



Kristi Yamaguchi's
ALWAYS DREAM

Impact Report 2025-26

Stories That Inspire.



Stories That Last.



DEAR FRIENDS,

As we reflect on the stories that have inspired us over the past 30 years, I find myself thinking back to my own childhood.

Before I stepped onto the ice, I was a little girl discovering the world through books.

Reading introduced me to dreams bigger than the ones I could see around me. I imagine many of you have memories like that too — a favorite bedtime story or the comfort of reading with a caring adult.

Those moments shape us in ways we often don't realize. That's why family reading is at the heart of our work. When families read together, they build literacy skills, of course, but also confidence, connection, and a lifelong love of learning. Because of your support, thousands of children and families across our partner schools in Northern California and Hawai'i are creating those moments together today.

In this report, you'll see stories of growth, discovery, and joy that remind us every child deserves the opportunity to dream. Thank you for being part of our story over the past 30 years. Together, we're creating stories that inspire today and stories that will last for generations to come.

With gratitude,

Kristi Yamaguchi

Kristi Yamaguchi,
Founder & Board Chair



MEET OUR BOOK COACHES!



TERRIE TOGAFAU-TARPLEY

*Lead Family Literacy
Book Coach, Hawai'i*

FAVORITE BOOK

The Taste of Blackberries
by Doris Buchanan



← Look for these boxes throughout the report to get to know our Book Coaches!

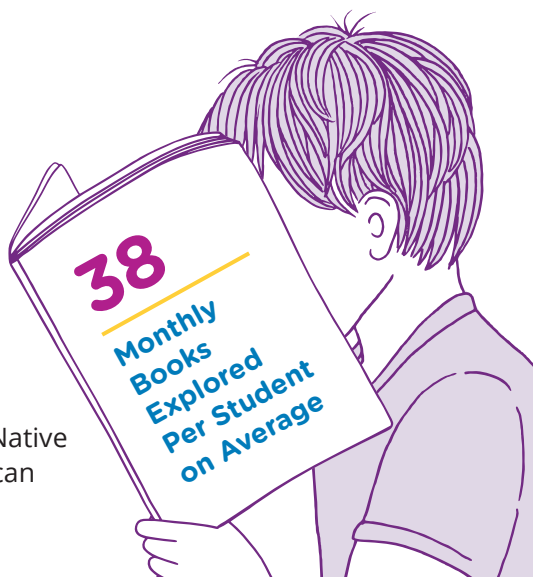


"I love celebrating student reading success over the school year. Seeing the sheer number of books they collectively read throughout the year was amazing!"

- Partner Teacher, Hawai'i

DEMOGRAPHICS

- 31% Hispanic/Latinx
- 21% Asian
- 20% Native Hawaiian
- 9% Other Pacific Islander
- 6% White
- 4% Black or African American
- 4% Other
- 4% Prefer Not to Answer
- 1% American Indian or Alaskan Native
- 0% Middle Eastern or North African



WHY FAMILY READING MATTERS

Children who arrive at school ready to learn are more likely to read proficiently, graduate on time, and pursue opportunities throughout their lives. One of the most powerful ways to build that foundation is also one of the simplest: **reading together**.

Reading just one book a day exposes a child to more than 78,000 words each year. But the benefits of shared reading extend far beyond vocabulary.

We believe families are a child's first and most important teachers, and many caregivers, especially those in under-resourced communities, face barriers including limited time, access to books, or confidence in supporting literacy at home. **Always Reading** helps families overcome those barriers so they can experience the lasting benefits of reading together.



Since participating in Always Reading...

98%

of caregivers see themselves as important in creating reading routines

85%

of caregivers report their child asks to be read to more often



JEN SPENCER

Family Literacy Book Coach, Hawai'i

FAVORITE BOOK *Harold and the Purple Crayon*
by Crockett Johnson

BENEFITS OF SHARED READING:



Builds social-emotional competence



Creates moments of connection



Supports cognitive development

"The best part about the program is giving access to families that otherwise wouldn't be able to afford it. Being able to use a tablet that gives us access to such a huge amount of ebooks is an invaluable gift."

- Caregiver, Vallejo Mill Elementary



THE ALWAYS READING JOURNEY

Through books, technology, personalized support, and evidence-based curriculum, families of pre-K, transitional kindergarten, and kindergarten students gain the tools they need to build reading routines at home. Here's what that journey looks like.

STEP 1:

Meet Your Always Reading Book Coach

Every Always Reading family is paired with a dedicated Book Coach who provides encouragement, guidance, and practical literacy tips throughout the school year.

Welcome to Always Reading! ✨ We will send you ideas and easy tips to help you read books aloud with your child. Watch for texts each Tuesday and Thursday afternoon.



SOFIA CASTAÑEDA

Family Literacy Book Coach, California

FAVORITE BOOK

Giraffes Can't Dance
by Giles Andreae

STEP 2:

Build Your Home Library

Families receive a tablet and digital library of 40,000+ engaging books, culturally relevant stories, and hard-copy books that make reading possible anytime, anywhere.



of caregivers report their child looks at books more times per week with them since participating in Always Reading



STEP 3: Learn... Together!

Always Reading leads families through our curriculum, providing tools, tips, and encouragement for at-home reading.

Module 1: Picture Walking

Children use **illustrations** to make predictions and build understanding before even reading the words.



Module 2: Asking Questions

Questions help children stay engaged, think critically, and connect more deeply with stories.



Module 3: Making Meaning

Reflection helps children build comprehension and connect stories to their own experiences.



95%

of caregivers report using the strategies taught to them in the Always Reading program

THE ALWAYS READING DIFFERENCE

Many literacy programs focus on children, but Always Reading focuses on **families**. Through Book Coach support, access to books, and research-based literacy practices, caregivers become confident partners in their child's learning.

THE HEART OF OUR WORK: ALWAYS DREAM BOOK COACHES

At the heart of Always Reading is a person. Our Book Coaches are former teachers, early childhood educators, and social workers who bring both professional expertise and a deep understanding of the communities and families we serve.

Book Coaches help families turn book access into a lasting reading habit. By meeting families where they are, they build genuine relationships with caregivers and provide individualized support each step of the way.

Book Coaches also partner with teachers, sharing reading data and connecting classroom learning with at-home reading experiences. We bridge the gap between school and home, and help create a circle of support around each child.





VALDEANE ODACHI

Family Literacy Book Coach, Hawai'i

FAVORITE BOOK *Moo, Baa, Lalala*
by Sandra Boynton

16,879

**family support
touchpoints by our
Book Coaches this year**

Hi there, Aiden achieved the Super Reader goal this month! Great job!

Thanks, Ms. Val! Aiden's love of reading has united us as a family together with incorporating reading somewhere in our busy day daily 🧡

90%

of caregivers report they found their Book Coach to be a valuable part of the program

97%

of principals and teachers report that their Book Coach was valuable in supporting parent engagement goals



SARA CARRILLO

Family Literacy Book Coach, California

FAVORITE BOOK
The Napping House
by Audry Wood

"This program helped me hold myself accountable to read with my daughter. And it gave us activity time that we spent together."

- Caregiver, Hazel Strauch Elementary



TURNING PAGES TOGETHER

Families are a child's first and most important teachers. When caregivers have access to our Always Reading program, reading becomes a shared family experience that strengthens literacy, confidence, and connection.

KELVIN'S STORY

After our Book Coach learned about Kelvin's interests through conversations with his mother, she created personalized book collections on the digital library just for him. Soon, mother and son were reading together, exploring new topics, and even building a volcano inspired by a book they discovered on the digital library. What began as reading practice became quality time spent learning side by side.



Since participating in Always Reading...

86%

of caregivers say
the books they read
were relevant to
their family's culture,
experiences, or needs

91%

of caregivers feel
better able to help
their child develop a
love of reading

*"I barely used to read with my kids.
Now with the tablet, it was more
encouraging for both me and my kids!"*

- Caregiver, Nānāikapono Elementary



READING IS CONTAGIOUS!



When Markham Elementary School joined Always Reading this year, reading was slow to take off. In September, only one kindergarten student was reading regularly at home on the tablet.

Working alongside the classroom teacher, Book Coach Chara helped families build reading routines, celebrate milestones, and stay engaged throughout the year. Gradually, something began to change.

Students began sharing favorite books and characters, retelling stories, and inspiring one another to keep reading. By spring, 18 of the class's 24 students were reading regularly at home.

At the end-of-year celebration, the students had read over 29,000 minutes on their digital libraries and received new hard-copy books — which they proudly showed off to their families!



CHARA RODRIGUES

*Family Literacy Book
Coach, California*

FAVORITE BOOK

Wemberly Worried
by Kevin Henkes

*“What began
as a slow start
transformed into a
classroom filled with
confident readers,
imaginative thinkers,
and students excited
to learn and dream
about their futures.”*

- Chara Rodrigues



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Thank you for helping children and families discover the joy of reading together. Your support builds confidence, sparks imagination, and opens doors to opportunity — one story at a time.

**DONATE
TODAY**



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