

17,000 kids had books at home this summer because of YOU

Because of your support of Page Ahead, families of more than 17,000 young learners didn't have to worry about one important thing as they began another unprecedented school year: finding new books to read!

"My son was so excited to get new books!" a mother of a Tacoma kindergartner who participated in our Book Up Summer program told us. "Especially how he is learning to read all by himself, it just brings joy to him! Thank you so much for helping encourage my child and bringing fun to learning during the summer."

And your support didn't only provide books for just one child in that Tacoma family: "He also has a new baby brother born on June 1, 2021. He's excited to read all his new books to him. That bonding time will be priceless!"



You built this home library for this Tacoma kindergartner—and his baby brother!

Find out more about how you have made a difference for young readers:

***Spotlight on
Thorndyke Elementary***

***Making space for reading
in book deserts***

***Corporate gift matching's
big impact***

Thorndyke and Page Ahead: 23 years and counting

In 1998, Page Ahead (then known as Books for Kids) made our first distribution of books to Thorndyke Elementary in Tukwila: 91 books to preschoolers at the Thorndyke Early Childhood Education & Assistance Program.

Those original preschoolers are now in their late twenties! And thanks to your support, more generations have been able to follow in their footsteps.

In the last 23 years, Thorndyke readers have gotten 27,707 books from Page Ahead—and that’s all been possible thanks to donors like you!



PACCAR volunteers pitching in at a Page Ahead reading event at Thorndyke Elementary in 2019



Young readers line up at a Book Oasis in September 2021

saw the shelves were full of new books, they all gathered around, four deep, very impatiently waiting their turn to get up to the shelves to pick out a book to take home!”

A reading respite in a tough time

Since March 2021, Page Ahead has put more than 5,000 brand-new kids’ books in Seattle book deserts through our Book Oasis Little Free Libraries, thanks to your support.

Book Oasis volunteer Mickey Shannon has seen the impact of these books firsthand. “I had just refinished restocking, and the school across the street let out,” she told us recently. “When the children

Story Leaders + Book Up Summer: multiyear programs that really add up at Thorndyke



Story Leaders, our preschool program, develops pre-literacy and vocabulary skills for students through trainings for their teachers and families, small group story times, and eight brand-new books to take home.

Left: Thorndyke preschoolers receive their copies of Pete the Cat and His Four Groovy Buttons in 2018

Book Up Summer, our book fair–based summer reading program, builds home libraries and fights “summer learning slide” for K–2 students by letting them select 12 brand-new books at no cost to them every spring.

Right: Thorndyke students celebrate their Book Up Summer selections in 2019



2 years of Story Leaders in preschool

+

3 years of Book Up Summer in elementary

=

at least 52 books on Thorndyke kids’ shelves at home by third grade!

Corporate matches helped your generosity go even further

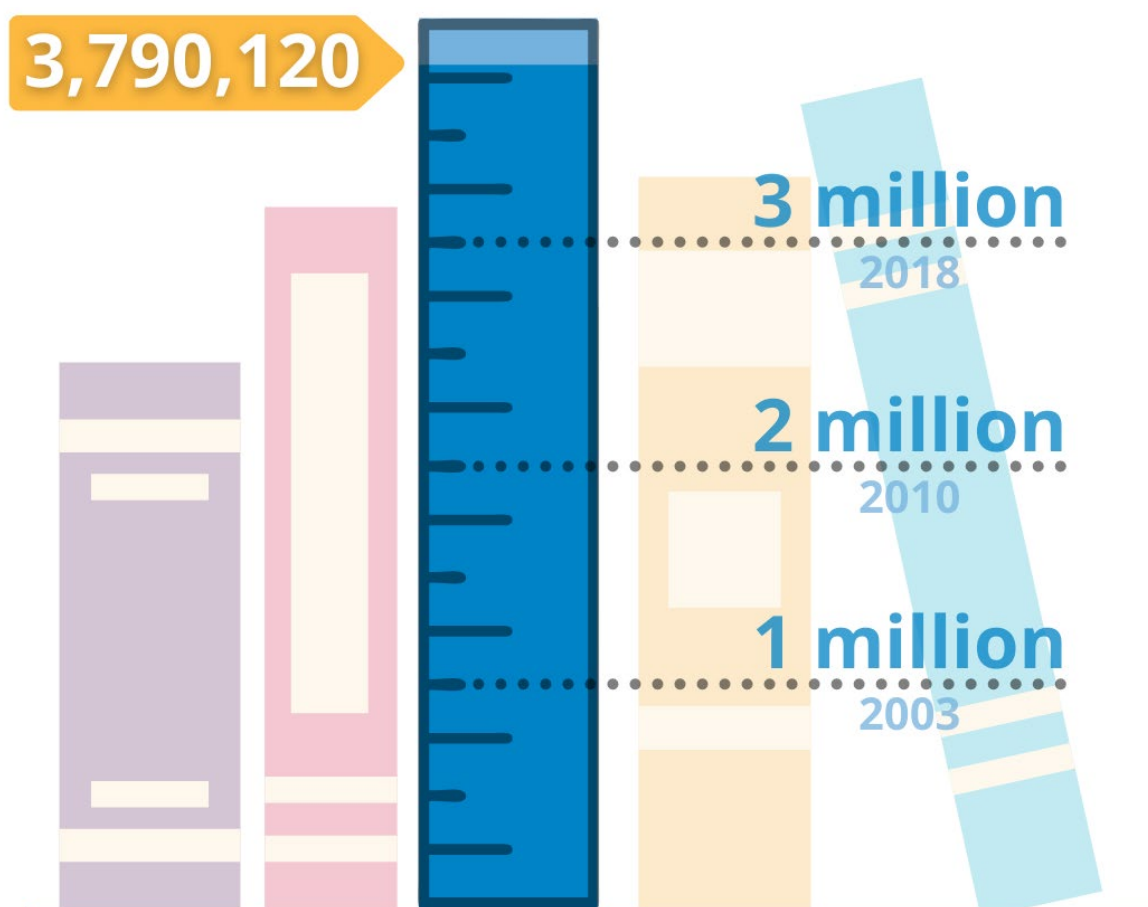
Last year, corporate matches of donations and volunteer time covered the cost of 1,450 students participating in Book Up Summer. That’s 17,400 more books on kids’ shelves! Not sure if your employer matches gifts? Check with HR or your online employee portal; you could double your impact!



Volunteers from Boeing making a difference at Hawthorne Elementary in Everett in 2019

In 1990, a small group of volunteers created the organization that would become Page Ahead and gave out that first batch of books to kids. And now, thanks to a community who truly understands how crucial equity in education and book access is in ensuring a successful future for *all* young learners in Washington . . .

**. . . we're counting down to our
four *millionth* book!**



As of November 2021, more than 3.7 million books have been added to kids' shelves thanks to you! We'll give out the four millionth one during Book Up Summer book fairs in the spring. Stay tuned for a celebration!

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