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REACH OUT AND READ INVESTS \$500K+ IN LOCAL COMMUNITIES TO STRENGTHEN EARLY LITERACY AND RELATIONSHIPS

The \$508,500 investment, part of an \$8M donation from philanthropist MacKenzie Scott, will be allocated to 10 Reach Out and Read Affiliates across the country

BOSTON (April 7, 2025) - [Reach Out and Read](#), a national nonprofit leading the charge in promoting early childhood literacy and healthy early relationships, is proud to announce a \$508,500 investment in local communities nationwide. This funding is part of a larger \$8 million donation from philanthropist MacKenzie Scott, designed to expand and enhance initiatives fostering early literacy and family relationships across the country. The funds will support 10 Reach Out and Read Affiliates, empowering them to provide even more children with the tools they need for a strong start in life. In FY24, Reach Out and Read served more than 4.6 million children, with 39,000 dedicated clinicians sharing books and essential literacy guidance during well-child visits. These new investments are designed to amplify the organization's reach, ensuring more families have access to the critical resources needed for early childhood development.

Reach Out and Read Affiliates play an instrumental role in shaping the early learning experience for millions of young children, from birth to age 5. The initiatives funded by this investment will both enhance work already being done in these geographies and expand services in key regions. This is part of a broader commitment by Reach Out and Read to grow its program, with over \$1.5 million of Scott's donation already allocated to strengthening the network.

"Local Affiliates are the backbone of our work, ensuring parents have the support and resources to build family connections and spark lifelong learning in their children," said Erin Henry, Reach Out and Read's Interim CEO and Chief Development Officer. "This investment allows us to scale our efforts and meet community needs, reinforcing our goal to provide every child with a strong foundation for success. We are deeply grateful for MacKenzie Scott's support, which enables us to empower families nationwide."

The \$508,500 investment will fund projects aimed at expanding and enhancing services in the following regions:

- Arizona: Launching a monthly donor program; \$50,000
- Delaware: Building community partnerships, resources, and education; \$47,500

- Georgia: Expanding community reach and well-child visits; \$48,000
- Florida: Strengthening policy and advocacy; \$50,000
- Illinois: Supporting organizational growth; \$50,000
- Indiana: Increasing staff capacity for growth; \$60,000
- Kansas City: Building partnerships with Head Start; \$55,000
- Michigan: Fundraising and expansion into East Michigan; \$48,000
- Oklahoma: Increasing brand awareness; \$40,000
- San Diego: Expanding program growth; \$60,000

“As a pediatrician, I’ve witnessed firsthand the impact Reach Out and Read has on children and families,” said Reach Out and Read Board Chair Trude Haecker. “Each interaction we have is an opportunity to nurture a child’s potential and reinforce the loving bond between parent and child. Every book we give helps create a foundation for shared learning and moments that matter.”

Across all 50 states, Reach Out and Read and its Affiliates are revolutionizing pediatric care and offering crucial resources to help families lay strong foundations for their young children. Using Scott’s transformative gift to invest in local communities is part of Reach Out and Read’s long-term strategy to grow with quality nationwide.

In FY24, Reach Out and Read provided 7.7 million free books across 9.3 million well-child visits. Nearly two-thirds of the children served are from low-income families.

To learn more about Reach Out and Read and the programs offered, go to ReachOutAndRead.org.

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About Reach Out and Read: As a 501(c)3 nonprofit, Reach Out and Read leverages the near-universal reach of the pediatric well-child visit to support caregivers in fostering healthy relationships with their young children through shared reading. In FY24, Reach Out and Read served more than 4.6 million children and provided 7.7 million free books across 9.3 million well-child visits. Around 70 percent of the children Reach Out and Read serves are from low-income families. The only national pediatric literacy model endorsed by the American Academy of Pediatrics, Reach Out and Read serves children in every state across the U.S., through 6,500 clinics and the expertise of 39,000 clinicians. Recent research in a [peer-reviewed study published in Academic Pediatrics](#) confirms the program’s effectiveness in increasing the frequency of parental reading, which builds early language and literacy skills and strengthens family relationships.