READINGPALS STATEWIDE ANNUAL REPORT

2017-2018, YEAR SIX

MENTOR TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE
ReadingPals is a statewide early literacy initiative that provides volunteer mentors for students from Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) to 3rd grade who may need extra help, utilizing one-on-one or small group settings.

To build strong, safe and impactful mentorships with our students, we ask our volunteers to commit 1 hour/week for 25 weeks, undergo a Level 1 minimum background screening and attend a local training session.
WHY IT MATTERS

45% of children in Florida are not ready for Kindergarten and 43% of Florida students cannot read at a minimally proficient level by the end of third grade. Additionally, studies show that children with mentors are more confident and have fewer behavioral problems. Early intervention and individualized attention gives students the best likelihood of success.

OUR MISSION

1. To build genuine, impactful relationships between students and our volunteer mentors.

2. To improve students’ understanding of the fundamental building blocks of early literacy.

3. To help students build a strong social-emotional foundation through self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills and responsible decision-making.

OUR HISTORY

In early 2011, Carol and Barney Barnett and Publix Super Markets Charities generously offered to fund the creation and implementation of a volunteer-based early literacy initiative. The Children’s Movement of Florida was asked to design and oversee the statewide effort -- partnering with local United Ways to launch ReadingPals in 10 Florida regions. Together, we all continue to work towards making a difference in the lives of thousands of children in Florida every year.

1. Florida Office of Early Learning (2016)
3. Big Brothers Big Sisters of Canada (2013)
OUR REACH

OUR PRESENCE SPANS ACROSS THE STATE

15 PROGRAMS
24 COUNTIES
195 LOCATIONS
513 CLASSROOMS

2017-2018
OUR PROGRAMS

OUR READINGPALS COMMUNITIES ACROSS FLORIDA IN 2017-2018

- Heart of Florida United Way
- United Way of the Big Bend
- United Way of Broward County
- United Way of Central Florida
- United Way of Citrus County
- United Way of Escambia County
- United Way of Lee, Hendry, Glades, and Okeechobee
- United Way of Marion County
- United Way of Miami-Dade
- United Way of North Central Florida
- United Way of Northeast Florida
- United Way Suncoast
- United Way of Suwannee Valley
- Volusia-Flagler Counties
OUR VOLUNTEERS

OUR VOLUNTEERS ARE MORE ENGAGED THAN EVER

2,205 VOLUNTEERS

A strong, engaged volunteer base throughout the entire school year is key to our success. 2,200+ volunteers were matched with 1-3 students.

Every year, we aim to bring back at least 40% of our ReadingPals volunteers. 52% of our volunteers last year returned for another year -- our highest return rate ever.

52% VOLUNTEER RETENTION RATE

31% OF VOLUNTEERS 3+ YEARS IN PROGRAM

We ask for a 1-year commitment from our volunteers -- but nearly 1/3 of our volunteers have participated for 3-6 years!
OUR STUDENTS

Our students choose their grade(s) of focus. The majority of our programs opt to work with VPK and Kindergarten students.

We worked with students in 195 locations -- including private childcare centers, public schools and after-school programs. The more volunteers we have, the more students we can serve.

3,060 students

Percentage of students per grade 2017-2018

- VPK: 8%
- Kindergarten: 39%
- 1st Grade: 13%
- 2nd Grade: 37%
- 3rd Grade: 8%

Starting Early

Local programs choose their grade(s) of focus. The majority of our programs opt to work with VPK and Kindergarten students.

We measure student engagement by tracking the hours spent between students and volunteers. 19+ hours is equivalent to completing 75% or more of the program.

Student engagement

Percentage of students with 19+ hours, by year:

- 2015-2016: 46%
- 2016-2017: 52%
- 2017-2018: 65%
OUR IMPACT

BUILDING A LOVE OF READING THROUGH STRONG MENTORSHIPS

63,327
TAKE-HOME BOOKS
IN 2017-2018

Beyond our student data, we also measure our impact in other tangible ways. We aim to help build or expand home libraries for our ReadingPals students. On average, our students receive 18 take-home books per year.

CURRICULUM

Since we focus on five different grade levels from VPK-3rd grade, our curricula varies between communities. Each program has the choice to custom-design a curriculum, or purchase an out-of-the-box curriculum -- all with the input and approval of each local school district and community partners.

A strong mentorship requires consistent time between our students and our volunteers. Our ReadingPals time has improved every year by working closely with our volunteers, school staff and leadership.
OUR PROGRESS

OUR VPK CASE STUDY DEMONSTRATES THE IMPACT OF READINGPALS

2017-2018 VPK ASSESSMENT
Sum of Reading Scores, Weighted
ReadingPals (n=1,033) vs. Comparison (n=747)

All of our programs track reading ability through assessments at the beginning and end of the school year for ReadingPals students and local comparison groups. Data is reported by grade level -- with our largest sample size in VPK.

GROWTH
ReadingPals VPK students improved at a faster rate than our comparison groups. This mirrors our mission of working with students who may need a little extra help to catch up to their peers.

2017-2018 VPK ASSESSMENT
Average Percentage Change, Weighted
ReadingPals (n=1,033) vs. Comparison (n=747)

Overall, we found a positive correlation between increased reading time with our VPK students and improved VPK Assessment reading scores.
Pictured above are many of the committed individuals who make ReadingPals a reality on a daily basis. There are hundreds more contributors -- including school principals, teachers, administrators, local early learning coalitions and many other community partners.

AWARDS
Our annual end-of-year conference is an opportunity to highlight a year’s worth of important work! We collectively vote each year for the best presentations.

- **Most Inspirational**: Rahkiah Brown, United Way of North Central Florida
- **Most Impactful**: Sylvia Palmer, United Way of Central Florida
- **Most Creative**: Lynnea Crawford, Heart of Florida United Way
SPECIAL THANKS

ReadingPals was designed and built by The Children’s Movement of Florida -- a nonprofit, non-partisan 501(c)(3) organization that works to raise awareness about the importance of investment in the early years, and advocates for early education, children’s health care, and parent support programs in Florida.

A Strong Start for All Florida Children

We believe the first five years of a child’s life are the most important.

Join us to lay the groundwork that helps children reach their full potential in life: bit.ly/JoinCMF

NEW REGIONS ADDED IN 2018-2019

The continued support of Publix Super Markets Charities has allowed ReadingPals to expand to two new regions in 2018-2019: St Lucie County and Okaloosa-Walton Counties.

ReadingPals is made possible by:
MENTOR TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

ReadingPals

John Knight
ReadingPals Statewide Director
The Children's Movement of Florida
john.knight@childrensmovementflorida.org