

COMMUNITY IMPACT 2023-2024



Promoting Literacy, Creating Potential



78,802

BOOKS IN THE HANDS OF CHILDREN



1515

**CHILDREN SERVED
EACH WEEK**



3245

**VOLUNTEER
HOURS SERVED**



22,170

**BOOKS STOCKED IN
LITERACY BOOKSHELVES**



260

**COMMUNITY
PARTNERS**



942

**EVENTS &
SITES SERVED**

53,883

**BOOKS DELIVERED
BY THE BOOK VAN**

READ WITH A CHILD 20 MINUTES A DAY!

DEAR FRIENDS,



Thank you for another successful year! Together we are bringing the joy and promise of books and reading to ALL South Sound children. This is our mission statement and it truly captures the important work we do. We are out in our community every day inspiring children to become eager and engaged readers. These children will have the skills they need to succeed in school and in life, because they love reading. This is what we mean by PROMISE.

Eager and engaged readers find JOY through exploration, discovery, and adventure in everything they read. I am reminded of a girl I worked with at a homeless shelter a few years ago. She picked up a copy of The Golden Compass at the beginning of our visit and curled up and began to read. She was in the same spot, engrossed in her book, ninety minutes later. She was on an adventure! This is what we mean by JOY.

Finally the most important word in our mission statement is ALL. Each week we serve over 1500 children and their families. We work especially hard to serve children and families who are low-income, under-resourced, and may be living in remote, rural communities. We also work hard to serve children and families whose first language is not English. This is what we mean by ALL.

So thank you. Together we are bringing the JOY and PROMISE of books and reading to ALL South Sound children.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jennifer Williamson-Forster".

**Jennifer Williamson-Forster, Executive Director,
South Sound Reading Foundation**





OUR PROGRAMS

Books for Kids:
supplies free books
to children &
families



- **Literacy Book Van** - visits low-income housing units, schools, afterschool programs, community events and rural areas to promote reading by distributing 40,000+ free books and literacy materials.
- **Books for the Break** - partners with schools and food banks to deliver books to homeless and low income children.
- **Literacy Bookshelves** - stocks 14,000+ books on bookshelves at agencies serving low-income clients so children can take a free book home to read.
- **Bag O' Books** - packs individual book orders totaling 14,000+ books for families in Thurston and Mason counties, ordered online and picked up at our office.

Family Engagement:
educates families
about the importance
of reading



- **Family Education** - visits parenting groups, support groups, workshops and literacy nights to provide books and discuss reading, literacy, and brain development.
- **Books for Babies** - gives 2,100+ new board books and literacy information to families leaving the hospital with newborns.
- **Born to Read** - partners with medical providers to give board books and information to low-income families at their baby's 6-month checkup.

Reading Engagement:
engages children in
reading and books



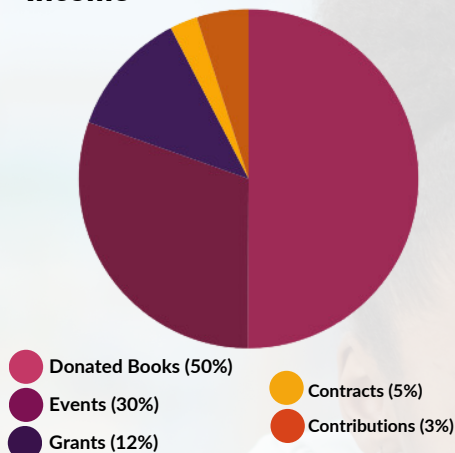
- **Read to Me** - shares story time visits and 1000+ free books with children ages 3-5 at Head Start and other childcare facilities monthly.
- **Book Clubs and Book Talks** - partners with programs that serve low-income children and youth to host book clubs and book talks.
- **Reading Maps** - shares fun reading maps with children and families during school breaks to keep children engaged.

FINANCIALS & PEOPLE

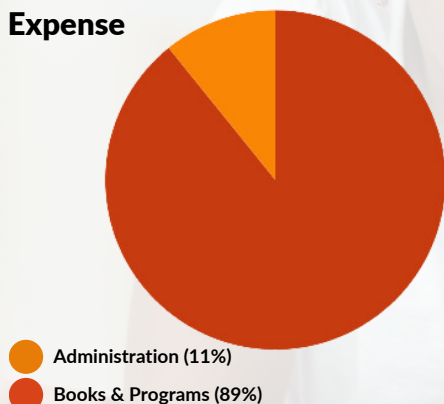


2023-2024 Financials

Income



Expense



Contact Us

South Sound Reading Foundation

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*Thank you for supporting literacy and
access to books for all children.*

A YEAR IN PICTURES



Bringing the joy
and promise of
books and reading
to all South Sound
children since
2001!

THANK YOU DONORS



The Dawkins Charitable Trust
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And the hundreds of donors and volunteers who make our mission happen!



TESTIMONIALS



“ Thank you for being here each week and having books my student can read. It makes him feel like the other kids, having his own books.

-Teacher of special ed. student ”

“

I had to clean out a space last week for my daughter, she informed me that she wanted her own library because she now loves reading books.

-Parent at distribution event ”



“

Thank you so much, you have no idea how much this will help with my classroom setup. I can't afford everything I really need and SSRF has really helped to fill my gaps.

-Teacher at teacher resource day ”



“

We believe so strongly in their vision and mission that along with sponsoring and attending fundraising events, one of our members of our leadership team serves on their board of directors! Their vision of a community where ALL children read well and enjoy reading leading to new opportunities aligns perfectly with TwinStar's belief that literacy leads to the confidence to learn. Learning and knowledge open the doors to amazing opportunities. We appreciate the work of the South Sound Reading Foundation and are honored to support their efforts.

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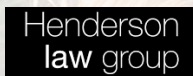
“Thank you so much for the kids books. I really appreciate it. It's for my girls, to make my zoom visits a little easier. It's hard seeing my babies on video...” -Mom

“Thank you for the book! I like books better than candy, they last longer and are more fun. ” -Trick or Treater, Age 6

“Your support of CYS from our littlest readers to our older youth is opening a window to new thoughts, ideas, and continued learning. We value your commitment to serving our agency, our programs, and our community. Thank you again for all your incredible support, and for opening up new opportunities for our participants at CYS!” -CYS

“We LOVE South Sound Reading Foundation. We love that all of our students have access to books to grow their home libraries. Thank you SO much!!!!” -Teacher

THANK YOU SPONSORS



SPECIAL THANKS TO...

North Thurston Public Schools, and all area school districts and our community partners who work with us to reach the children, youth, and families we collectively serve.