

ANNUAL REPORT

2022



Read | **Write** | **Spell**

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & BOARD CHAIR

This past year was a turning point for Read Write Spell. After two years of navigating the pandemic, we needed to reevaluate our work and determine a new path forward. So we began the year by creating a new strategic framework that was adopted in October. Consulting board members, staff, volunteers, and key community members, we developed a framework that will guide our work over the next three years. Our new Strategic Plan incorporates work already underway and enables research at a local and national level to determine needs and opportunities. It renews our commitment to equity and enables us to apply an equity lens to all of our work. In addition, it encourages and guides collaboration using a “plan, do, evaluate” approach that builds in a process for continuous learning and improvement.

Our strategic priorities are:

- Creating pathways to literacy for children in need of our support;
- Identifying and cultivating partnerships with other community agencies to help support pathways and reduce barriers to literacy;
- Increasing our community’s understanding of systemic barriers that thwart literacy and RWS’ work to improve literacy outcomes in Forsyth County;
- Growing our resources – human and financial – to give us the greatest opportunity to support Read Write Spell; and
- Continuing to look for opportunities to strengthen the staff and its operational structure to ensure that Read Write Spell thrives as an organization.

We trained more than 100 volunteer tutors for our Augustine Literacy Project® and K-1 Reading Foundations programs. These tutors will continue to provide free one-on-one tutoring to economically disadvantaged students in Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools (WS/FCS). We revamped our K-1 tutoring program to serve students and volunteer tutors better and align it with our Augustine Literacy Project® program. Doing so will allow us to initiate learning at a younger age, allowing students to catch up with important learning well before the third-grade



Sara Fox,
Advisory Board Chair

Esharan Monroe-Johnson,
Executive Director

reading threshold. We hired a new Assistant Director, launched The Read Write Spell Corner with Bookmarks at its annual Bookmarks festival, infused trauma-informed practices in our tutoring sessions to ensure that we create a safe space for our students and help build resilience, and worked to develop stronger relationships with our supporters. We were busy!

Looking ahead, we will work to build stronger connections with community organizations, caregivers, and families to help expand our reach and impact. As we work to create a community where all children can read on grade level by the end of third grade, **we know – most definitely – that while one tutor can and will change one life, one organization in league with other organizations, community members and families, stands a better chance of changing many lives.** Together we can help transform our community into one where children’s outcomes are not determined by their race or zip code and where all children have access to the educational foundation necessary to thrive in the 21st century.

We are genuinely grateful for the support of all of our volunteer tutors, staff, advisory board, and donors who make our work possible. Thank you for your investment in Read Write Spell.

With gratitude,

Esharan Monroe-Johnson
Executive Director

Sara Fox
2022 Advisory Board Chair

ABOUT READ WRITE SPELL

Building on the premise that literacy is essential for individual and community success, Read Write Spell works to ensure that every child in Forsyth County learns to read. Read Write Spell advocates for research-based, effective reading instruction for all students.

We leverage the power of community volunteers and train them to provide free, long-term, one-to-one reading instruction to economically disadvantaged students in Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools. We also provide programming and resources for families.

We believe that:

- Literacy is crucial for individual success and a thriving and prosperous community.
- Literacy is inextricably linked to equity.
- All children should have access to research-based, structured literacy instruction.
- Investing in a child's education is one of the most critical investments we can all make.
- Our entire community must work together to close the opportunity gap in WS/FCS.

Vision

The vision of Read Write Spell is a transformed community where **ALL** children can **Read, Write, and Spell**.

Mission

Read Write Spell advances the science of reading by teaching, training, and advocating.



Staff

Esharan Monroe-Johnson,
Executive Director
Alice Day Clark,
Assistant Director
Paula Bennett,
Marketing and Development Director
Jessica Course,
Program Assistant & K-1 Coach
Debbie Kelley,
Tutor Educator

Melissa Lester,
Financial Secretary
Susan Tague,
Office Manager
Jeanie Wilson,
Volunteer Coordinator
Site Coordinators
Emily Etzel
Alyce Gilbert
Itohan Igbinigie
Kathy Jacobs

Thank you, Margaret Dickinson and Pat Helm, for your many years of service to Read Write Spell. We wish you well on your next journey!

2022 Advisory Board

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Founding Mothers

Becky Clingman
Susan Uphoff
Trudy Winstead

OUR COLLECTIVE IMPACT

We understand and acknowledge that the success of our programs is not ours alone. Rather it reflects the commitment and dedication of our tutors, students, families, donors, and community partners. Thank you for contributing to our success!

SCHOOLS SERVED:

Bolton	Moore
Cash	Morgan
Cook	Old Town
Diggs-Latham	Petree
Easton	Sherwood Forest
Gibson	South Fork
Griffith	Southwest
Hanes Middle	Speas
Kernersville	WS/FCS
Kimberley Park	Virtual Academy
Konnoak	

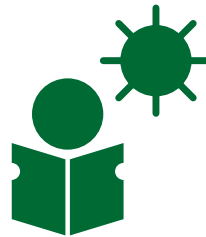
2022 IMPACT:



121
tutors trained



146
total tutors



45
students served through Summer Enrichment



148
students served



402 family literacy kits/activities distributed

“Read Write Spell tutors continue to have a profound impact on the lives of our students in such a positive way. It is with the support of community partners such as Read Write Spell tutors that we are able to meet the vast needs of our students at Old Town.”

*Debra Gladstone
Principal,
Old Town Elementary*

2021-2022 VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS SUCCESS

K-1 (1st grade on average)

140% growth in decoding (reading)

374% growth in encoding (spelling)

ALP (2nd grade on average)

109% growth in decoding (reading)

49% growth in encoding (spelling)

WORKING TOGETHER TO SUPPORT CHILDREN, SCHOOLS, AND FAMILIES

Less than 40% of third-grade students in WS/FCS are proficient in reading. The schools cannot tackle this problem alone. Community organizations and community members play an important role in helping to increase third-grade reading proficiency in Forsyth County.

We are honored to be a part of the solution by training volunteers to provide free reading tutoring to elementary school children and by giving families free resources to help with language and literacy development.

TRAINING FUTURE EDUCATORS: PARTNERSHIP WITH WSSU



“I appreciate the expertise of Read Write Spell personnel, and the support, guidance, and materials they provide. Our students are able to impact the learning of children as they assist school personnel in meeting literacy goals. Additionally, education majors who are required to take the Pearson Foundations of Reading Test have shared with program faculty that the hands-on experience provided through this partnership helped prepare them to pass the licensure test.”

Dr. Brenda Kennedy

Director- Office of Field and Clinical Experiences, Winston-Salem State University

VOLUNTEER TUTORING

“We are so thankful for the partnership we have with Read Write Spell. They are truly committed to student learning and work tirelessly to support our students and staff. As a result of the one-on-one time, students who are partnered with a tutor exhibit greater confidence in themselves and an improved attitude toward learning in the classroom. Read Write Spell has a direct positive impact on the students served, and we are grateful for their time and work in our school.”

Instructional Facilitator (K. Ryan)



BUILDING HOME LIBRARIES

Read Write Spell Book Nooks increase access to books and book ownership for children in Forsyth County so that they can build their personal/home library. RWS curates each box to provide fun and engaging gently used books for children of all ages to enjoy. We are grateful that The United Sisters, a group that former tutor Melissa Ledbetter belongs to, have taken responsibility for refreshing and restocking our book nooks.



BOOK NOOK LOCATIONS

AFAS Park
Bolton Elementary
Center for Hope
H.O.P.E
Headquarters
Speas Elementary
Union Cross
Elementary
Winston-Salem
NAACP
Headquarters

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Read Write Spell and Bookmarks share the goal of igniting the spark for children to become readers. This year, thanks to your support, Read Write Spell partnered with Bookmarks to host the RWS Corner @ the Bookmarks Festival. More than 300 people visited the RWS Corner to listen to speakers, receive literacy kits, or do literacy-related activities with their children.



“One of the things Bookmarks values most is community collaboration. That collaboration is made so much easier when we work with incredible sister organizations like Read Write Spell. We love working with them throughout the year and especially love our newly developed partnership for our annual book festival.

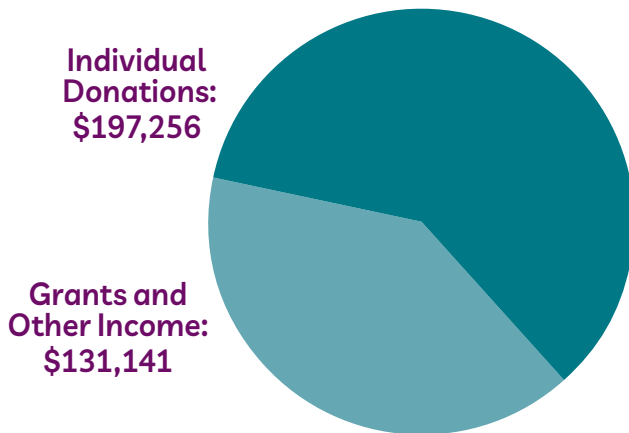
In 2022, Read Write Spell sponsored a stage with activities that corresponded to our featured authors and their books. It was a great way for the whole family to engage on a deeper level, and to learn about all the literacy work Read Write Spell is doing, too. Bookmarks is grateful for the friendship and partnership of Read Write Spell.”

*Jamie Rogers Southern
Bookmarks Executive Director*

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

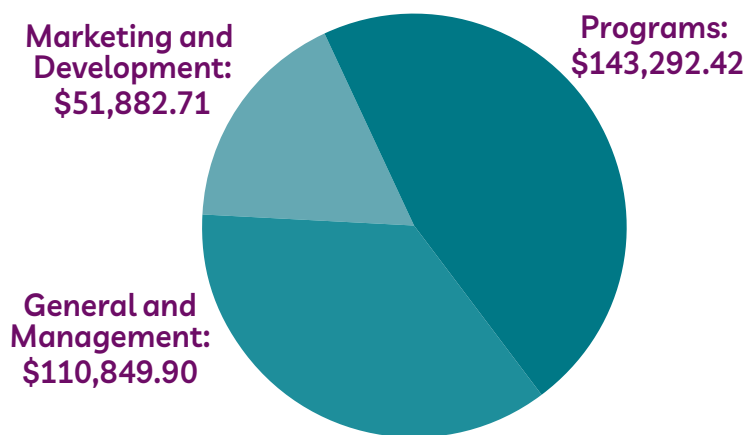
We are grateful for the support of our donors and foundation partners. Your contribution to Read Write Spell allows us to provide free, one-on-one tutoring to students who need extra support with reading. In addition, it allows us to give parents, caregivers, and community members free resources to help create a strong foundation for reading with the children in their lives.

REVENUE:



Total Revenue: \$328,397

EXPENSES:



Total Expenses: \$306,025.03

#GIVINGTUESDAY 2022

Thanks to a matching gift from long-time Read Write Spell tutor and supporter Woody Clinard and support from more than 50 other donors, we surpassed our goal and raised \$5,250!! We appreciate all who donated and helped us spread the word.



“Every child who struggles with reading deserves the opportunity to receive one-on-one reading intervention outside of their regular school classroom, but this is not a feasible option for all families. Read Write Spell makes it possible for economically disadvantaged students to become better readers and better students overall. We have seen these results through personal experience. Justin, who I tutored for 5 years, struggled to pass first grade, and now he is an honor roll student in middle school.

We support RWS so they can reach more students who do not have access to personalized literacy instruction.”

- Brad and Paula Bennett

2022 SUPPORTERS

We are grateful for the support of our donors, community partners, sponsors, and volunteers. Your gifts of time, talent, and treasure help Read Write Spell provide critical support to students that need extra help with reading in WS/FCS.

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Suzette and Tom McLain			Molly and David Twine	

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Paula & Brad Bennett
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Esharan Monroe-Johnson
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Emily & Will Parsley
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Read Write Spell Tutors (2)
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Pam & Bill Senter
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Patsy Shearin
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Parker Tegeler (2)
Laura D. Turner
Joy Van Zandt (2)
Sheila P. Waldron-Ramsay
Mrs. Robert Whann
Kent Widle
Liz Keiser Williams

Jeanie Wilson
Holley Winikoff (3)
Mary Ella Winikoff (2)
Robin Woodard (5)
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Becky York
Becky & Alan York Gail & John Fisher
Robbin & Don Flow
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Sara Fox (2)
Alyce Gilbert (2)
Chiquita Guglielmi (2)
Chiquita & John Guglielmi
Thomas Hagerty
Susan & Charles Hauser
Pete Hellebush (2)
Suzy & Brad Hix
Dr. and Mrs. Tom Hunt
Itohan Igbinigie
Kathy Jacobs
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Mrs. Ted Keith
Debbie Kelley
Mr. and Mrs. Haydee Kepley
Bertie & Tony Leonardi
Melissa Lester
Kay & Frank Lord
V. B. Lougee

Judith Margerum
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Read Write Spell Tutors (2)
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Becky & Alan York



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2022 COMMUNITY SUPPORTERS

Bookmarks
Clemmons Moravian Church - Circle 2
Dewey's Bakery
Diamondback Grill
Stephenson Pope Babcock Foundation

Forsyth County Reading Association
The John W. and Anna H. Hanes Foundation
Kaplan Early Learning
Jerome S. & Grace H. Murray Foundation

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Project Impact
Sosis Club
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Cory Blalock
Diane Byrd
Austin Byrne
Marjorie Carson
Gail (Lora) Chavis
Melissa Clendenen
Maria Collins
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Alyce Gilbert
Anna Goodman

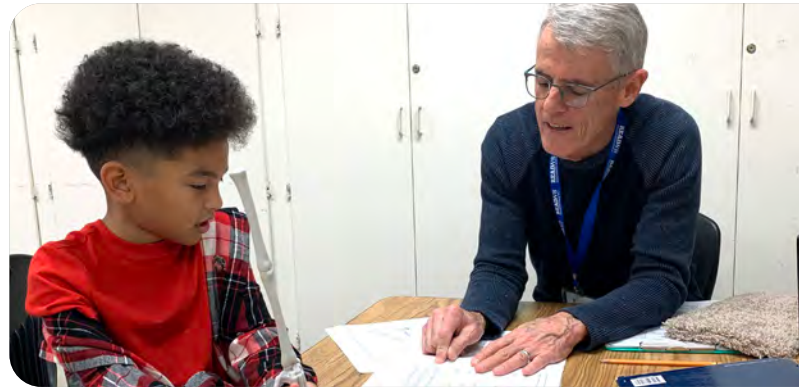
Teddy Grabowski
Thomas Hagerty
Joy Harman
Laurie Hawley
Pete Hellebush
Pat Helm
Sonja Holder
Fred Horton
Eugenia (Norma) Howard
Melanie Howie
Itohan Igbini
Maggi Jackson
Kathy Jacobs

Leigh Ann Janjua
Kristin Kinser
Darcie Lewis
Katherine McPherson
Patricia Mead
Nancy Pajewski
Tammy Pears
Elisa Rainey
Beth Sanders
Betsy Scott
Janie Sineath
Kristina Stappas
Sue Stephens

Kathleen Tatter (Ghorsi)
Fred Terry
Robert Ulery
Tim Wagner
Melissa Ward
Jeanie Wilson
Brigitte Woloszyn
Janet Zehr
Geraldine Zurek



Robin Woodard is the 2022 Read Write Spell Volunteer of the Year. This year Robin tutored a student at Moore Elementary School and served on our program committee, where she took a lead role in helping to rewrite our K-1 curriculum. Robin, thank you for your commitment and dedication to Read Write Spell and the children we serve. We are grateful for you!



K-1 TUTORS

Na'Taliya Bemby
Eileen Blancato
Rebecca Breeding
Chrislyn Bright
Bob Byington
Barbara Jean Byington
Nancy Cannon
Suzanne Clark
Mary Jane Degnan
Yassmeen Diab
Katey (Colleen) Estey
Bob Etzel
Bria Faison

Laurie Harlan-White
Susan Huneycutt
A'Leah Jones
Heidi Krowchuk
Jeanette McSwain
Joshua Mickey
Cathy Powell
Lebron Roseboro
Ashanti Smith
Sarah Southard
Deborah Strube
Brenda Westthorp
Kaylen Williams



GET INVOLVED

- **DONATE**
to Read Write Spell by visiting www.readws.org/donate.
- **VOLUNTEER**
to tutor a child that needs one-on-one reading support. Visit www.readws.org/becomeatutor to learn more.
- **BE AN ADVOCATE**
and use your voice to amplify our work.



Save the Date for

**Our Breakfast Friendraiser
& Fundraiser**

Tuesday, November 7, 2023