

2024

ANNUAL REPORT



It is more than words and reading, though reading and comprehension are essential.

It is community — you and me and all of us coming together when the world feels so divided.

It is the pulling together through literacy that changes us.

That rights the paths that have been crooked, that bridges whatever seems unimaginable.

 **LOVE
LITERACY**

DEAR FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS,

As we reflect on 2024, we are filled with gratitude and inspiration from the incredible progress made toward our mission at Love Literacy. This year has been one of growth and learning as we lean into advocacy and collaboration—all aimed at ensuring that every child in our community has the opportunity to succeed through literacy. We are pleased to share the highlights of the year and the impact we have made together in our first year as Love Literacy.

Convening the Community Toward Solutions

Our community is facing a literacy crisis, and Love Literacy is committed to ensuring that every child finds their best future through the benefits of Literacy. With over 50% of our children not reading on grade level by the end of third grade, we must invest our time and resources differently and in ways that have a multiplier effect to impact more children. This year, Love Literacy led a cross-sector effort for Forsyth County to join the National Grade-Level Reading Network as a part of the North Carolina Campaign for Grade-Level Reading. The Forsyth County for Grade-Level Reading initiative is a collective effort uniting individuals and organizations around the goal of ensuring that all children in Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools can read on grade level by the end of third grade. We aim to develop and implement a comprehensive, community-wide strategic plan to guide our work over the next four years. This plan will align and amplify the existing efforts in our community while identifying critical areas where resources are needed to fill gaps.

We look forward to sharing this transformative roadmap with you in the months ahead.

While we are prioritizing community-wide initiatives that lead to uncovering and addressing the root causes of childhood illiteracy in our community, we will also continue to work with students who need intensive one-on-one support and provide training and resources to teachers, families, and community members.

We are proud of what we have accomplished in 2024 and look forward to building on this momentum in the coming year. None of this would be possible without your support. Thank you for believing in the power of literacy and for loving our community enough to stand with us as we create brighter futures for the children and families we serve.

With gratitude,



Esharan Monroe-Johnson,
Executive Director



Anna Brewer,
Advisory Board Chair



Esharan Monroe-Johnson,
Executive Director



Anna Brewer,
Advisory Board Chair

Staff

Esharan Monroe-Johnson,
Executive Director

Alice Day Clark,
Director of
Education

Jessica Course,
Program Assistant /
Site Coordinator

Emily Etzel,
Site Coordinator

Itohan Igbini,
Site Coordinator

Melissa Lester,
Financial
Secretary

Mandie Padgett,
Early Literacy
Manager

Susan Tague,
Office Manager

Jeanie Wilson,
Volunteer
Program
Coordinator

2024 Advisory Board

Ann Beery, *Past Chair*

Alex Bohannon

Anna Brewer, *Chair*

Alie Brinegar

Yolonda Childs

Becky Clingman

Jordan Daniel, *Treasurer*

Ellen Fox

Sara Fox

Pete Hellebush

Micha James

Jonathan Kelly

Mona Lovett, *Exec.
At Large*

Chris Lyon, *Secretary*

Cresta Archuletta
Mauldin

Lucy Mooney

Esharan Monroe-
Johnson, *Ex Officio*

Ann Parke Muller

Linda Nelson, *Vice Chair*

Camry Wiborn-Mercer

Liz Williams

Brad Zabel

Founding Mothers Becky Clingman Susan Uphoff Trudy Winstead

**Thank you, Paula Bennett, for your work this year!
We wish you all the best!**

LITERACY STRENGTHENS OUR COMMUNITY

Childhood literacy is a foundational component of a thriving community.

Literacy is critical for:

- Workforce Development
- Social and Economic Mobility
- Lifelong Learning
- Democracy

Our Goal

A comprehensive, community-wide approach to support and increase third-grade reading proficiency in Forsyth County.

Our Plan

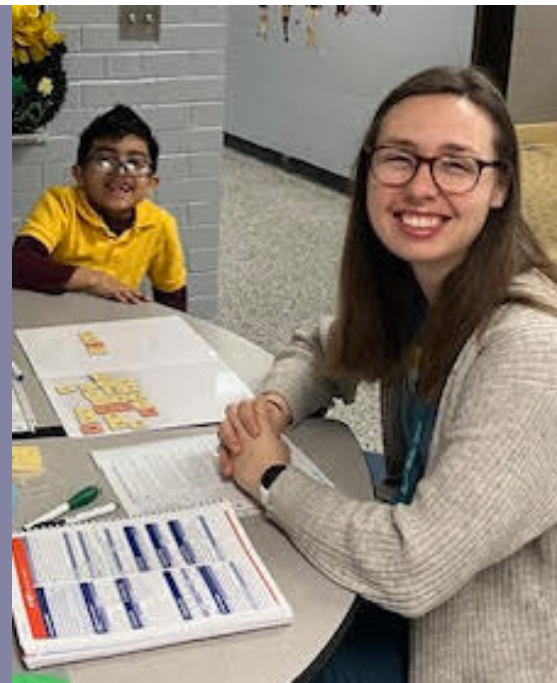
Tutoring (point of urgency): Love Literacy trains tutors to support students identified by Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools as having the greatest need.

Training (building our collective capacity): Training and supporting educators and families/caregivers to support early literacy development, beginning at birth.

Advocacy (uncovering and addressing root causes): Love Literacy is leading Forsyth County for Grade-Level Reading, part of a state-wide effort to improve reading through school readiness, attendance, and summer learning; helping families support literacy with children ages 0-5 through The Basics Forsyth; and helping our community understand the systemic barriers to literacy through our Between the Lines forum.

“The school staff at Bolton (Fredy's teacher, teaching assistant, and ESL teacher) all shared that Fredy grew tremendously in literacy this year - 160% growth from the beginning to the end of the year, and he is now one of the best readers in his class! Thank you for the work you do and for providing the opportunity for students like Fredy to find their confidence and grow. Fredy was already a motivated and diligent student, and to see his hard work pay off each day was an incredible honor to witness.”

Jess Hancock, Volunteer Tutor



2024 IMPACT:

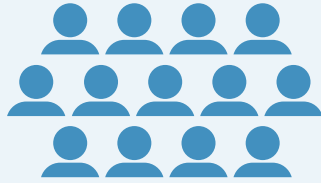


70
tutors
trained

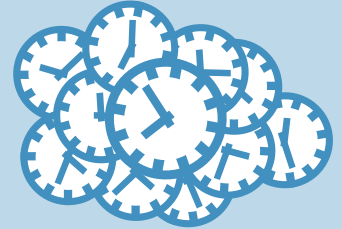


108
total
tutors

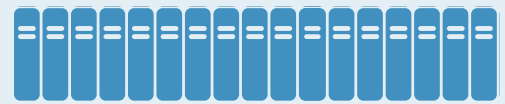
130
students
served



3395
volunteer
hours
recorded



35
Early Childhood
Educators Served



80+
Families/Caregivers
Receiving an Early
Literacy Kit and
Newborn Beginning
Library

20+
Forsyth County
for Grade-Level
Reading Partners



Get involved

Amplify our Work by sharing it with your networks. www.loveliteracy.org

Provide Financial Support to help Love Literacy provide free tutoring for emerging readers, train and support educators and families, and lead community-wide efforts to improve children's literacy. www.loveliteracy.org/donate

Become a Volunteer Tutor and help a child learn to read. www.loveliteracy.org/volunteer-tutoring



CREATING PATHWAYS TO LITERACY ACHIEVEMENT

Love Literacy provides a continuum of support, beginning at birth, to build a strong foundation for literacy achievement. In addition to training volunteer tutors to provide free, one-on-one support to

students with the highest need, we provide professional development for educators and free resources and books to families with young children.

Love Literacy partners with schools in three ways to increase literacy achievement.

1. Providing highly trained and supported volunteer tutors for emerging readers,

2. Paying teachers to tutor small groups of students after school to increase literacy proficiency, and

3. Providing professional development for teachers to grow their knowledge of research-based reading instruction and their confidence and skill in implementing these literacy practices in their classrooms.

Partnering with Cook Literacy Model School

“These three programs: after-school tutoring, volunteer tutors, and professional development for educators have collectively elevated the literacy development within our school.

The extra support provided through after-school tutoring and volunteer tutors has made a critical difference for students who otherwise would not have had access to these resources. Meanwhile, the professional development I have received has equipped me with the tools and strategies needed to create a more engaging and effective learning environment.

The impact of these programs is evident in the increased literacy rates, the growing confidence of our students, and the positive academic outcomes we are seeing. The dedication, research, and thoughtful planning behind each initiative have helped change the trajectory for many of our students, ensuring that they have the support they need to succeed in literacy and beyond.

Michelle Owusu, Teacher

Volunteer Tutoring - Schools Served

Bolton *

Cash *

Clemmons

Cook *

Griffith *

Kernersville *

Kimberly
Park

Kimmel
Farm *

Konnoak
Lewisville

Moore *

Morgan *

Old Town *

Petree *

South Fork *

Speas

**Partner School*



Literacy Begins at Birth

We launched **Read With Me!**, a partnership with Bookmarks that supports new parents with books, literacy resources, and opportunities to build connections with other families.

“The program has empowered parents to take an active role in their children's literacy development, creating a supportive and nurturing environment for learning.”

Katie Murphy,
*Community Alignment Specialist,
Atrium Health*

MOBILIZING AND LEADING THE COMMUNITY TOWARD CHANGE

The mission of Love Literacy is to significantly increase literacy achievement for children with the greatest need by mobilizing and equipping a community of partners, advocates, and supporters who are committed to literacy as a key driver of individual and community success.

In order to move the needle and achieve better outcomes, we must work in stronger and more meaningful collaboration with each other. In order to create sustainable change for children's literacy rates in our community, we must:

- eliminate silos and work across sectors;
- elevate and incorporate the voices of those closest to the challenge;
- identify and amplify effective programming that addresses the whole child and increases early reading success; and
- create innovative strategies that disrupt the status quo and transform systems.

Love Literacy is developing and leading a network of partners, Forsyth County for Grade-Level Reading, to create a community-wide, integrated strategy to support third-grade reading proficiency in Forsyth County.

FORSYTH COUNTY
GRADE - LEVEL
READING

“The ability to read proficiently by the end of third grade is one of the most critical milestones in a child's education and achieving this milestone requires a community-wide effort. When the entire community rallies behind literacy, we change the trajectory of students' lives, strengthen our workforce, and build a brighter future for all. The Forsyth County For Grade Level Reading Campaign is crucial to ensuring that all children can read on grade level by third grade by providing a clear structure for individuals, groups, and organizations who want to support literacy efforts, to get involved in a comprehensive system of support for our children and families. In Winston Salem Forsyth County, literacy is not just an educational priority-it's an economic and moral imperative.

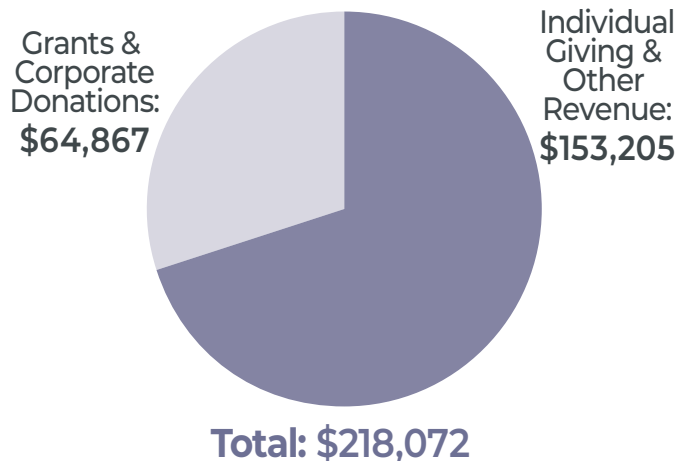
Tricia McManus, WS/FCS
*Superintendent Forsyth County
for Grade-Level Reading
Leadership Team Member*



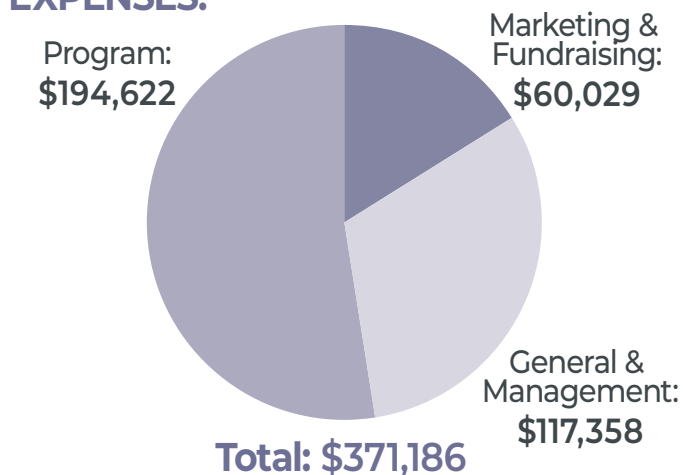
FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Over the last two years, Love Literacy has invested significantly in the infrastructure and staffing necessary for our work. Like many other organizations across North Carolina, we had a decrease in revenue. We are grateful that we have financial reserves to use in times like this, and we sincerely appreciate the support of our donors, sponsors, community partners, and volunteers. Our work would not be possible without you. Your investment has allowed us to increase our impact and reach more children, families, and educators than in past years, proving that together, we can make a difference.

INCOME:



EXPENSES:



SPECIAL THANKS TO

Flow Subaru of Winston-Salem

This year, we received \$12,617.42 from Flow Subaru of Winston-Salem. For the past seven years, we have been selected as the hometown charity to benefit from Subaru Share the Love event. Thank you, Flow Subaru of Winston-Salem for partnering with us to positively impact children's literacy in Winston-Salem/Forsyth County.



“My role as a tutor is about more than just teaching reading—it’s about mentoring, inspiring resilience, and fostering a sense of accomplishment that can positively impact my student’s self-esteem and future success. I so look forward to being there with a big smile on my face as he crosses the stage to accept the diploma upon high school graduation. That will be one of his, as well as my, greatest accomplishments.”

Austin Byrne, Tutor

To support our work visit,
www.loveliteracy.org/donate

2024 SUPPORTERS

We are grateful for the support of our donors, sponsors, foundation partners, community partners, and volunteers. Your contribution makes our work possible.

2024 Individual Donors

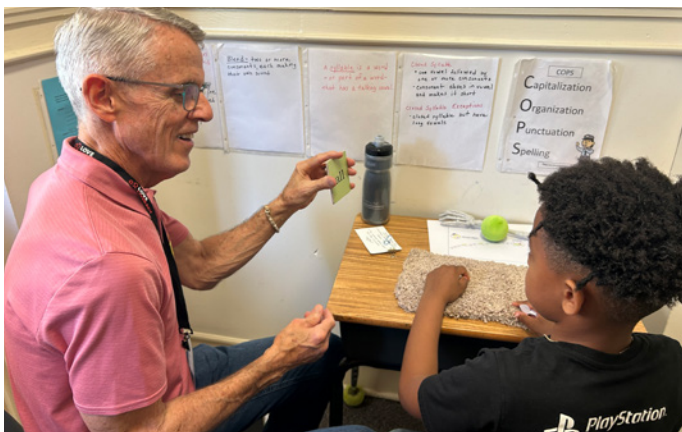
Dwanna and Trent Adams	Emily and Hardt Bing	Michelle Caldwell	Marina and Wesley Davis	Ruth and Jim Flynn
Erin and Scott Adams	Eileen and Bill Blancato	Susan and Jack Campbell	Mary Jane Degnan	Ragan and Dara Folan
Sandra and Fred Adams	Katy and Mickey Boles	Nancy and Tom Cannon	Nancy Dennis	Rip Ford
Martha Albertson	Betsy and David Bombick	Anne Carr	Marlita and Rudy Diamond	Bonnie and Rob Fowler
Carole Anderson	Mary Booe	Kay and Ken Chalk	Marcy Beery Dineen	Tom Fowler
Martha Apple and David Rea	Donna Boswell	Mary Boyd Chenery	Cate Dixon	Sara and Mike Fox
Betsy and Brant Armentrout	Rose Ellen and Ted Bowen	Rhonda and Andy Chused	Karen Dorr	Dottie Francis
Patsy and Stephen Ashworth	Pam and David Bowton	Alice Day and Ken Clark	Marian and Jim Douglas	Nikki and Matthew Francis
Kathy Ausen	Sandra Boyette	Debbie and Robert Clark	Luci Driscoll	Lisa and John Froggatt-Pollin
Beth and Sandy Baldwin	Penni and Mike Bradshaw	Deborah Ross Clark	Linda DuBose	Jean and Gerald Fromson
Wendy and John Barclay	Anna Brewer	Melissa Clendenen	Carolyn Duckett	Yvonne and Elliot Fus
Eddie Barrett and Drake Dennis	Janet and Jeffrey Brice	Wenda and Wake Clinard	Lu and John Dunkelberg	Jane and John Gehring
Jennie and Earl Beasley	Jeanne and Blaine Brickhouse	Woody Clinard	Phyllis Dunning	Brenda and Scott Gerding
Barbara and Kirk Beaudin	Ginny N. Britt	Becky and Bill Clingman	Cindy and Tom Dyer	Barbara Gerhard
Ana Beery	Kathy and Bo Brookby	Anne & Jim Collins	Colleen Edwards	Lisa and Bob Gfeller
Martha Beery	Mark Brown	Vicky Corbett	Lynn and Barry Eisenberg	Madlon and Kirk Glenn
Katherine Beery	Patty and Malcolm Brown	Toni Corpening	Suzan Elster	Patty and Bruce Goodrich
D.S. Behar	Rebecca F. Brown	Emily Craig	Gayle Van Ess	Leesa and Tom Goodson
Ran and Frank Bell	Suzanne Bullock	Sally and David Craven	Emily and Bob Etzel	Judy and Bill Goodson
Rita Bennett	Jean Burroughs	Carol Crooks	Jeannie and Barrett Evans	Liana and Richard Gottlieb
Debra, Mike and Anna Beroth	Ashley and Sam Byrd	Edward D. Crowder	Leora Henkin and Steve Feldman	Connie and Lyons Gray
	Jennifer and Austin Byrne	Lila J. Cruikshank	Gail and John Fisher	Joan and Murray Greason
		Jenny Cummins	Robbin and Don Flow	Marjorie Guilford
		Carol and John Danforth	Sara and Bob Fly	Steve Harberger
		Jordan and Charles Daniel		
		Jean Davis		
		Julia Breckinridge Davis		



2024 SUPPORTERS

2024 Individual Donors *continued*

- | | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Lee and Jimmy Hart | Katie and Steve Kenney | Leigh Thurston Myers | Margaret Scales and Graydon Pleasants | Ann Fulton Walker |
| Diana and Peter Hellebush | Nancy and Rich Keshian | Carolyn and John Myracle | Emily and Greg Schutt | Anne Kerr Walker and Lindsay Holcomb |
| Nancy Hennessy | Caroline and Clark Kinser | Betty and Bill Nagel | Debra and Ed Scott | Annette Walker |
| Martha Higginbotham | Doris and Ray Kiszely | Nancy Nathan | Lynn and Scott Segal | James M. Walter, Jr. |
| Meg and Brent Hilleary | Heidi Krowchuk | Diane and Bob Nations | Pam and Wiliam Senter | Dannie and Art Weber |
| Linda Hobbs | Suzy and Arthur Kurtz | Joyce Neely | Jody and Dwight Shaw | Ginny Weiler and Claudine Legault |
| Sara and John Hollan | Robert Lamont | Scottie and David Neill | Sharon and Ronnie Shealy | Betsy and Bobby Whaling |
| Betty and Rodger Holley | Megan and Tom Lawson | Linda Nelson | Alston and Taylor Shipley | Becky Wheeler |
| Jill Bowman and Mike Hollman | Margaret and Clarence Leinbach | Thomas Nelson | Glenn Simmons | Mary Lynn and John Wigodsky |
| Judy and Hop Hopkins | Janice and Charles Lewis | Katheryn and Otis Northington | Ginny and Joe Simpson | Cynthia Wilhelm |
| Mary Ruth Hord | Leanne and Bryan Link | Sylvia and Terry Oberle | Whitney Simpson | Allison Copeland Williams |
| Royce Hough | Catherine and John Lough | Mo Ogburn and C. Michael Wilson | Peggy and David Slater | Cathy and Arthur T. Williams III |
| Margaret and Glen Hubbard | Chris Lyon | Nancy Pajewski | Leigh and Gray Smith | Donna and John Willingham |
| Marsie and Bruce Hubbard | Beverly and David Lyons | Marilyn A. Parker | Mary Sandra and Warren Sparrow | Carol Willis |
| Karen and W. Scott Hulten | Kim and Will Mann | Leigh and Charles Pate | Barbara and Donald Speranza | Mary Louise and Peter Wilson |
| Caro and George Humphrey | Susan and John Mann | Janet Pauca | David Stackhouse | Jeanie and Alex Wilson |
| Vicki and Tom Hunt | Judith Margerum | Dan Pearson | Sandy and Bill Steele | Brigitte and Raymond Woloszyn |
| Susan and Frank Hussey | Elizabeth Martin | Becky and Jay Perkinson | Sue Stephens | Robin and Lee Woodard |
| Julie and Warren Hutton | Grace V. Mauney | June and Anthony Pierce | Stella Surratt | Sylvia Woodruff |
| Addie Hymes | Mary and Michael McCandless | Annette and Bill Porter | Charles Taft | Janice and Billy Wooten |
| Itohan Igbiginie | Carroll McCullough | Ramelle and Michael Pulitzer | Susan and Brian Tague | Mona and Wally Wu |
| Sandy and Ted Irvin | Anne and Tom McDowell | Susan and George Ragland | Erin and Eli Tate | Charlene and James Young |
| Ellen and Logan Jackson | Loy and Paul McGill | Beth and Dave Reboussin | Kathleen and Steve Tatter | Lynn and Jeff Young |
| Annie and Gordon Jenkins | Suzette and Tom McLain | Anna Reilly and Matthew Cullinan | Parker and Chris Tegeler | Joy and Jack Van Zandt |
| Melissa Jenkins | Monica and Buddy McSwain | Sallie and Tom Rice | Kathryn and Mark Thompson | Mary and David Zimmer |
| Esharan Monroe-Johnson and Kelvis Johnson | Caroline Mitchell | Flora Richardson | Ann and John Timmons | Ann and Ken Zuhr |
| Nell and Soren Johnson | Robyn Mixon | Lynn and John Roach | Mary Tucker | Anonymous (6) |
| Gizelle and Kenneth Jones | Tonya Monteiro | Vicki and Ed Robins | Bob Turner | |
| Clare and Fred Jordan | Lucy Mooney | Susan and Steve Robinson | Claire and Randall Tuttle | |
| Jean and Jeff Kelly | Mary Lou Moore | Laura and Brad Ross | Molly and David Twine | |
| Liz and Stan Kelly | Sally Morris-Randall and John Shields | Carla Brown Rumph | Mayra and Felipe Villalón | |
| Louise and Jim Kelly | John Shields | Beth and Bert Sanders | Richard Vinson | |
| | Laura Mueller | Catherine and Omar Sanguenza | Emily Uphoff Wade | |
| | Ann Parke Muller | | Bess and Rich Wagner | |
| | Loretta and Hy Muss | | Tim Wagner | |
| | Dee and Jay Myers | | | |



2024 SUPPORTERS

2024 In Honor

All Read Write Spell
Tutors, past and present
Ann Beery (3)
Alex Bohannon
Henri Brown
Diane & Johnny Byrd
Alice Day Clark (2)
Woody Clinard (5)

Becky & Bill Clingman
Becky Clingman (4)
Roberta & Jim Conroy
Carol and John Danforth
Carol Danforth
Forsyth County for
Grade Level Reading (2)
Ellen Gibbs

Chiquita & John Guglielmi
Pete Hellebush (4)
Kristin Kinser
Judith Kuhn
Sarah Lancaster
Mona Lovett
Marshall Marvelli

MaryLou Moore
Judy Mountjoy
Susan Kay Nagel
Patsy Shearin
The Rev. Lucy Strandlund
Susan Tague (2)
Liz Williams

Bet Wilson
Lindley & Mary Ella
Winikoff
Robin Woodard
Jack and Joy Van Zandt

2024 In Memory

Carson Bills
Gray T. Boyette
Sara Bradshaw
Mike Conner
Julius H. Corpening

Henry Buckner
Dennis, Jr.
Ellen Feldman
Daisy Griffith Fowler
Tommy Goodrum (2)

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas
James Kerr
Alice Koontz
John & Margaret Mueller
Dr. Alfredo Pauca (2)

Margie H Pearson
Read Smith (2)
James Y. Spencer
Lamar Taft
Sylvia Tribby

Susan Uphoff
Hortensia Villalon
Elisabeth D. Vinson
Sally Glenn Williams
Edwin G. Wilson



2024 SUPPORTERS

2024 Tutors

Malcom Adside
Colleen Armentrout
JoAnne Augustine
Nan Beck
Donna Bissette
Cory Blalock
Eileen Blancato
Carol Bockman
Rebecca Breeding
Mark Brown
Mary Ellis Brown
Barbara Jean Byington
Diane Byrd
Austin Byrne
Nancy Cannon
Nadine Carmelo
Marjorie Carson
Gail Chavis
Melissa Clendenen
Ann Comtois
Elizabeth Cook
Jessica Course

Carol Danforth
Bob Day
Mary Jane Degnan
Myrna Doernberg
Karen Dorr
Colleen Edwards
Larry Elliott
Katey Estey
Bob Etzel
Emily Etzel
Jeannie Evans
Sara Fox
Jean Fromson
Linda Gauthier
Barbara Gerhard
Nancy Gould
Teddy Grabowski
Jess Hancock
Mimi Harding
Laurie Harlan-White
Laurie Hawley
Pete Hellebush

Pat Helm
Jonathan Hoffman
Sonja Holder
Fred Horton
Eugenia Howard
Melanie Howie
Margaret Hubbard
Karen Hulten
Susan Huneycutt
Itohan Igbiginie
Chris Jackson
Melissa Jenkins
Kathy Johnson
Diedre Jones
Don Kautz
Nancy Keshian
Heidi Krowchuk
Bob Lamont
Darcie Lewis
Serena Li
Robin Lieser
Cody Mazie

Kimberly McGrath
Debbie McIntyre
Kathy McNeil
Tiara Morris
Bonnie Murphy
Tayve Neese
Liz Noland
Nancy Pajewski
Amanda Poonnen
Cathy Powell
Elisa Rainey
Sue Rupp K
irsten Russ
Beth Sanders
Betsy Scott
Ann Secunde
Janie Sineath
Judith Sorg
Steve Sorg
Dack Stackhouse
Kristina Stappas
Dee Strube

Susan Tague
Kathleen Tatter
Nicky Tesh
Christine Thatcher
Julie Townsend
Thatcher Townsend
Robert Ulery
Tim Wagner
Melissa Ward
Suzanna Watkins
Margaret Weaver
Brenda Westhorp
Bobby Whaling
Kent Widle
Brigitte Woloszyn
Margaret Wray
Janet Zehr
David Zimmer
Geraldine Zurek



Volunteer of the Year

Sara Fox is our 2024 Volunteer of the Year! Sara has been a dedicated volunteer for over 10 years. Sara has tutored multiple students and served as Chair of our Advisory Board in 2022. Sara's leadership was instrumental in the evolution of our organization into Love Literacy.

Thank you, Sara!

2024 COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Action4Equity
Bookmarks
Center for Trama
Resilient
Communities

Dewey's Bakery
Flow Subaru
Winston-Salem
Forsyth County
Reading Association

HeadStart
Kaleidium
St. Paul's Episcopal
Church

The Robert Strickland
Family Foundation
The Winston-Salem
Foundation
Twin City Kiwanis Club

Winston-Salem Forsyth
County Schools
Winston-Salem
State University

Forsyth County for Grade-Level Reading Partner Organizations





Love Literacy lives in possibility and practice.

It lives out loud and through action because love is a verb,
and love without work isn't really love at all.

And community without equitable literacy isn't really community at all.

And literacy without every child *embraced* by it, *invited* to be a part of it,
taught how to appreciate it, really isn't providing access at all.

Is it?

Join us:

We need your support in three critical ways to help us scale the work that we do and increase our impact on children.

Amplify our Work Share information with your networks about the current literacy crisis in Forsyth County and how Love Literacy is working to address it. www.loveliteracy.org

Provide Financial Support Each year, Love Literacy invests hundreds of thousands of dollars through our operating budget - all of which comes from individual donations, grants, sponsorships, and in-kind support. With these dollars, Love Literacy tutors children, trains and supports educators and families, and advocates and convenes our community around literacy.

www.loveliteracy.org/donate

Become a Volunteer Tutor Since Love Literacy was founded, we have trained hundreds of tutors who have provided thousands of hours of free, one-on-one tutoring to children across Forsyth County. www.loveliteracy.org/volunteer-tutoring

For the Love of Community,

