READING IS THE GATEWAY SKILL
WHICH MAKES ALL LEARNING POSSIBLE.

KIDS CAN'T BE WHAT THEY CAN'T SEE.

literacy for kids.

OUR IMPACT GOES BEYOND BOOKS

READING

www.literacyforkids.org

WHAT WE DO:

SINCE 2019, LFK HAS INTRODUCED DETROIT K-12 STUDENTS TO NATIONALLY ACCLAIMED AUTHORS AND ILLUSTRATORS, INSPIRING THEM TO "READ TO LEARN" AND ENVISION A FUTURE FOR THEMSELVES BEYOND THEIR WILDEST IMAGINATION.

LFK DEFINES LITERACY AS THE WAY WE INTERACT WITH THE WORLD AROUND US. LITERACY IS HOW WE COMMUNICATE - READING, WRITING, SPEAKING, LISTENING AND CREATING.

Today Kwame Alexander presented at my school. I loved hearing him recite his poetry! To meet an author who looks like me in this field was impactful. What I will take away from this experience is to never give up. Thank you Kwame and Literacy for Kids. It was a great day.

--- JANILAH YOUNG, 10TH GRADER

Kwame Alexander
Emmy Award-Winner

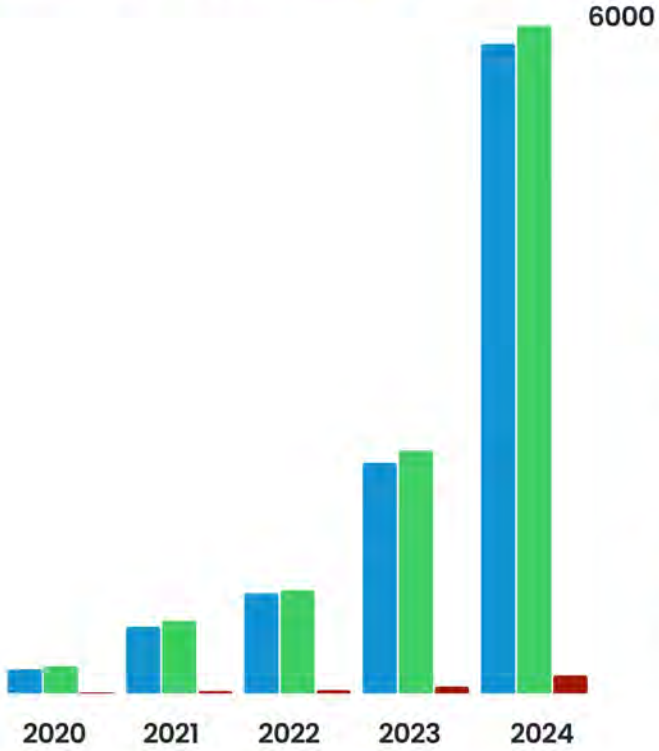
The ratio of age-appropriate books per child in low-income neighborhoods is

1 book per 300 children

----- The Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development NY University

OUR IMPACT

LITERACY FOR KIDS 2020-2024 SUMMARY



Students

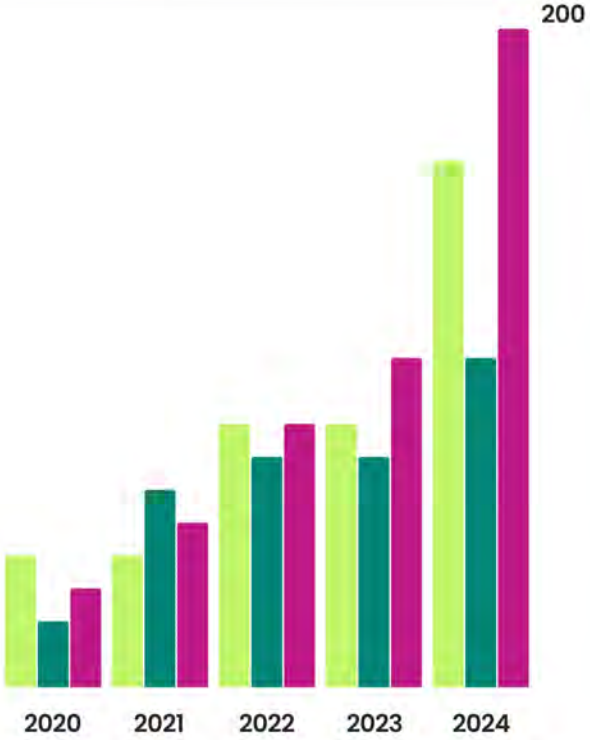
The number of students participating in LFK Programs increased to 5500 in 2024.

Books

The number of autographed books gifted in 2024 exceeds 5500.

Teachers/Lesson Plans

ELA and classroom teachers received curriculum-aligned lesson plans prepared by LFK.



Schools

The number of school collaborations continues to grow.

Authors

LFK continues to build a network of Authors, Illustrators, Poets, and Mentors who share a united belief more can be done in the world of literacy.

Programs/Classrooms

LFK has seen firsthand when authors engage with students, a change in perspective occurs which directly translates into enthusiasm for reading.

8,825 K-12th grade students met authors and were gifted autographed books to date.

GOALS:

BY 2030 LFK PLANS TO:

- UNITE 40,000 DETROIT K-12 STUDENTS WITH DIVERSE & IMPACTFUL AUTHORS.
- 200± SCHOOL VISITS.

THE WORK OF LFK IS SUPPORTED SOLELY THROUGH CONTRIBUTIONS. IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE THESE GOALS, LFK HAS SET A GOAL OF $100,000 IN PHILANTHROPIC DONATIONS BY 2025 YEAR-END.

FUNDING IS USED TO PURCHASE BOOKS, PAY FOR AUTHOR HONORARIUMS, FUND STUDENT TRANSPORTATION, AND CREATE LESSON PLANS.

LFK has collaborated with GoLightly for several years. This unique experience allows students to hear from an author/illustrator firsthand. To learn about their work is impactful. LFK makes this experience amazing for teachers.

The smiles on my students' faces are priceless when they take home their autographed book from the author they met.

---- CELESTE FRANK

KINDERGARTEN TEACHER, GOLIGHTLY EDUCATION CENTER

TEAM MEMBERS:

NATIONALLY ACCLAIMED AWARD-WINNING AUTHORS:

- EMMY AWARD WINNER FOR WRITING DISNEY PLUS SERIES "THE CROSSOVER"
- NYTIMES BESTSELLERS
- NEWBERY-MEDAL AWARD WINNERS
- CORETTA SCOTT KING AWARD WINNERS
- PULITZER PRIZE NOMINATED JOURNALIST
- MURALIST OF OVER 90 CREATIONS WORLDWIDE
- NCTE INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM AWARD WINNER
- CALDECOTT MEDAL WINNERS
- CARNEGIE MEDAL FOR WRITING
- NAACP IMAGE AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING LITERARY WORK FOR YOUTH/TEEN

KWAME ALEXANDER
KATHERINE APPLEGATE
DERRICK BARNES
MAC BARNETT
DESIREE COOPER
MATT DE LA PEÑA
KENNETH KRAEGEL
LESA CLINE-RANSOME
JASON REYNOLDS
KATIE YAMASAKI

Literacy for Kids allowed me the honor to connect with young readers and encourage them to READ THEIR WAY THROUGH THE WORLD. To me reading is the ultimate form of empathy. Good stories ask us to step inside someone else's experience, to try to see what they see.

MATT DE LA PEÑA
NEWBERY MEDAL AWARD WINNER

Children who READ 20 MINUTES A DAY are exposed to

1.8 MILLION WORDS A YEAR.

THANK YOU!

PROGRAM PARTNERS AND SPONSORS:

Northern Trust | The Fink Foundation | Brinker Group | Naber Family Charitable Fund | Detroit Industrial School Private Foundation Grant | Center For Success | YMCA Detroit | YMCA Birmingham | Detroit PAL | Birdie's Bookmobile | Ocean Reef Annual Golf Tournament | Amelia Island Book Festival | Black Marlin Creative | Mr. Peter Black | Dr. & Mrs. William Ventimiglia | Dr. & Mrs. Chris Press | Mr. & Mrs. William Dawson | Dr. John Knapp & Dr. Carole Kowalczyk | Mr. & Mrs. Laurence Vallee | Merrill Lynch Wealth Management | Wayne County Sheriffs Youth Foundation Fund | Mr. & Mrs. Mike Thaler | Mr. & Mrs. Griffin Nienberg | Mr. & Mrs. Peter Kross | Dr. & Mrs. Jeff Altshuler | Mr. & Mrs. Ed Russell | Mr. & Mrs. Doug Blatt | Holcomb Development | The James and Grace Lee Boggs School | Cornerstone Schools | Advanced Technology Academy | University Prep Science & Math | GoLightly Education Center | Mr. & Mrs. David Hempstead | Jalon Rose Academy | Renaissance High School | Detroit Innovation Academy | Dr. & Mrs. Thomas Mertz | Mr. & Mrs. Chad Arnold | Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Vallee | Brock Arnold | Mr. & Mrs. David Backhurst | Mr. & Mrs. Tom Backhurst | Ms. Cosette Campbell | Mr. & Mrs. Ray Carey | Mr. & Mrs. Jim Ciesliga | Mr. Tye Cobb | Ms. Kathy Compratt | Mr. & Mrs. Todd Fink | Mr. & Mrs. Paul Galea | Mr. & Mrs. Greg Ghiardi | Mr. & Mrs. Don Girodat | Mrs. Joyce Janowski | Mr. Robert Jasak | Mr. & Mrs. Aldo Lazzari | Mr. Thomas Mazzola | Dr. & Mrs. Shlomo Mandel | Tamie McCoy | Mr. & Mrs. Curt Mistele | Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Mollison | Janice Montrose | Mr. & Mrs. Joe Moran | Mr. & Mrs. Longine Morawski | Mr. & Mrs. Robert Panizzi | Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Park Sr. | Mr. & Mrs. Luke Plumpton | Ms. Jaye Thursam | Mr. & Mrs. Brad Thomasma | Dr. & Mrs. Vanwalleghem | Mr. Paul Webster & Ms. Julie Mertz | Mr. & Mrs. Scott Vallee | Mr. & Mrs. Ed Wolking | Mr. & Mrs. William Young | Eaton Academy | Discovery Creative Pathways | Mr. Alex Guy |

In-Kind: Jayne M. Rose-Vallee | Beth Quinn | Mary Wolking | Cynthia Hempstead | Questionable Tees | John Martin Photography | Alex Guy Photography | Ms. Celeste Frank | Madeline Bialecki | Julie Mertz |

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