

READINGPALS STATEWIDE ANNUAL REPORT

2017-2018, YEAR SIX



MENTOR TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE



ReadingPals

READINGPALS

M E N T O R T O M A K E A D I F F E R E N C E

ReadingPals is a **statewide early literacy initiative** that provides **volunteer mentors** for **students** from Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) to 3rd grade who may need extra help, utilizing **one-on-one** or **small group** settings.



To build **strong, safe and impactful mentorships** with our students, we ask our volunteers to commit **1 hour/week** for **25 weeks**, undergo a Level 1 minimum **background screening** and attend a local **training session**.

WHY IT MATTERS

45% of children in Florida are not ready for Kindergarten¹ and 43% of Florida students cannot read at a minimally proficient level by the end of third grade.² Additionally, studies show that children with mentors are more confident and have fewer behavioral problems.³ Early intervention and individualized attention gives students the best likelihood of success.

OUR MISSION

1

To build genuine, impactful relationships between students and our volunteer mentors.

2

To improve students' understanding of the fundamental building blocks of early literacy.

3

To help students build a strong social-emotional foundation through self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills and responsible decision-making.

OUR HISTORY

In early 2011, Carol and Barney Barnett and Publix Super Markets Charities generously offered to fund the creation and implementation of a volunteer-based early literacy initiative. The Children's Movement of Florida was asked to design and oversee the statewide effort -- partnering with local United Ways to launch ReadingPals in 10 Florida regions. Together, we all continue to work towards making a difference in the lives of thousands of children in Florida every year.

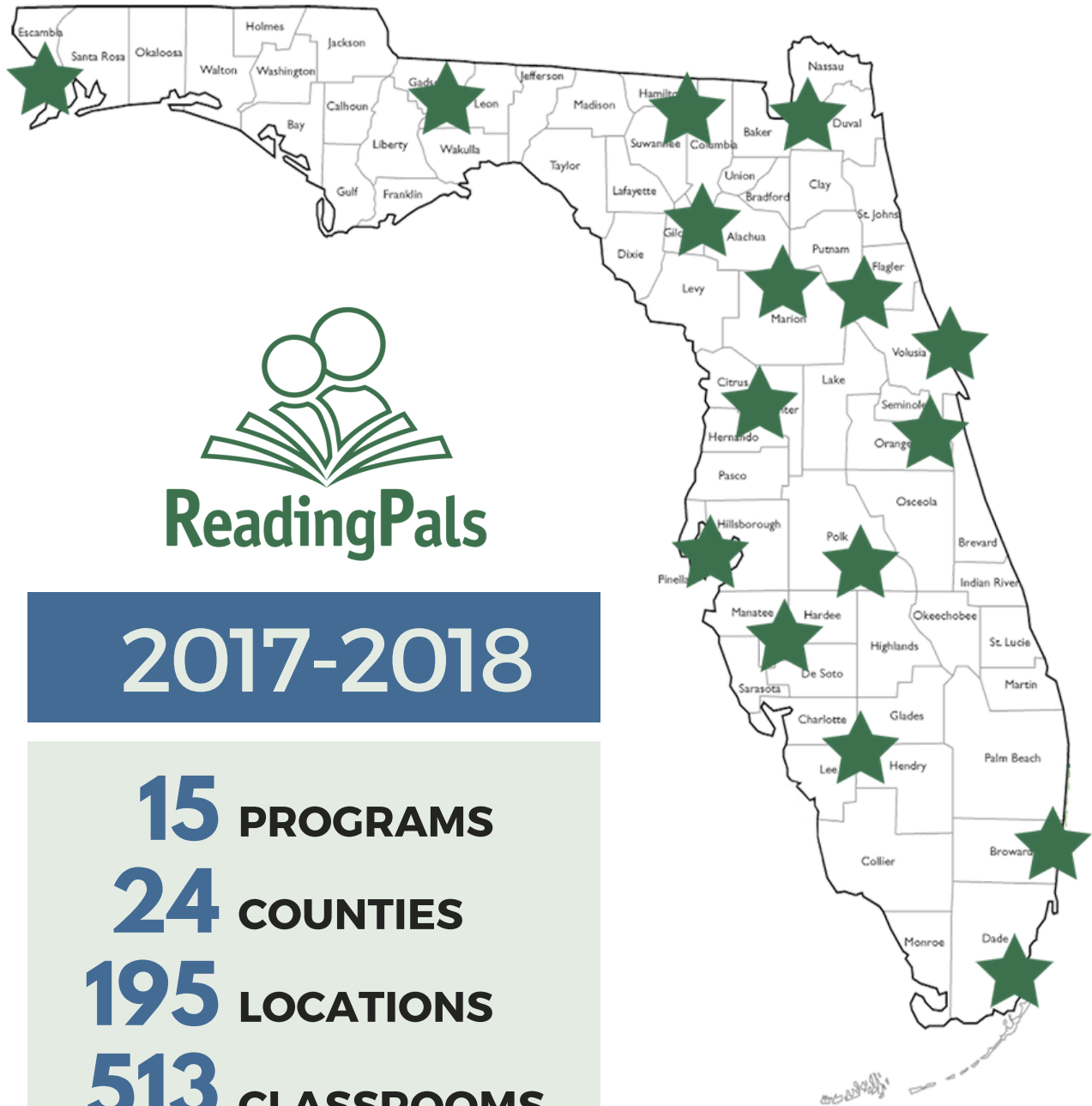
1. Florida Office of Early Learning (2018)

2. Florida Department of Education (2018)

3. Big Brothers Big Sisters of Canada (2013)

OUR REACH

OUR PRESENCE SPANS ACROSS THE STATE



OUR PROGRAMS

OUR READINGPALS COMMUNITIES ACROSS FLORIDA IN 2017-2018



Heart of Florida United Way



United Way of the Big Bend



United Way of Broward County



United Way
of Central Florida



United Way of Citrus County



United Way
of Escambia County



United Way of Lee, Hendry,
Glades, and Okeechobee



United Way of Marion County



United Way of Miami-Dade



United Way
of North Central Florida



United Way
of Northeast Florida



United Way Suncoast



United Way of
Suwannee Valley



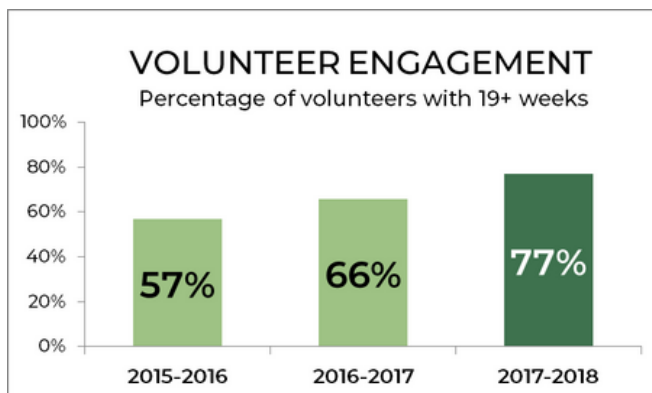
Volusia-Flagler Counties





OUR VOLUNTEERS

OUR VOLUNTEERS ARE MORE ENGAGED THAN EVER



2,205 VOLUNTEERS

A **strong, engaged volunteer base** throughout the entire school year is key to our success. 2,200+ volunteers were **matched** with 1-3 students.

Every year, we aim to bring back **at least 40%** of our ReadingPals volunteers. **52%** of our volunteers last year returned for another year -- our **highest return rate ever**.

52% VOLUNTEER RETENTION RATE

31% OF VOLUNTEERS 3+ YEARS IN PROGRAM

We ask for a 1-year commitment from our volunteers -- but nearly **1/3** of our volunteers have participated for **3-6 years!**

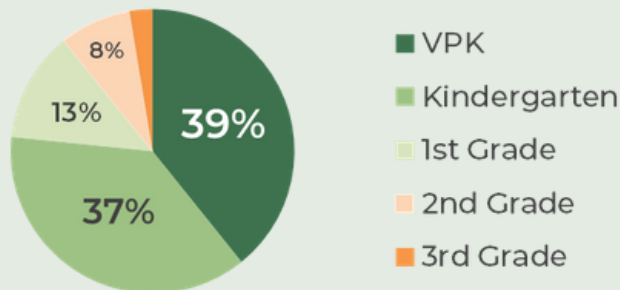
OUR STUDENTS

OUR GOAL IS TO REACH STUDENTS IN THE EARLY YEARS

3,060
STUDENTS

We worked with students in **195 locations** -- including private childcare centers, public schools and after-school programs. The more volunteers we have, the more students we can serve.

PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS PER GRADE
2017-2018



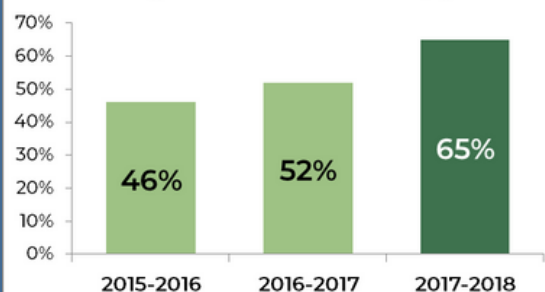
STARTING EARLY

Local programs choose their grade(s) of focus. The majority of our programs opt to work with **VPK** and **Kindergarten** students.

We measure **student engagement** by tracking the hours spent between students and volunteers. **19+ hours** is equivalent to completing 75% or more of the program.

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

Percentage of Students with 19+ Hours, by Year



OUR IMPACT

BUILDING A LOVE OF READING THROUGH STRONG MENTORSHIPS

63,327
TAKE-HOME BOOKS
IN 2017-2018

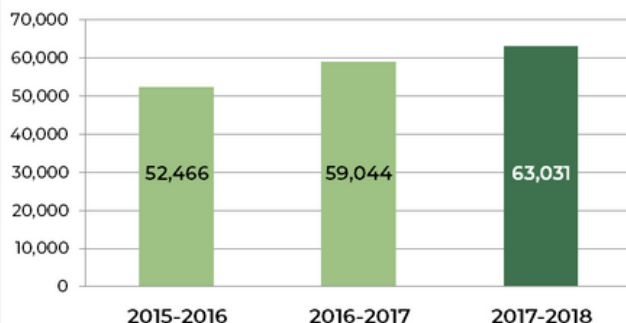
Beyond our student data, we also **measure our impact** in other tangible ways. We aim to help build or expand **home libraries** for our ReadingPals students. On average, our students receive **18 take-home books per year**.

CURRICULUM

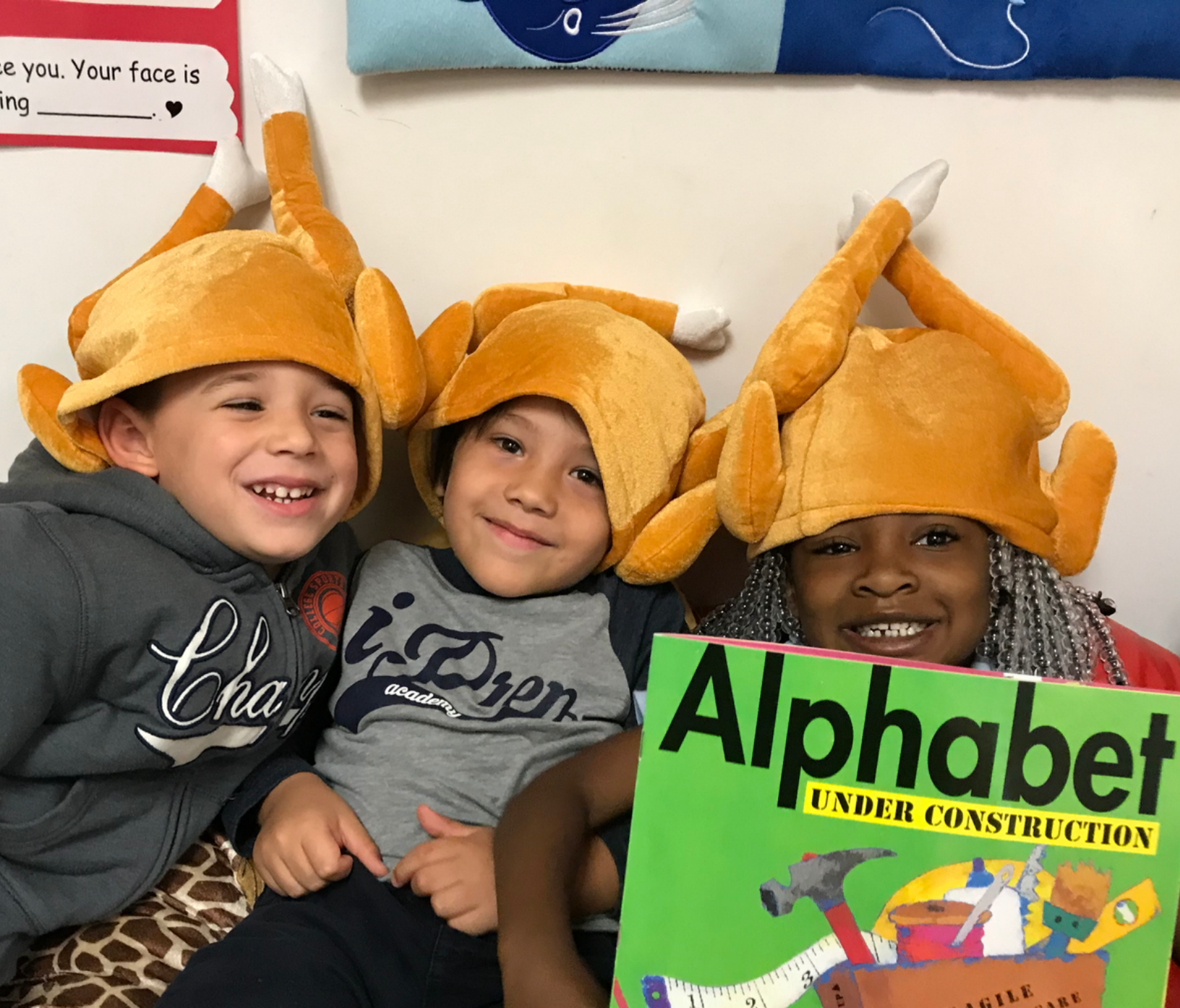
Since we focus on five different grade levels from **VPK-3rd grade**, our curricula varies between communities. Each program has the choice to **custom-design** a curriculum, or purchase an **out-of-the-box curriculum** -- all with the input and approval of each local school district and community partners.



TOTAL HOURS OF READINGPALS TIME



A strong **mentorship** requires **consistent time** between our students and our volunteers. Our ReadingPals time has **improved every year** by working closely with our volunteers, school staff and leadership.



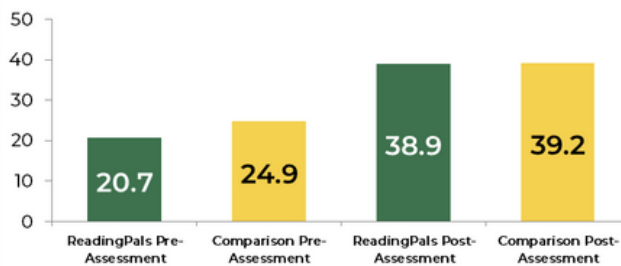
OUR PROGRESS

OUR VPK CASE STUDY DEMONSTRATES THE IMPACT OF READINGPALS

2017-2018 VPK ASSESSMENT

Sum of Reading Scores, Weighted

ReadingPals (n=1,033) vs. Comparison (n=747)



All of our programs track **reading ability** through **assessments** at the beginning and end of the school year for **ReadingPals students** and **local comparison groups**. Data is reported by grade level -- with our largest sample size in **VPK**.

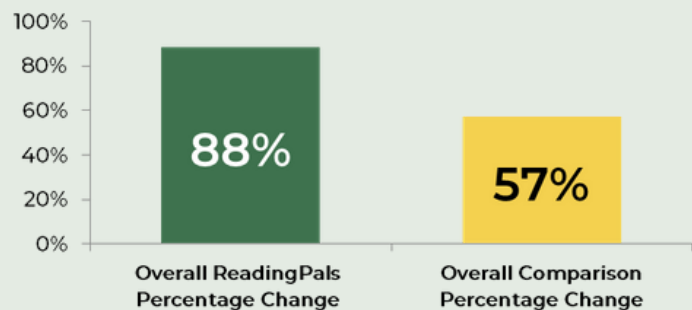
GROWTH

ReadingPals VPK students **improved** at a **faster rate** than our comparison groups. This mirrors **our mission** of working with students who may need a little extra help to **catch up** to their peers.

2017-2018 VPK ASSESSMENT

Average Percentage Change, Weighted

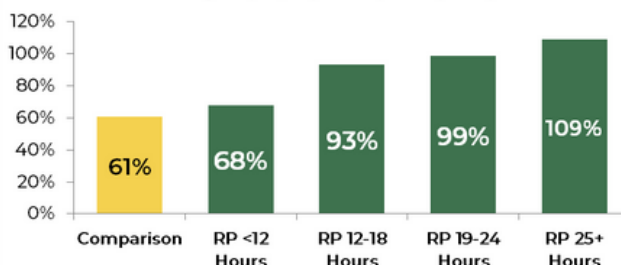
ReadingPals (n=1,033) vs. Comparison (n=747)



2017-2018 VPK ASSESSMENT

Average Percentage Change by Hours, Weighted

ReadingPals (n=1,033) vs. Comparison (n=747)



Overall, we found a **positive correlation** between **increased reading time** with our VPK students and **improved VPK Assessment reading scores**.

OUR TEAM

6th Annual End-of-Year Conference, 2017-2018



Pictured above are many of the committed individuals who make ReadingPals a reality on a daily basis. There are hundreds more contributors -- including school principals, teachers, administrators, local early learning coalitions and many other community partners.



AWARDS

Our annual end-of-year conference is an opportunity to highlight a year's worth of important work! We collectively vote each year for the best presentations.

- **Most Inspirational:** Rahkiah Brown, United Way of North Central Florida
 - **Most Impactful:** Sylvia Palmer, United Way of Central Florida
 - **Most Creative:** Lynnea Crawford, Heart of Florida United Way
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SPECIAL THANKS

ReadingPals was designed and built by **The Children's Movement of Florida** -- a nonprofit, non-partisan 501(c)(3) organization that works to raise awareness about the importance of investment in the early years, and advocates for early education, children's health care, and parent support programs in Florida.

A Strong Start for All Florida Children

We believe the first five years of a child's life are the most important.

Join us to lay the groundwork that helps children reach their full potential in life: bit.ly/JoinCMF



NEW REGIONS ADDED IN 2018-2019

The continued support of Publix Super Markets Charities has allowed ReadingPals to expand to **two new regions in 2018-2019**: St Lucie County and Okaloosa-Walton Counties.



ReadingPals is made possible by:



MENTOR TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE



ReadingPals

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