieving our mission of fostering a love of reading, improving literacy skills, and supporting the socio-emotional well-being in students from under-resourced communities. Thank You.

With gratitude,



Julie Solomon

Julie Solomon (National Board Chair)



Paul Lamoureux

Paul Lamoureux (CEO)



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Gloria Jolley
Greater Los Angeles
Executive Director



Mission

Our mission is to foster a love of reading, improve literacy skills, and support socio-emotional well-being in students from under-resourced communities.

Vision

Our vision is that every child has the opportunity to thrive in school and beyond through inspirational mentoring and read aloud experiences.

The Read Aloud Mentoring Program

Read to a Child's Read Aloud Mentoring Program (RAMP) utilizes over one thousand volunteer reading mentors who read regularly to elementary students at under-resourced schools in the greater metro areas of Boston, Detroit, Hartford, and Los Angeles. Research shows that reading aloud to children is the single most important activity for eventual success in reading, a key factor for success in school, work, and life.



PROGRAM IMPACT

2025 READ ALOUD MENTORING PROGRAM



1,121
Students
Served

30
Schools

1,184
Volunteers
Engaged



**ACCORDING TO
THEIR TEACHERS,**

92% of our students improved
in **CRITICAL THINKING**

93% of our students improved
in **VOCABULARY
DEVELOPMENT**

96% of our students improved
in **ENTHUSIASM FOR
BOOKS AND READING**

97% of our students improved
in **SELF-CONFIDENCE**

97% of our students benefitted
from **1-1 MENTORING**

2025 HIGHLIGHTS



I asked my student what their favorite subject in school was, and they said “Read to a Child!”
- Volunteer, 2025



Read to a Child was again rated a 4 out of 4 star charity, with a 100% score on Charity Navigator this year. This rating is based on the organization’s financial health and transparency. With this rating, Read to a Child’s donors can give confidently.



Read to a Child maintained a Platinum Seal of Transparency in 2025 with GuideStar from Candid. This rating was earned by Read to a Child by sharing a huge amount of data with Candid that showed our dedication to transparency and our mission.

Virtual Read Aloud Mentoring Program support provided by the



This year, the Guru Krupa Foundation provided vital support to Read to a Child’s virtual Read Aloud Mentoring Program. Our virtual program was able to receive necessary technology upgrades and replacements, and received overall funding to help with the higher costs associated with virtual programs. This funding also improved the virtual program by providing access to more diverse virtual books. The Guru Krupa Foundation’s support of our virtual program ensures that students and mentors experience a smoother virtual session, ultimately leading to more reading and mentoring! All of us at Read to a Child are grateful to the Guru Krupa Foundation for their continued support of our organization and the Read Aloud Mentoring Program.

REGIONAL HAPPENINGS

Greater Boston

The Greater Boston board's leadership led the region to another great year of the Read Aloud Mentoring Program in 17 schools. With the program team's dedication, strong mentor-student relationships were fostered across our schools both in person and virtually. Across Greater Boston, we continue to be welcomed into school communities, creating the opportunity for the Read Aloud Mentoring Program to have an impact on the students that need it most.

We were thrilled to host a read-aloud event with MBTA General Manager Phillip Eng at the Josiah Quincy Elementary School, sponsored by partner Bain Capital. General Manager Eng read aloud from the book "Charlie on the M.T.A." by Julia O'Brien-Merrill (based on the classic song) to a room full of first graders. The students were wonderful listeners, making sure to answer "No!" to the question of whether Charlie ever returned. We are grateful to Bain Capital for making our program at the Josiah Quincy School possible!

Read to a Child Greater Boston's community came together to celebrate at our Storybook Soiree fundraiser. It was a fun and successful night, with over \$150,000 raised for the Read Aloud Mentoring Program. Boston board member Jim Klapman was honored with the well-deserved Literacy Champion Award. Attendees also heard from Boston Public Schools Superintendent Mary Skipper, who shared, "Post-pandemic we have a literacy crisis. But the work Read to a Child is doing to help bridge that; your superpower is in the mentoring, the opportunity to build a relationship is a gift to both the volunteer and the child." We are grateful to our lead sponsors Arclight Capital and Agero for making this event such a success, and to Foley & Lardner, LLP for again sponsoring the event and donating the event space.

We want to express our thanks to the Visionary funding partners that make the Read Aloud Mentoring Program in Greater Boston possible: Arclight Capital, Man Group, TJX, and the Cecile Higginson Murphy Charitable Foundation.



Metro Detroit



This year, Read to a Child Metro Detroit is proud to celebrate a significant partnership with four schools: Detroit Merit Charter Academy, Detroit Leadership Academy, Hope of Detroit Academy, and Whitman Elementary School. Throughout these schools, strong mentor-student bonds were built as reading pairs enjoyed books together, both in person at the schools and virtually via Zoom.

In April, we began our partnership with Detroit Merit Charter Academy, where mentors are sharing the joy of reading and helping students ignite their lifelong passion for books. We thank The Holley Foundation for their generous grant, which is making this impactful work possible.

A notable event this year was hosting NASCAR driver Garrett Smithley for an engaging read-aloud session at Whitman Elementary. Thanks to our sponsor, Victory Lane, every student received a copy of Dale Earnhardt Jr.'s book "Buster's Trip to Victory Lane." Garrett's visit thrilled the students, fostered a love of reading, and vividly brought our mission to life in new, powerful ways.

We sincerely thank the generous funding partners who support our programs in Metro Detroit. Our key donors include Ernst & Young, LLP, General Motors, Huntington Bank, Somerset Collection, PwC Foundation, DeNovo Treasury, and Bloomberg Philanthropies. We were also honored to receive a transformative grant from The Holley Foundation, enabling us to partner with a new school in the Southeastern Village area.

All of this would not be possible without our Regional Board's dedication, whose ongoing commitment and leadership continue to drive our growth and broaden our outreach in Detroit. Together, we are making a meaningful, lasting impact—one child, one mentor, one story at a time.

REGIONAL HAPPENINGS

Greater Hartford



In a landmark moment for Read to a Child Greater Hartford, the organization proudly hosted its first major event since 2018 - an evening that brought together civic leaders, community partners, and supporters to celebrate the power of literacy and mentorship, raising over \$50,000 in support of the Read Aloud Mentoring Program. Shipman & Goodwin not only served as the evening's recipient of the Read to a Child Honors Award but also as the generous host.

The celebration drew more than 100 attendees, including Governor Ned Lamont who shared his reflections on the importance of community engagement in advancing educational opportunity across the state, and Hartford Mayor Arunan Arulampalam who delivered thoughtful remarks on the vital role of literacy in shaping the future of Hartford's children.

Guiding the evening with poise and energy was Mellaney Castro, Governor Lamont's Director of Communications. John Motley, one of Hartford's most familiar faces in philanthropy, led a successful auction as the evening's guests vied to win packages donated by Hartford Golf Club, Max Hospitality, Hartford Stage, the Delamar Hotel, and the U.S Tennis Open, among many others.

Sponsored by City of Hartford, M&T Bank, Amira Learning, and Downes Construction, among others this milestone event reaffirmed the Greater Hartford community's dedication to helping young students thrive. With renewed energy, strengthened partnerships, and a shared commitment to the children served, Read to a Child looks forward to building on this momentum in the year ahead.

Greater Los Angeles

The Greater Los Angeles Region diligently worked to make the volunteer process more streamlined at the four Los Angeles Unified School District partner schools they serve, improving the process even more so for the new school year. The region has immense gratitude for the generous financial and volunteer reading mentor support from top corporate partners Capital Group, AEG, Alston & Bird, Netflix, Seyfarth Shaw, and Winston & Strawn. Winston & Strawn continued to host the region's All-Staff Summer and Mid-Year Retreats at their downtown Los Angeles office to inspire and engage new and returning programming staff.

The feedback the Greater Los Angeles region received at the end of the school year continued to reflect the extraordinary impact they are collectively creating with their amazing volunteer reading mentors. One second grade teacher shared, "Jayden is such a positive and eager learner. He has grown tremendously as a reader this year and Read to a Child has contributed to his success. He loves going!" And a virtual mentor shared, "The program is such an excellent way of connecting with our beautiful Los Angeles community and the children needing more support. It has been an honor to be with the program for a couple of years now and I am very energized to continue volunteering and mentoring!"

After welcoming a new Advisory Board Chair last year, the Greater Los Angeles Board was reinvigorated to exceed their March Online Campaign goal, in addition to preparing to bring on new board members.

The region would also like to thank the Nora Roberts Foundation and Ross Stores Foundation for awarding them grants, as well as the continued generous donations from David and Martha Kadue, both dedicated volunteer readers.



FINANCIALS

For the Fiscal Years Ending 9/30/25 and 9/30/24

Read to a Child applied for a \$323k Employee Retention Tax Credit in April 2023. Most was received during FY25, with \$51K remaining to be collected as of 9/30/25.

Support and Revenue

	<u>FY25</u>	<u>FY24</u>
Contributions	\$468,742	\$434,979
Grant Income Without Donor Restrictions	586,491	481,674
Grant Income With Donor Restrictions	210,291	260,874
Special Events Income, Net	199,944	360,085
In-Kind Contributions	121,036	154,576
Other Revenue	<u>81,060</u>	<u>8,919</u>
Total Support and Revenue	\$1,667,564	\$1,701,107

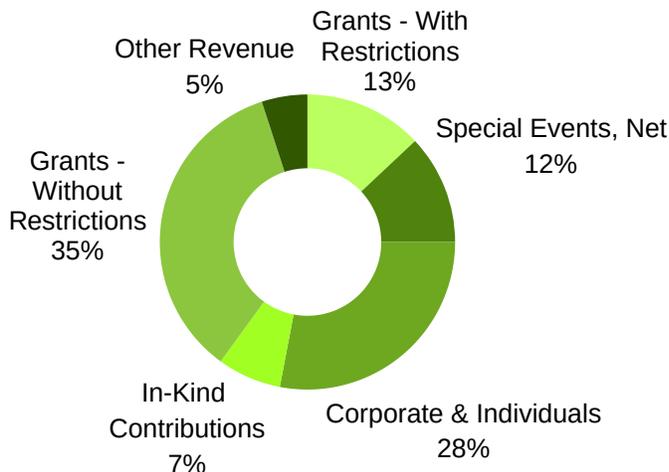
Expenses

Program Services	\$1,298,956	\$1,252,608
Management and General	107,664	145,449
Fundraising	<u>246,047</u>	<u>236,205</u>
Total Expenses	\$1,652,667	\$1,634,262
Change in Net Assets	\$14,897	\$66,845

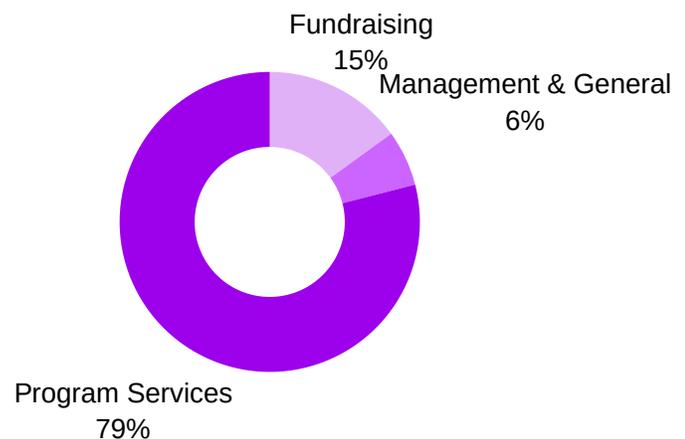
Statement of Financial Position

	<u>9/30/2025</u>	<u>9/30/2024</u>
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$743,877	\$586,122
Other Current Assets	148,717	403,556
Non-Current Assets	<u>157,381</u>	<u>24,008</u>
Total Assets	\$1,049,975	\$1,013,686
Current Liabilities	\$66,657	\$45,265
Net Assets Without Donor Restrictions	773,030	690,047
Net Assets With Donor Restrictions	<u>210,288</u>	<u>278,374</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$1,049,975	\$1,013,686

FY25 Support & Revenue



FY25 Expenses



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10/1/2024 - 9/30/2025

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10/1/2024 - 9/30/2025

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READ TO A CHILD DONORS

For fiscal year ending 9/30/2025
*Company provides Volunteer Reading Mentors

CORPORATE AND FOUNDATION DONORS

\$50,000 +

ArcLight Capital Partners*
Capital Group*
Cecile Higginson Murphy
Charitable Foundation
Man Group*
TJX*
Travelers*

\$49,999-\$25,000

Agero*
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**Cecile H. Murphy
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\$24,999-\$10,000

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\$9,999-\$5,000

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\$4,999-\$2,500

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\$2,499-\$1,000

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*Special thanks to these
 partners for the donation
 of office space for
 Read to a Child*



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 Rise
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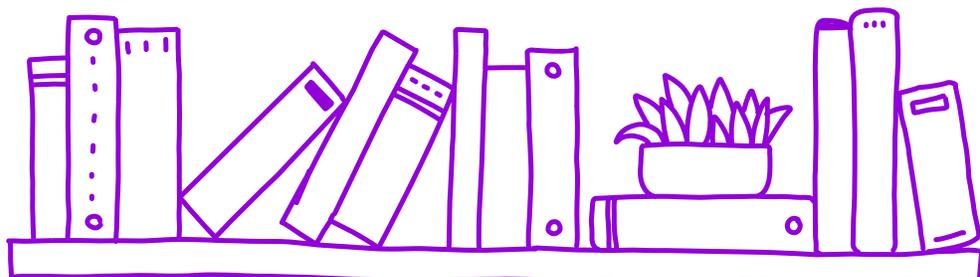
Linda Ware-Smith†

Timothy Warren

Stephanie Watkins

Aislinn Wiseman*

Shawn Wooden





The best part of
having a reading
buddy is that I
don't feel alone.
-Student, 2025



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Read to a Child

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