

ANNUAL REPORT



Read With Me Volunteers of the Coachella Valley

The greatest good you can do for another is not just share your riches, but reveal to them their own.

—Disraeli

By what measure are the yearnings for a Homeland rooted in a New Land?

go ask the weavers of the spoken word the emissaries who share their joy

of reading with the children of the watered working plains

with lightening rod they bring to ground

the language of the promise an English speaking-way

of understanding the dream that lured the migrant

and the emigrant to an arid place a desert

that harbours deep within its fallow ground

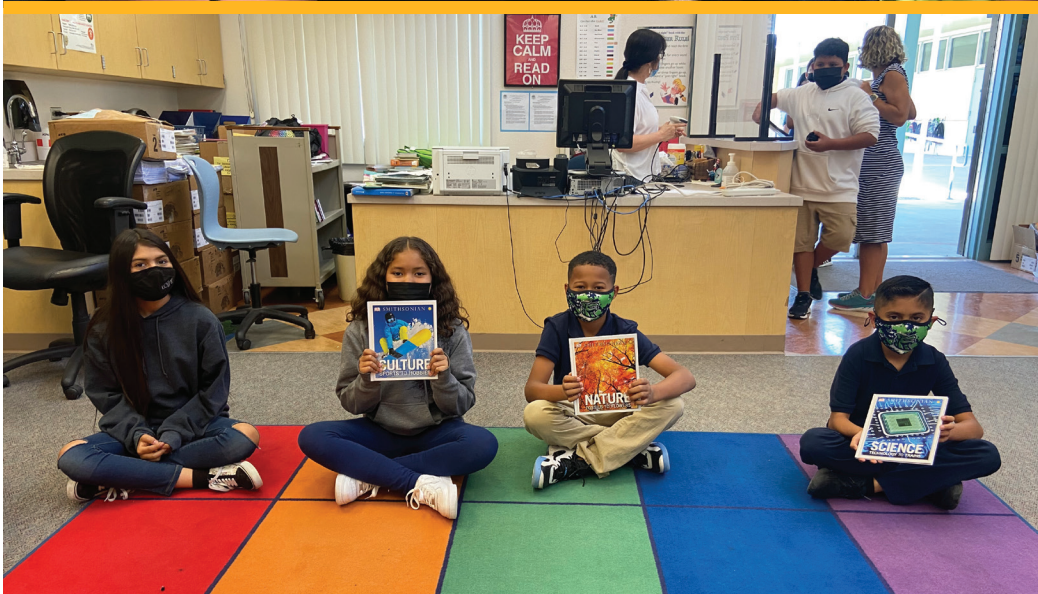
a spring of water sprung to bring to life a water-meadow

seeded in the hope we harvest to meet our common cause.

Mairin Doherty Wordkeeper Poet

A Read With Me Volunteer inspired by the dedication of her fellow Volunteers who read with the migrant/immigrant children of the Coachella Valley, children who inspire us by their determination to learn a new language in their pursuit of an English-speaking education.

Published in the La Quinta Museum Exhibit 2020 *uncertain times creativity amidst pandemic and protest*



MISSION STATEMENT

To assist local children from a low income, limited English speaking environment develop to their fullest potential by learning to read, comprehend and speak English, while understanding that people care about them as individuals.



35,713

BOOKS DONATED



9,318

NUMBER OF STUDENTS WHO RECEIVED BOOKS



\$90,631

BOOKS PURCHASE AMOUNT

2020-2021 READ WITH ME VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS BUDGET

	PROJECTED BUDGET 2021-2022	FYE JUNE 30TH ACTUAL 2020-2021
INCOME		
Grants	175,000.00	62,500.00
Donations	280,950.00	415,033.03
Sub Total Donations	\$455,950.00	\$477,533.03
Earned Interest Income		37.87
Refunds		693.43
TOTAL REVENUE	\$455,950.00	\$478,264.33
Investment Income - YTD 2020		8,742.08
(Schwab Unrealized Gains or Loss & Interest and Dividends)		
EXPENSES		
Accounting Fees	2,500.00	1,315.00
Bank Charges	100.00	64.92
Books	60,000.00	91,076.61
Buses Transportation	97,350.00	0.00
Computer Services	0.00	0.00
Employee Wages	65,000.00	60,000.00
Emergency Funds	0.00	9,509.63
Field Trips	0.00	0.00
Fund Raising Expense	12,000.00	10,134.53
Insurance	6,000.00	4,521.00
Licenses, Permits & Dues	1,500.00	1,470.38
Materials	30,000.00	32,719.99
Meetings & Travel/Meals	3,000.00	3,032.75
Office Expenses	6,500.00	7,777.21
Payroll Expenses	5,000.00	4,835.00
Postage	1,500.00	2,289.24
PR & Marketing	14,000.00	14,116.27
Printing & Stationery	1,000.00	1,034.68
Rent	18,576.00	17,028.00
Software Licenses	8,000.00	10,082.62
Special Events	0.00	22,294.78
Storage	2,400.00	2,400.00
Subcontractors Admin. & Program	75,000.00	82,548.14
Telephone & Internet	3,500.00	3,009.23
Volunteer Appreciation	15,000.00	1,705.29
Volunteer Training	3,024.00	14,221.45
Web Management	0.00	0.00
SUB TOTAL EXPENSES	\$430,950.00	\$397,186.72
Grants to Schools	20,000.00	19,000.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$450,950.00	\$416,186.72



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

An unimaginable year for tutoring. Neither the students nor our well loved volunteers were able to be in the classroom in 14 of our 16 schools. Our usual number of volunteers dwindled from 700 to 200.

Those 200 brave souls learned to tutor via Zoom at the invitation of the teacher with specific children. Rather than tutoring 4,000 students we could only work with 1,000. Training 200 senior citizens to work on Zoom on their own electronic devices was a huge challenge which our staff met beautifully. We trained the volunteers both at our Training Center and remotely, following all CDC guidelines. The students, teachers and volunteers all encountered interrupted internet connections, the background noise of children trying to pay attention when they are at home with other siblings competing for the same connection, pans banging, dogs barking, younger siblings being their own noisy selves. It was brutal.

Nonetheless, the volunteers gave 5,314 hours of their time. Because we could not be with them in person, we bought 35,713 books at a cost of \$90,630 for 9,318 students. The books were creatively distributed at the school often while the children drove by with their parents to pick them up and in some instances at the school library.

This year it appears that our volunteers will be permitted to be back on campus if they are fully vaccinated. We will now have to register them for both the school district and Read With Me, do background checks, match their day of the week and time availability with the needs of a specific school and teacher, and obtain a copy of their vaccination certification. Everyone is looking forward to being together in the classroom.

Many thanks to all our supporters for their time, talent and treasure.

Sincerely,

Roberta Klein

FOUNDER & PRESIDENT
READ WITH ME VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS

LEFT: Roberta Klein and Dr. Gomez with Volunteer of the Year-Mecca Elementary Lynn Baersch and Mr. Bamboo.

RIGHT: Pastor Derek Fossey, Hope Lutheran Church; Patrick Evans News Channel 3, Meteorologist and Host of Eye on the Desert; Dr. Edwin Gomez Riverside County Superintendent of Schools

2021 READ WITH ME BOARD MEMBERS

Roberta Klein

DIRECTOR & PRESIDENT

Jeannie Morris, TREASURER

Clay Klein, SECRETARY

James Clark

Horst Engel

Patrick Evans, CBS KESQ

Dan Giovannitti

Dr. Edwin Gomez

SUPERINTENDENT RIVERSIDE COUNTY
OFFICE OF EDUCATION

Pat Harris

Dr. Luis Valentino

SUPERINTENDENT CVUSD



2021 EMERGENCY FUND

Suddenly not only was there poverty, but there was panic. A young girl died. Dad was out of work, the family had no money for burial expenses. The teacher told us, and we were able to work with another foundation to negotiate and pay the expenses. A teenage girl was homeless and couldn't afford to finish high school. One of our staff who knew her brought her into their own home, we arranged for a counselor and the funds for her books, clothes and an iPad. Now able to follow her dream and go to Cosmetology School with a scholarship. Another family...mother could not find work had to move to Irvine to earn the money for her family, leaving her 20 year old daughter to take care of the younger children but they were being evicted and needed money for back rent. We paid the landlord. Yet another mom had Covid went back to Mexico. Dad and family couldn't see her but needed to make the mortgage payment. We paid it. Several more families couldn't pay utilities. We paid them. Christmas time gave local grocery store gift cards to 145 families. Several more needed a myriad of things, we gave them Walmart gift cards. The teachers were our very reliable source for naming the neediest families. Matching needs with hearts and resources to keep the kids in school. That's our goal, which is consistent with our mission statement.

—HORST ENGEL, EMERGENCY FUND COORDINATOR

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FAMILIES HELPED BY
EMERGENCY FUND



NOTABLE & QUOTABLE

I have so enjoyed, and am enjoying, working with 4th grade kids in Mecca. (Having been a Spanish major in college, I can relate to the challenges of learning another language!) We read not just the assigned reading of the week, but also materials I prepare related to those readings, and material related to current calendar events (e.g., Cinco de Mayo, Women’s History Month)—in the hope that they don’t get bored with the assigned readings and will make connections from the readings in class to the larger world.

—MARY FRANCES STUCK, READ WITH ME VOLUNTEER, MECCA

“Rarely do we ever find in education a program for reading intervention that satisfies students, parents, volunteers, teachers and is, at the same time, an effective and useful program. Read with Me is such a program. We have a host of interventions for reading remediation in Washoe County and none of them is as effective as our Read with Me Volunteer Program. This is not merely my professional opinion, but a verifiable fact. We have three years of empirical data that proves without a doubt that the students who participate in the Read with Me Program grow at a faster rate in reading fluency and comprehension than any other students in the school. It works. Thanks Roberta Klein.”

—STEPHEN WIGGS, READ WITH ME COORDINATOR FOR INCLINE VILLAGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

“This has been the year of years of reading experience with these most resilient 3rd graders. My teacher prepared them well for the zoom sessions. The students did express missing their classmates which relates to us the value of the small group exchange. We’re all anxious to return to the classroom!”

—CLAY KLEIN, VOLUNTEER AND BOARD MEMBER

“The Riverside County Office of Education is honored to partner with Read With Me through a transportation grant to help connect adult volunteers with student readers,” Gomez said. “We personally know the impact and power of the Read With Me Volunteer Programs. These programs make an incredible impact by assisting our students in becoming proficient and capable readers.”

—DR. EDWIN GOMEZ

“Tuesday mornings during the school year are my favorite day of the week because I spend the morning reading with kindergarten students. The children’s smiles shine when they master sight words, learn to spell and write their names, and begin to read a variety of books. At the end of every session, they are rewarded with stickers of all kinds. It is fascinating to see which ones they choose and to hear the stories that surround their selection.

A highlight every year is when Ms. B (their teacher) makes green eggs and ham for snack to celebrate Dr. Seuss’ birthday... simply delicious!”

—MARY ARBUCKLE, INCLINE ELEMENTARY VOLUNTEER

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION

Using volunteers to tutor remotely on Zoom resulted in 33% to 140% student reading progress. This was a significant improvement compared to that of students without a volunteer.

We usually have an in person luncheon to thank all volunteers but that was impossible due to CDC restrictions. Hope Lutheran Church came to our rescue by arranging a video taping of our Volunteer Appreciation for 14 volunteers who were voted by each of their schools as Volunteer of the Year. We were able to host 100 people for coffee and an award presentation at Hope Community Center. The event was broadcast on local CBS KESQ and has a link on our website. We hope to have our usual luncheon on April 7, 2022.

Dr. Josie Paredes, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services CVUSD; Pastor Derek Fossey, Hope Lutheran Church; and Manuela Silvestre, Director of Elementary Education, CVUSD.



VOLUNTEER TRAINING

One of our biggest challenges this year was training our 200 senior citizen volunteers on the intricacies of tutoring via Zoom with individual students. Following all CDC guidelines and with space provided by Southwest Church, Hope Lutheran and at our own training center in Palm Desert plus via remote training we did it. Phew!

Volunteer training at our new office.





FUNDRAISING

We are so very thankful for the financial support from all our donors.

Our sponsoring churches contribute a significant part of our support especially Southwest Church, Sacred Heart, Friendship Church and Hope Lutheran Church.



2020-2021

PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS, VOLUNTEER COORDINATORS & SPONSORS

CATHEDRAL CITY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL – Cathedral City, CA

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Sponsored by Our Lady of Soledad

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Program Director
Sponsored by Joslyn Senior Center

LAS PALMITAS ELEMENTARY – Thermal, CA

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PETER PENDLETON ELEMENTARY – Coachella, CA

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Sponsored by Monterey County Club

INCLINE VILLAGE ELEMENTARY – Incline Village, NV

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Mary Arbuckle
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Sponsored by Village Church, St. Patrick Episcopal & St. Francis of Assisi

MARIPOSA ACADEMY – Reno, NV

Sue Foltz
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Sponsored by St. Francis of Assisi & Montreaux Country Club

READ WITH ME STAFF

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Sherri DeBoer

PROGRAM COORDINATOR
Alena Callimanis

REGISTRATION & COMPUTER TRAINING SPECIALISTS

Rachel Luiz
Amanda de Lara
Judy Hovjacky
Noemi Guitron

DEVELOPMENT MANAGER
Louise Cummings

PR/MEDIA
Deann Lubell

If you are interested in volunteering, call us at 760-567-1830 or send an email to readwithmesd@gmail.com.

2020-2021 READ WITH ME CONTRIBUTIONS

\$50,000 & OVER

Jeannie & Jim Morris
Riverside County Office of Education—Dr. Gomez
\$25,000 – \$49,999
The Auen Foundation
Thomas & Karen Leonardini
John Scott—Omaha Community Foundation
\$15,000 – \$24,999
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The Mickelson Foundation
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WWW.READWITHMEVOLUNTEERS.COM

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Contributor...
Together we can
make a difference.

\$100

Buy 20 books for children to take home and share with their family



\$300

Funds the training of one volunteer to tutor remotely

\$500

Buy equipment for volunteers to tutor children remotely



\$1,000

Funds one-on-one remote volunteer tutoring for three students for a year



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Do please consider including us in your will through your estate plan.