Reading Ready Pittsburgh
is a non-profit organization supporting the healthy development of young children by increasing access to books and by encouraging significant family engagement through reading.
Thank you for making these first two years of Reading Ready Pittsburgh such a success. I am so proud to be able to write a letter for our very first Impact Report. From the beginning, our story was simple – we wanted to get books into the hands of parents and their young children to help support parent engagement around early reading. Reading Ready Pittsburgh has grown over the past two years in size and programming. After beginning in Homestead and surrounding areas, we have “crossed the bridge” and are now beginning to support families in Braddock and nearby communities. Our efforts have continued to be focused in the Mon Valley.

I am constantly astounded by the level of generosity Reading Ready Pittsburgh receives from community partners, schools, childcare programs, churches, volunteers, and individuals in the community. I am excited by the dedicated parents who invest so much energy into their children’s future using the books and resources Reading Ready Pittsburgh has provided. I consider it an honor to take this time to say THANK YOU to the parents, childcare providers, and community members like you. You are the heroes of this story!

Mary Denison, PhD
With support from grants and donations, Reading Ready Pittsburgh was able to quickly take steps to assist with the literacy needs of children in the Mon Valley by delivering books to food distribution points, providing Child Care programs with new books for children to add to their home libraries, and collaborating with schools to deliver Super Summer Book Bags to assist with Kindergarten Readiness.

- **1,694** New + Used Books
- **137** Summer Book Bags
- **844** New books with Parent Tip Sheets to Child Care programs
- **100%** of our parents read our books to their kids
- **98%** of our parents read our books to their kids multiple times
- **98%** of our parents felt that receiving a new book each week encouraged them to share books with their kids more often
- **89%** of our parents read our books to their kids
- **84%** of our parents strongly agree that books received from Reading Ready Pgh supported positive interactions during the pandemic
Supporting early literacy efforts in the Mon Valley through:

1. Raising A Reader
2. Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library
3. Little Giveaway Libraries

Income
- Donated Goods & Services
- Private Donations
- Foundation/Institution Grants

Expenses
- Fundraising: $57,012 (2019), $102,126 (2020)
- Program Services: $102,126 (2020)
RAR book bags in rotation

4 books in each book bag

1128 books regularly rotated among families each week in the Mon Valley

Partnering Childcare Sites

7 Allegheny Intermediate Unit classrooms
(5 Head Start, 1 PreK Counts, 1 Early Head Start)
Learning and Educational Daycare
MUSA’s Little Lambs • Douglas Academy
Sister I Need You Learning Center
Angels’ Place • Jamie Miller Home Day Care
Splash of Learning
The Day School at The Children’s Institute

Affiliate Leadership Award
Visionary Implementation of the Raising A Reader model
2019
Through Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library, Reading Ready Pittsburgh works to increase access to high-quality books for children from birth to age 5.

- We are “Local Champions” for: 15120, 15104, 15112, 15145

Children receiving books: 426

Total books mailed beginning June 2020: 1,894
Thanks to our generous book donors from all over the Pittsburgh area, we have collected and redistributed over 5000 gently-used children's books through our 4 Little Giveaway Libraries:

- Homestead Community Garden on 7th Ave & Amity St.
- COG Building in Homestead
- Inside the Laundromat at 212 E 8th Ave in Homestead.
- Angel’s Place on Woodstock St. in Swissvale.

Sam is an Eagle Scout who attends Pittsburgh SciTech. He chose building Little Libraries as his Eagle Scout project because of his love for learning and helping others.

Dan works with his parents Sam and Diana to fill our Little Giveaway Libraries.
Financial Support
Campbell Educational and Community Foundation • Carnegie Library of Homestead • Children’s Fund North Hills Unitarian Church • Child Health Association of Sewickley • First Unitarian Church • Grable Foundation • PNC Charitable Trusts
Pendyala Family Foundation at Pittsburgh Foundation • Posner Foundation of Pittsburgh

Community Partnerships
Braddock Carnegie Library • Carnegie Library of Homestead • For Good PGH • Jefferson Regional Foundation • Propel Braddock Hills
Propel Homestead • Rainbow Kitchen • Salvation Army • Steel Valley Council of Governments • Steel Valley Family Center • Steel Valley Public Schools • Steel Valley Roasters

Donors
Anonymous • Sue Abramson • Cecile Anater • Stewart and Deb Anderson • Judith Aracich • Peter and Helene Argentine • Marc Barr • Kathleen Barr • Cynthia Berger • Nancy Bernstein
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Volunteers
Christine and Joe Bettinger • Daniel Chetlin- technical supports • Nicki Dembski- videography • Justine Mark- technical supports • Sam, Dan, and Diana Robinson - book distribution • Bowen Schmidt - Little Library design • Hannah Somers - website development • Karen Lynne Williams - guest author • Randi Voss - photography • Sam Senkowicz - Little Library Carpentry

In-kind Book Donations
Amy Kellman • Carnegie Free Library of Swissvale • CC Mellor Memorial Library • Heather Masterson Jessica Sunday and her Wexford Brownie Troop • Karen Lynn Williams • Naomi Weisberg Siegel • OneBook - North Allegheny High School

www.readingreadypittsburgh.org • PO Box 81111 Pittsburgh PA 15217 •
Ranada Estes first met Mary Denison at MUSA’s Little Lambs where Ranada was a childcare professional. At the time, Ranada had a 3 year old son who attended Learning and Educational Daycare, a nearby childcare provider. In preparation for Little Lambs’ implementation of Raising A Reader, Mary presented a training for the staff which Ranada attended. Ranada was moved by the message about the importance of early reading. She asked many questions and suggested Mary contact Learning and Educational Daycare (L&E). Soon, Raising A Reader was offered at L&E and Ranada’s son, Sean, was carrying his own Raising A Reader book bag home each week. Reading together each night at home quickly became a part of Ranada and Sean’s routine. Ranada no longer works at Little Lambs or has a preschool age child, but she is still involved in Reading Ready Pittsburgh. Now she is a Board Member! She says, “Reading to my son is special every day and I know how important reading is to his development.” She hopes serving on the board will help other parents have the same positive experience she has had.

See a short video of Ranada telling her own story on our website.

Want to help? Here is how to get involved:

Read in a classroom
Organize a book drive
Donate books
Support our work financially

www.readingreadypittsburgh.org