

Impact Report 2020–21

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Book Access Is Educational Justice

The pandemic has widened the opportunity gap between kids in communities of low income—those furthest from educational justice—and their better-off peers. Initial research estimates that that students in low-income families nationwide are more than five months behind their historical peers in reading ability. In Washington, fall 2021 testing data showed students in low-income families falling nine points behind where they were in 2019.

But we know that book access makes a difference. In fact, the more dire the situation, the bigger an impact putting a book in a child's hand can make.

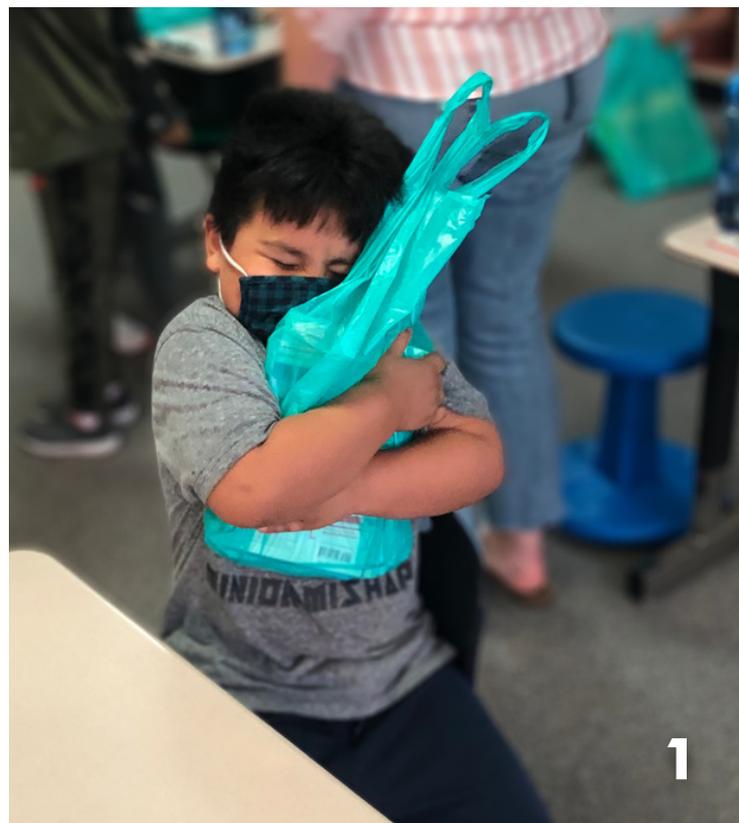
And what an impact you made last year: In the 2020–21 school year, Page Ahead donors made it possible for 20,297 students at 142 schools to get 222,559 books!

Those books would have been important in a "normal" year. But amid remote learning, closed public libraries, and the ongoing pandemic, the books you provided became crucial lifelines to students who are working so hard to keep up their reading and learning skills.

Read on to see how the home libraries YOU helped build have made a difference!

"One student said, 'I have never owned books. Are you sure we can keep these forever?' Page Ahead is making a difference!"

SECOND GRADE TEACHER,
MCCARVER ELEMENTARY, TACOMA



BOOK UP SUMMER

Summer reading loss accounts for 80 percent of the "achievement" gap between students in communities of concentrated low income and their better-off peers. Book Up Summer gives kindergarten, first grade, and second grade students at majority low-income elementaries across Washington the opportunity to "shop" (at no cost to them) at school book fairs for twelve brand-new books for summer reading. This model is as effective as summer school at reducing or eliminating "summer slide" at a much lower cost.

17,272

kids received

207,408

new books

Thanks to your support, we had the books and resources we needed to expand Book Up Summer to 21 new schools in communities like Federal Way, Highline, Spokane, and Tacoma in 2021. And the home libraries you helped build not only made summer reading possible—they're still contributing to the rich home learning environments of thousands of children while they fight back against pandemic-era learning loss.

21

new schools
added

39%

more kids got
books than in
2019–20



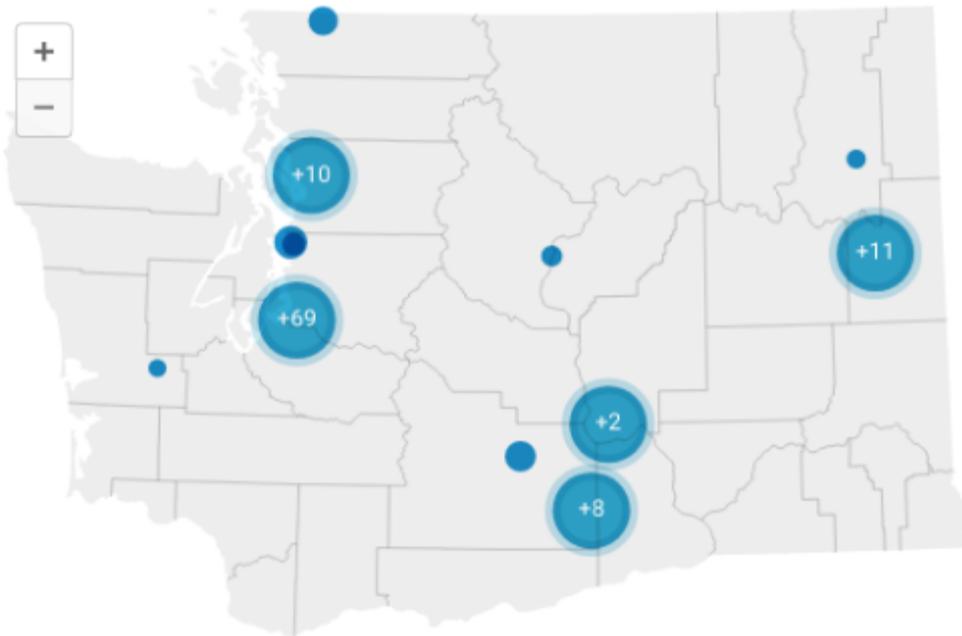
"We love going to the library but my boys get sad when we have to take them back. Book Up Summer lets my boys choose their favorite books and start their own collection of books at home. I'm so appreciative of this program. We would not be able to afford them otherwise."

KIRKWOOD ELEMENTARY PARENT,
TOPPENISH

73%

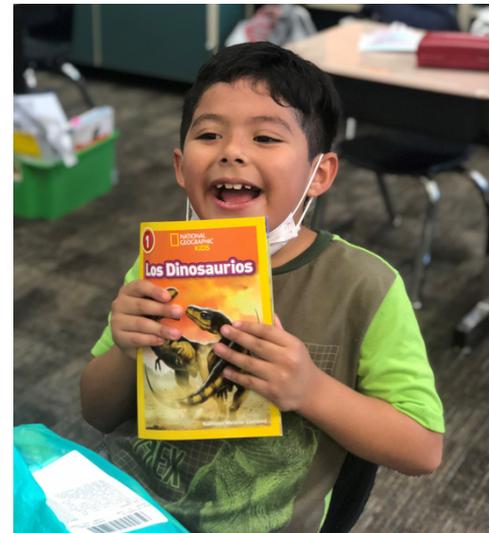
families reported increased time reading together

Book Up Summer Schools 2020-2021



Map: Page Ahead Children's Literacy Program • [Get the data](#) • Created with [Datawrapper](#)

kids' home libraries grew by average of **61%**



STORY LEADERS

884

kids received

7,072

new books

Designed to rapidly develop preschoolers' vocabulary and language skills through in-class shared reading, Page Ahead's Story Leaders program gives students eight free books during the school year, building their home libraries and reinforcing the home-school connection.

Thanks to donor support, last year, we also produced video story times for Story Leaders books in both Spanish and English. Specially trained volunteers read the books, demonstrating shared reading techniques like asking specific questions, and the videos and other resources are shared with our Story Leaders classrooms and families.

642

new books
added to
classrooms

"The reading prompts are exactly what I need to highlight the attributes of the books. Families are thrilled that their child can 'read' the story because we have read it three times. Families are amazed that we send home books."

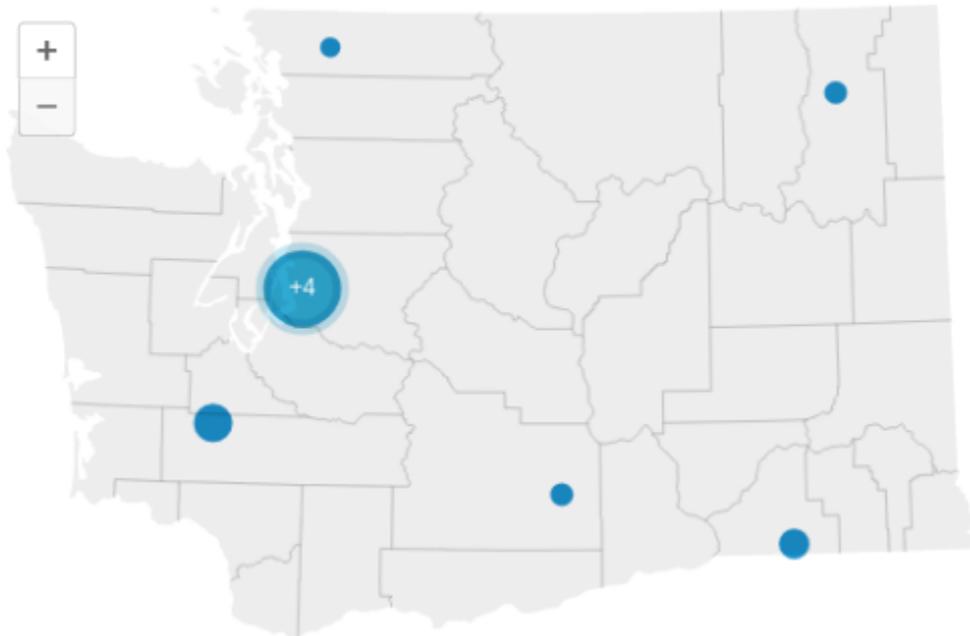
PRESCHOOL TEACHER,
CENTRALIA COLLEGE
CHILDREN'S LAB SCHOOL



Story Leaders Preschools 2020–2021

83%

families reported stronger home reading routines



Map: Page Ahead Children's Literacy Program • [Get the data](#) • Created with [Datawrapper](#)

"I read THE LITTLE RED FORT on my Zoom yesterday; the children loved the pictures, and we talked about it as we read. . . . I see the kids bringing their books out to read along with us during our Zooms; they are looking at the books, answering questions about the stories, so I feel it's been successful even during remote learning."

PRESCHOOL TEACHER, NOOKSACK HOUSE OF CHILDREN HEAD START



BOOK OASIS

Page Ahead's Book Oasis project installs, maintains, and refills Little Free Libraries in Seattle-area neighborhoods with the most limited access to books. Conceived of as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic and how much harder it was for kids to find new books with schools and libraries closed, each Book Oasis provides a constantly refilled pipelines of brand-new, high-interest title for babies through young adults from Page Ahead's book stock.

The first Oases were installed in the High Point community in West Seattle in March 2021; between then and the end of August 2021, Book Oases put 3,741 new books into their neighborhoods—and this was only possible thanks to generous donor and volunteer support!



18

Book Oases
built and
installed

14

neighborhoods
served

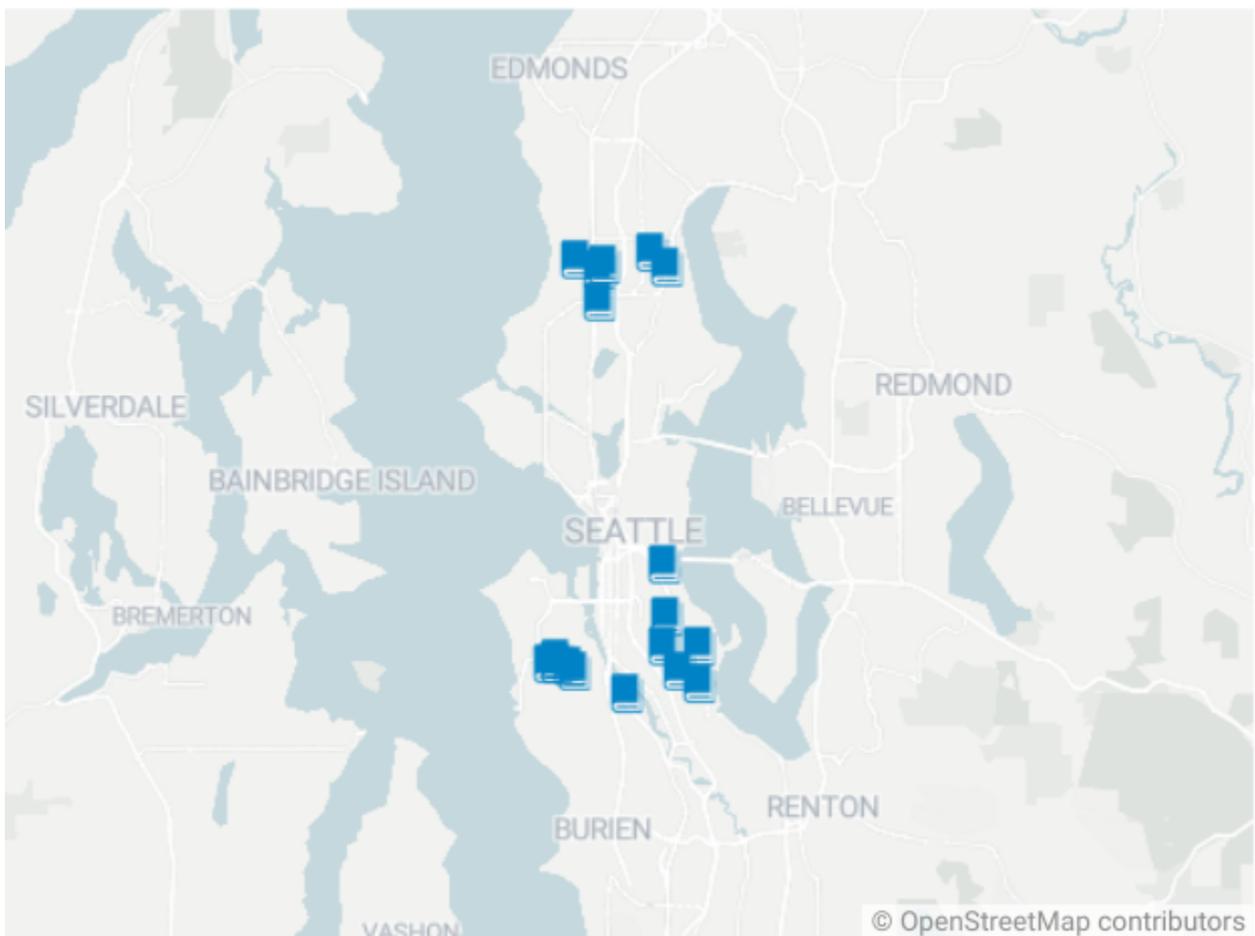
average of

155

books
distributed
per week



Book Oasis Little Free Libraries 2020–2021



Map: Page Ahead Children's Literacy Program • Created with [Datawrapper](#)



OTHER PROGRAMS

STORY TIMES

We continued to work with volunteers to record video story times to support schools during their remote learning, sharing 30 new videos with school partners via our YouTube channel during the 2020–21 year.

We also provided 6,426 book-themed craft kits to 15 classrooms, helping those preschoolers and kindergartners to connect with the books even more!



OTHER WAYS YOU HELPED KIDS READ

Donors, including those who participated in book drives for Page Ahead, made it possible for us to distribute books to schools and nonprofit programs serving families experiencing low income, helping them to support their communities and make their programming even more effective.

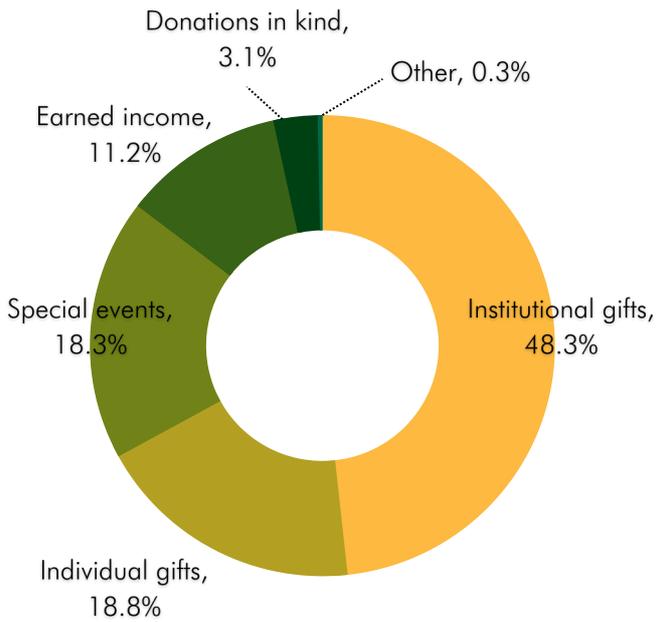
Partners like [Maternity Support Services in Moses Lake](#), the [Clover Park Early Learning Program in Pierce County](#), the [Foundation for Academic Endeavors in the Skagit Valley](#), the [Methow Valley School District](#), and many others received 4,567 books from Page Ahead to give to the 2,008 children they served.

"Uno de los libros recibidos en inglés logró leerlo con mínima ayuda. Fue su primer libro de inglés que leyó. / One of the books received was in English, and he managed to read it with minimal help. It was his first English book he ever read."

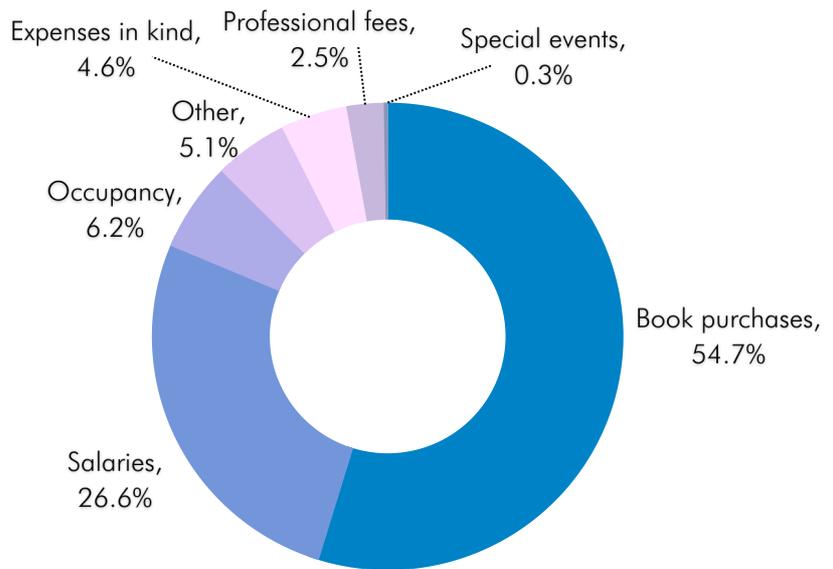
PARENT OF A KINDERGARTNER,
ARTHUR H. SMITH ELEMENTARY,
GRANDVIEW

FINANCIALS

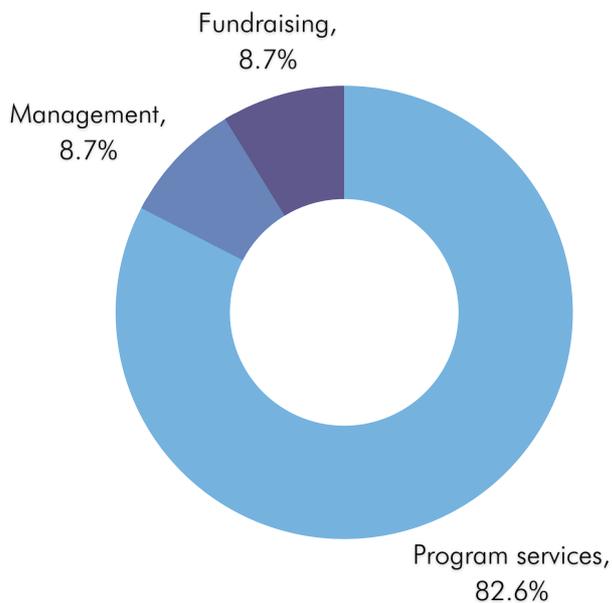
REVENUE



EXPENSES



FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES



FY21 AUDIT

[Click to view audited financial statements for the 2020–21 fiscal year \(PDF\).](#)



SUPPORTERS

Institutional Supporters: \$25,000+

PACCAR



**THE NORCLIFFE
FOUNDATION**

Satterberg
foundation

**SEATTLE
CHILDREN'S
BOOK FESTIVAL**

Institutional Supporters: \$10,000–\$24,999



The Bamford
Foundation



TEGNA
FOUNDATION

Institutional Supporters: \$5,000–\$9,999



**Ballard Elks
Lodge #827**



Institutional Supporters: \$1,000–\$4,999

Lakeside Industries
Florence Kilworth Foundation
Mary Garner Esary Trust
Salesforce
POWER Engineers
Believe in Reading
Creag Foundation
GEICO
Tulalip Tribes Charitable Contributions
Wildhorse Foundation
Amazon
Ankura Consulting Group
C. C. Pascal Charitable Foundation
Deloitte
Helsell Fetterman LLP
Safeco–Liberty Mutual Insurance

Stryker
Washington’s Lottery
WealthCollab
Whisper Foundation
Yakama Cares/Legends Casino Hotel
The Library of Congress
The Good Fairy Fund
Yakima Valley Community Foundation
Joan V. Cannon Trust
Banner Bank
Katherine Olson Foundation
Ahn Family Foundation
Foster Garvey
iQuest Charitable Foundation
Wharton Foundation
Wildside Wine



We can all be a part of making educational justice a reality.

DONATE



Your gift now will build home libraries for kids who really need them.

ABOUT PAGE AHEAD

Guided by the fact that literacy is essential to lifelong success, Page Ahead provides new books and develops reading activities that empower at-risk children. Founded in 1990, Page Ahead Children's Literacy Program has given more than four million new books to more than one million children through collaborations with schools, social service agencies, preschools, and early childhood programs across Washington. We work to erase the early reading gap for children furthest from educational justice before it becomes an "achievement" gap. Page Ahead is the leading provider of children's books and literacy services in the state, currently serving more than 20,000 students in eighteen counties.

Our honors include:



Page Ahead Children's Literacy Program

1130 NW 85th St, Seattle, WA 98117
(206) 461-0123 | info@pageahead.org
EIN 91-1600084

