



A YEAR OF



INNOVATION

2019 IMPACT REPORT





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DEAR FRIENDS OF BOOK HARVEST:

2019 was an incredible year of INNOVATION at [Book Harvest](#) – a year in which we spread our wings in new and promising directions.

- **More books that reflect the lives of all children.**
Our community gets it, as is evidenced by stacks of donated diverse and inclusive books!
- **New partnerships with parents.**
Parenting is hard. We listened to parents about where they need support navigating the parenting journey, and we responded with new opportunities to work together.
- **More community places transformed into vibrant informal learning spaces.**
We read stories with children as they waited for their laundry to spin or for their doctors' appointments, and as they visited everyday places in the course of their day.
- **Great conversations about childhood literacy.**
We shared our stories and our model with policymakers and allies across the country – learning from them and building collaborations every stop along the way.

You will find rich and thought-provoking examples – and data – about these innovations in the pages ahead. And you'll read snapshots of the programs that bring these innovations to life.

With you at our side, we continue to dream big. And, as we prepare for our second decade, **the imperative for our big dreams has never been more clear.**

We dream that every child in our midst goes to sleep at night with a bedtime story and a stack of books at his bedside table. And we dream that the work we're doing unlocks opportunity:

- **Individual opportunity** for every little girl or boy to experience language and chatter, ideas and imagination, and a nourishing environment for brain development, starting at BIRTH; and
- **Collective opportunity** for us all to realize the dreams every parent has for every child: a bright future, made possible by equitable access to all the resources they need to pave the way for a lifetime of prosperity.

Working together, we can realize these dreams.

Thank you for joining us on our journey.

Tabitha
Tabitha Blackwell
Chair, Board of Directors

Ginger
Ginger Young
Founder and Executive Director



★ INNOVATION

MORE BOOKS THAT REFLECT THE LIVES OF ALL CHILDREN

In 2019, we redoubled our commitment to “Mirrors and Windows” – to providing and sharing books that portray all children, honoring diverse backgrounds, languages, abilities, and perspectives, and including stories by and about people of color.

Book Harvest’s focus on “Mirrors and Windows” is inspired by the visionary work of Dr. Rudine Sims Bishop. In [a seminal essay](#), she wrote about the value of books that are mirrors for children, reflecting who they are, and books that are windows onto a wider reality beyond their own lived experience:

“Literature transforms human experience and reflects it back to us, and in that reflection we can see our own lives and experiences as part of the larger human experience. Reading, then, becomes a means of self-affirmation, and readers often seek their mirrors in books...When there are enough books available that act as both mirrors and windows for all our children, they will see that we can celebrate both our differences and our similarities, because together they are what makes us all human.”



A sampling of the diverse books we are making available to children in our community.

MARGARET & MIGUEL'S STORY



After many years in the corporate world, Margaret and Miguel Rubiera made the decision to follow their hearts and commit themselves to doing what gave them the deepest fulfillment: serving others. Longtime Habitat for Humanity leaders, they came to Book Harvest in 2016 with an ingenious proposal:

“Don’t all the books you provide need a cozy spot in a child’s home?”

With a troop of Habitat volunteers (affectionately known as “The Geezers”!) along with scrap wood materials from Habitat builds, Margaret and Miguel designed and have been responsible for building 132 bookshelves to date for many of Book Harvest’s family partners. As you can see at right, these bookshelves are treasured by their owners!



★ INNOVATION

NEW PARTNERSHIPS WITH PARENTS

Parents and families are our most important partners. We listen to what they need – and we respond! In 2019, after hearing from parents about the challenges they often face when their young children are ready for Pre-K or kindergarten, we introduced two new partnership offerings for them.

LEARNING THE ROPES

Book Harvest has teamed up with Durham Cooperative Extension to offer Parent and Family Advocacy Support Trainings. In these sessions, parents learn how to engage with schools – including managing teacher conferences, understanding test scores and more – so that the bridge between home and school is easy to cross. Parents celebrate the confidence they feel to support their children's school success.



NAVIGATING THE SYSTEMS

In partnership with our new bilingual Early Childhood Services Navigator Wilmarie Cintron-Tyson (pictured at left), parents access individualized assistance to overcome the barriers they often face to application, enrollment, and involvement in high quality childcare, Pre-K, and kindergarten programs for their children.



TAQUOIA'S STORY



Our partnership with parents begins when their babies are born – just as it did with Taquoia and her daughter Jade in 2013, when Jade was a newborn. During her first five years of motherhood, Taquoia enjoyed regular visits from a Book Babies home visitor who buoyed her innate parenting talents, delivered brand new age-appropriate books for Jade, and modeled ways to fill their time together with engaging language-rich activities.

Jade graduated from Book Babies and entered kindergarten in 2018 – ready to read! And Taquoia? She has taken hold of the confidence and competence she gained! Not only has Taquoia become a PTA leader at Jade's school, she has also started a home-based summer enrichment program for girls.

"I wanted to take all that I learned from Book Babies and pay it forward. So I am working to make a difference over the summer and be a positive role model that my daughter can look up to. My motto: Igniting the dreams of girls and turning them into reality."

Today, Jade is a first grader and an avid reader – and Taquoia is a member of Book Harvest's Speakers' Bureau!

★ INNOVATION

MORE COMMUNITY SPACES FILLED WITH LITERACY



In 2019, Book Harvest transformed everyday places where families spend time into fun, joyful informal learning spaces. Today, locally owned laundromats throughout our community feature storytimes and enrichment activities led by Book Harvest staff!



Children and families in Durham enjoy an abundance of free books, literacy activities, and storytelling during their regular visits to launder their clothes.

In cozy reading corners with child-friendly furnishings and bookshelves brimming with books free for the taking, children and families spend time reading or enjoying literacy activities and selecting books to take home and keep forever. More informal learning spaces are taking shape in barbershops, health clinics, and other community spaces.

ELIAS'S STORY



Three-year-old Elias visits The Wash House in Durham with his dad Carlos and his mom Deja every weekend when they do their laundry. This past fall, he discovered Book Harvest's cozy new reading corner and the weekly storytimes that take place there. Suddenly, the laundromat has become Elias's favorite place to go. Here's how his mom describes it:

"Book Harvest has had such a great impact on Elias's love for reading. My husband and I are both full time workers so Book Harvest has literally become a part of our village when it comes to molding and instilling the love of reading and learning into Elias.

Each night his bedtime routine includes reading three or more books. If this routine is interrupted, he kindly reminds either myself or daddy that he wants a story before he goes to bed.

Laundromat visits on the weekends have been made into a fun activity for him because he knows he gets to pick out new books to take home and keep forever, and he gets to play with the magnetic alphabet board.

The different opportunities that Book Harvest has allowed us to partake in have been a blessing and are a huge help with preparing Elias for school – and for that my family and I are truly grateful."



In the laundromat, literacy is truly a family affair!

★ INNOVATION

CONNECTIONS ACROSS THE CHILDHOOD LITERACY LANDSCAPE

Throughout 2019, Book Harvest staff shared what we are learning about family partnerships, language development, and school success with leaders across North Carolina and around the country. Our ongoing connections with the national Campaign for Grade-Level Reading and National Center for Families Learning, among many others, were complemented by our participation in convenings of many of our valued childhood literacy colleagues.

500+ EDUCATORS, RESEARCHERS AND FUNDERS

Education Partnerships Manager Amy Franks (left) attended the National Summer Learning Association's annual conference in Atlanta and shared information about Books on Break with attendees. She is pictured here with Amanda Hamilton Roos from Springboard Collaborative.



500+ HOME VISITING PROFESSIONALS

The entire Book Babies team participated in the 2019 Infant & Young Child Mental Health & Home Visiting Summit in Greensboro, NC along with their colleagues from around the state to learn together about and share best practices.

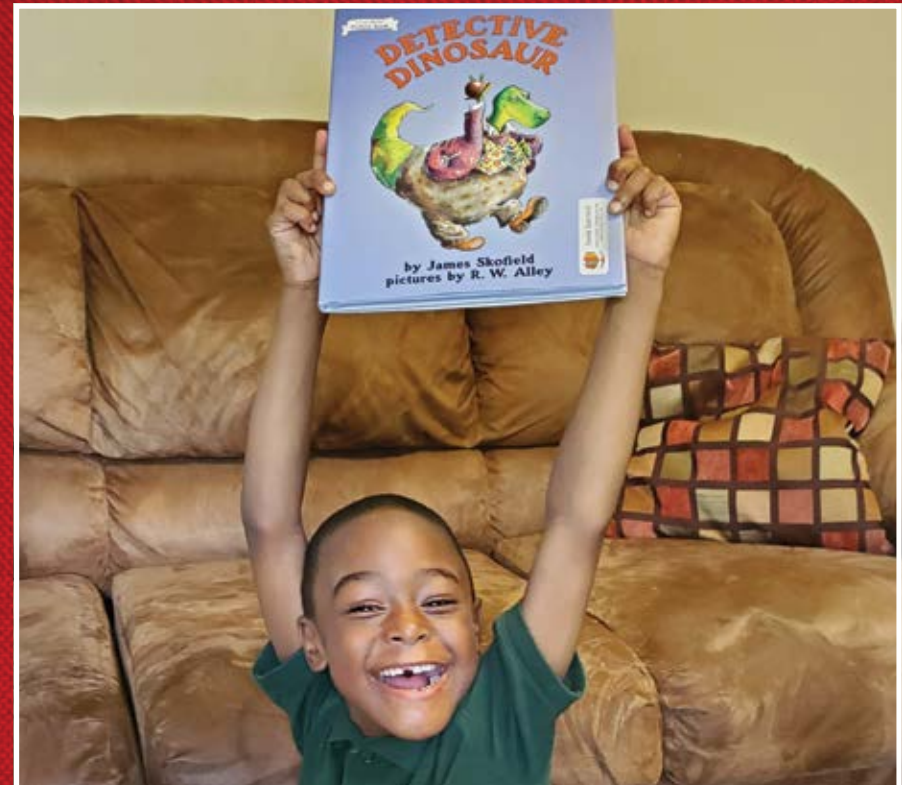


2,900+ EARLY CHILDHOOD PROFESSIONALS

Meytal Barak, Book Babies Team Leader, brought news of preliminary results of the Book Babies randomized control trial evaluation to the national Zero to Three Conference in Miami.



JAIRUS'S STORY



Our connections across the state of North Carolina brought us to Bladen and Columbus Counties in 2019, where schools were flooded after recent hurricanes – some beyond repair. When we arrived on the scene to provide students with the opportunity to select their very own brand new books for their summer vacation reading delight, we met Jairus.

Jairus couldn't go to school for many weeks after 39 inches of rain fell on his hometown of Hallsboro – and when he finally went back, the bookshelves were nearly empty.

Book Harvest's Education Partnerships Manager Amy Franks came to the rescue and packed up hundreds of books to bring to him and his classmates as part of our Books on Break program. She was thrilled to discover that those books – especially ones about dinosaurs – would bring this kindergarten student so much joy!

As Jairus's teacher shared, "Jairus brought back his dinosaur book every day and is apparently sleeping with it!"

PROGRAMS

Book Harvest's four core programs deliver innovation and impact that help children, parents, and families in our community thrive.

PROGRAMS

BOOK BANK

Book Bank ensures that every child owns books.

Book Bank is a network of bookshelves brimming with books free for the taking, putting ready access to books within reach of every child and family. Fueled by volunteers and book donors, Book Bank's free books are strategically located throughout our community. Children choose their very own books to take home to read again and again and to keep forever, building home libraries they love. In 2019, Book Harvest had partnerships with 41 community organizations that displayed 62 bookshelves filled with books. Dedicated volunteers restocked the shelves with nearly 2,500 books every week.



AGES OF CHILDREN REACHED: ALL AGES

124,089 BOOKS PROVIDED

2019 IMPACT SNAPSHOT

BOOKS AND BEYOND

Books and Beyond transforms everyday community spaces into hubs of family literacy. In collaboration with local businesses and partner organizations, Books and Beyond provides storytimes, literacy activities, and, of course, an abundance of Book Bank books in the places children and families regularly visit. In cozy corners of laundromats, health clinics, barbershops, salons, social service offices, and many other spaces, reading has become a family affair!



AGES OF CHILDREN REACHED: ALL AGES

186 STORYTIMES WITH **689** CHILDREN

2019 IMPACT SNAPSHOT

BOOK BABIES

Book Babies helps parents give their children the best start in life.

Book Babies is a five-year partnership with parents that begins at birth, unlocking the brilliance that every child is born with. An evidence-informed series of more than a dozen literacy coaching home visits and provision of 100+ new books over five years, Book Babies works alongside parents to build the early literacy foundation that every child needs as they prepare to start school. In 2019, with a generous grant from the PNC Foundation, we celebrated the graduation of 29 Book Babies – all part of the Book Babies family since they were born in 2014 and all ready to take kindergarten by storm!



AGES OF CHILDREN REACHED: 0-5

646 HOME VISITS

2019 IMPACT SNAPSHOT

BOOKS ON BREAK

Books on Break equips students with books at the start of summer to help them preserve the learning gains they've made over the school year.

Books on Break stages book fairs filled with free books in the media centers of participating elementary schools. Students in grades Pre-K through 5 select books to take home to read over the summer and to keep forever. They also receive a new string backpack to hold their book selections; every backpack is preloaded with information on local summer literacy opportunities and tips for parents on how to keep summer a time of learning. With Books on Break, summer turns into a time for enrichment for every participating student!



AGES OF CHILDREN REACHED: 4-10

16,978 STUDENTS PARTICIPATED

2019 IMPACT SNAPSHOT



2019 BY THE NUMBERS

INNOVATION AND IMPACT



1,257,570

BOOKS HARVESTED BY CHILDREN SINCE 2011!



4,488

BOXES OF
BOOKS PACKED



182

BOOK DRIVES HELD



7,669

VOLUNTEER HOURS
LOGGED



229,940

BOOKS HARVESTED BY
CHILDREN IN 2019



5,518,560

PAGES TURNED



"We want our food pantry to be a place of dignity and hope. Having books for children supports this culture and lets families know we care about their children."



"What we like most about Book Babies are the books and literacy tools given along with them. Parental support is the most awesome part of the home visits."



2,901

FACEBOOK
FOLLOWERS



71

BLOG POSTS



6,334

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
SUBSCRIBERS



101,237

TWITTER
IMPRESSIONS



81,188

WEBSITE
PAGE VIEWS



186

STORYTIMES
IN LAUNDROMATS



\$195,791

VALUE OF
VOLUNTEER HOURS



\$1,389,565

RAISED



630

FINANCIAL DONORS



76

DREAM BIG SPONSORS



16,978

STUDENTS CHOSE
BOOKS TO ENJOY OVER
THE SUMMER



93%

OF TEACHERS AGREED THAT
BOOKS ON BREAK HELPS
STUDENTS RETAIN SKILLS
OVER THE SUMMER



"The Books on Break days are two of my favorite days of the year – pure joy! Our students leave happy and families feel supported. The gift of books is timeless and has a ripple effect for our students."



"I had the most amazing experience reading books with my son. Book after book after book. It was like a vocabulary explosion was happening as we pointed to animals and named them – all at the laundromat. Incredible!"



45

SCHOOLS PARTICIPATED
IN BOOKS ON BREAK



856

THANK YOU LETTERS
RECEIVED FROM
YOUNG READERS



41

COMMUNITY PARTNERS
HOSTED 62 BOOK BANK
BOOKSHELVES



29

BOOK BABIES
GRADUATED AND STARTED KIN-
DERGARTEN



52%

INCREASE IN NUMBER
OF BOOK BABIES
ENROLLED IN PRE-K



69%

OF BOOK BABIES
FAMILIES READ EVERY DAY
WITH THEIR CHILDREN



94%

OF FAMILIES FOUND
HOME VISITING
VERY HELPFUL



646

HOME VISITS TO
314 BOOK BABIES

DONORS

Book Harvest pays tribute to the many individuals, organizations, foundations, corporations, and government entities that supported our work in 2019.

★ BIBLIOPHILES: \$10,000+

Bastian Family Charitable Foundation
Joe and Diane Bastian
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★ ARCHIVISTS:
\$5,000 - \$9,999

Bertsch Family Charitable Foundation, Inc.
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★ SCHOLARS: \$2,500 - \$4,999

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★ AVID READERS:
\$1,000 - \$2,499

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★ PAGE TURNERS: \$500 - \$999

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Cheryl Wolfe

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Barriskill Dance Theatre School
Valerie Bateman
Beacon Light Missionary

Baptist Church
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Andrea Griffith Cash
Cisco Foundation
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Nikki Dahi
Sueyoung Dalan
Davie Poplar Chapter NSDAR
Discovery Child Development Center
Duke Memorial Methodist Church
Durham Chapter of Links, Inc.
Durham Lions Club
Durham Pediatric Dentistry and Orthodontics
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2019 DREAM BIG BOOK DRIVE AND COMMUNITY CELEBRATION!



More than 600 community members joined us on a cold January morning and donated 44,092 books! A special thanks to the 76 generous sponsors of our 2019 MLK Day Dream Big Book Drive and Community Celebration.

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2019 FINANCIALS AT-A-GLANCE

CASH REVENUE

Foundations	\$546,396	39%
Individuals	\$494,033	36%
Government	\$153,682	11%
Sponsorships	\$112,938	8%
Businesses	\$55,000	4%
Other	\$27,516	2%

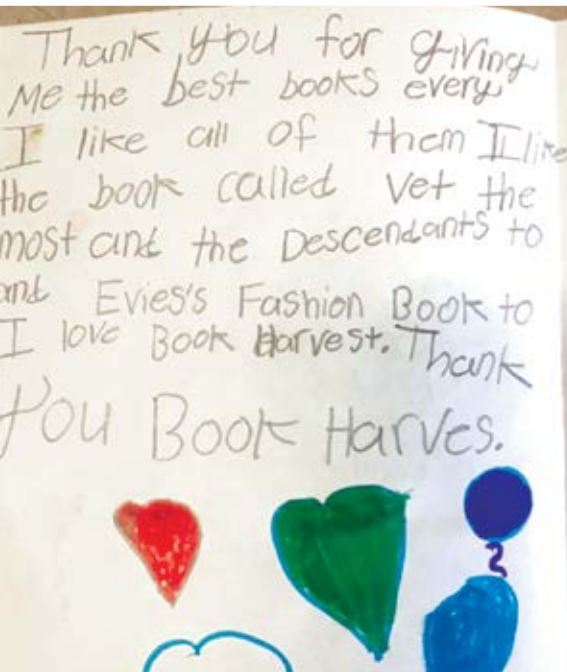
TOTAL \$1,389,566

CASH EXPENSE

Book Babies	\$498,415	38%
Books on Break	\$213,827	16%
Book Bank	\$132,395	10%
Administrative	\$119,618	9%
Fundraising	\$101,619	7%
Books and Beyond	\$87,097	7%
Events	\$76,888	6%
Communications	\$68,633	5%
Special Initiatives	\$23,674	2%

TOTAL \$1,322,166*

*Unaudited figures; audit available upon request.



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We envision a world in which reading, learning, and access to information are considered rights, not privileges, so that all children thrive.

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