



Jay Inslee
Governor
State of Washington

September 8, 2020

Ms. Susan Dibble
Executive Director
Page Ahead Children's Literacy Program
1130 NW 85th St
Seattle, WA 98117

Dear Ms. Dibble:

I'm writing today to officially recognize the incredible impact that Page Ahead Children's Literacy Program has had on Washington's most disadvantaged young readers since the organization was founded under the name Books for Kids in 1990. Thirty years of giving kids in need the chance to read is a truly noteworthy milestone, and I am grateful to your organization for making that work possible.

Literacy helps to break the cycle of generational poverty. It makes it possible for people to fully participate in society, and having access to books as a child is the foremost predictor of future academic advancement. I understand that over the last three decades, Page Ahead has given 3,563,828 books to 950,733 children in Washington State, building home libraries and closing the literacy achievement gap for students in majority low-income communities from Whatcom County to Walla Walla, Spokane to Seattle, and beyond.

Annually, September 8 is recognized as United Nations' International Literacy Day, an opportunity for governments and civilians to highlight improvements in literacy. I am proud that Washington can recognize Page Ahead's work in this international context. Seattle is a UNESCO City of Literature in part because of the efforts of groups like Page Ahead, organizations and people who understand that literacy is a human right and that books and stories are some of the most powerful tools we have to help one another-and ourselves in difficult times.

On this International Literacy Day, I commemorate the work that Page Ahead's many staff, volunteers, supporters, school partners, families, and community members have taken on over the last thirty years to help close the achievement gap for some of Washington's most vulnerable and most valuable young learners. Thank you all for your service.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jay Inslee".

Jay Inslee
Governor