

# READINGPALS STATEWIDE ANNUAL REPORT

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2018-2019, YEAR SEVEN



# ReadingPals

MENTOR TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

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# ReadingPals

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.

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# WHY IT MATTERS

In 2019, 47% of children in Florida were not ready for Kindergarten<sup>1</sup> and 42% of Florida students could not read at a minimally proficient level by the end of third grade.<sup>2</sup> Additionally, studies show that children with mentors are more confident and have fewer behavioral problems. Early intervention and individualized attention gives students the best likelihood of success.<sup>3</sup>

## 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 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. Since then, we have continued to grow... 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 (2019)  
2. Florida Department of Education (2019)  
3. Big Brothers Big Sisters of Canada (2013)

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# OUR PROGRAMS

OUR READINGPALS COMMUNITIES ACROSS FLORIDA IN 2018-2019



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 Emerald Coast



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  
of St. Lucie County



United Way Suncoast



United Way of  
Suwannee Valley



Volusia-Flagler Counties



United Way  
of West Florida





# OUR VOLUNTEERS

OUR VOLUNTEERS ARE MORE ENGAGED THAN EVER



**2,224**  
VOLUNTEERS

**77%**  
reached 19+ hours  
**+20%**  
over the last four years

**56%** of our volunteers last year returned for another year -- our **highest return rate ever.**

**56%**  
VOLUNTEER  
RETENTION RATE

**36%**  
OF VOLUNTEERS  
3+ YEARS IN PROGRAM



# OUR STUDENTS

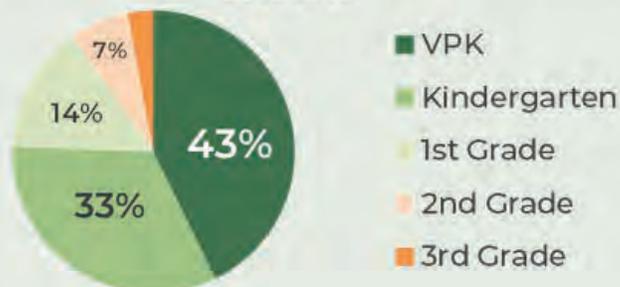
OUR GOAL IS TO REACH STUDENTS IN THE EARLY YEARS

# 3,275 STUDENTS

In 2018-2019, we worked with students in **215 locations** -- including private childcare centers, public schools and after-school programs. Our number of students reached and locations served are both **all-time highs**.

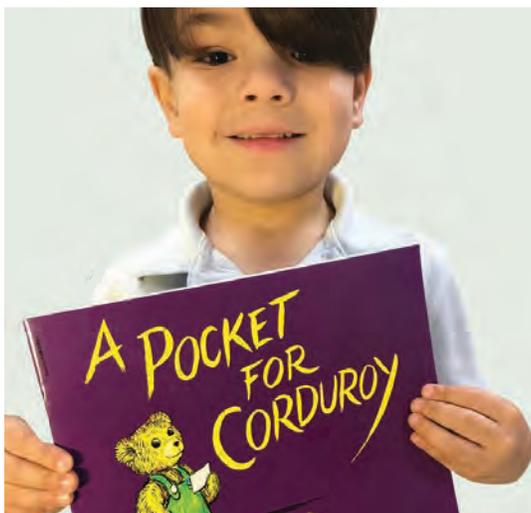
## PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS PER GRADE

2018-2019



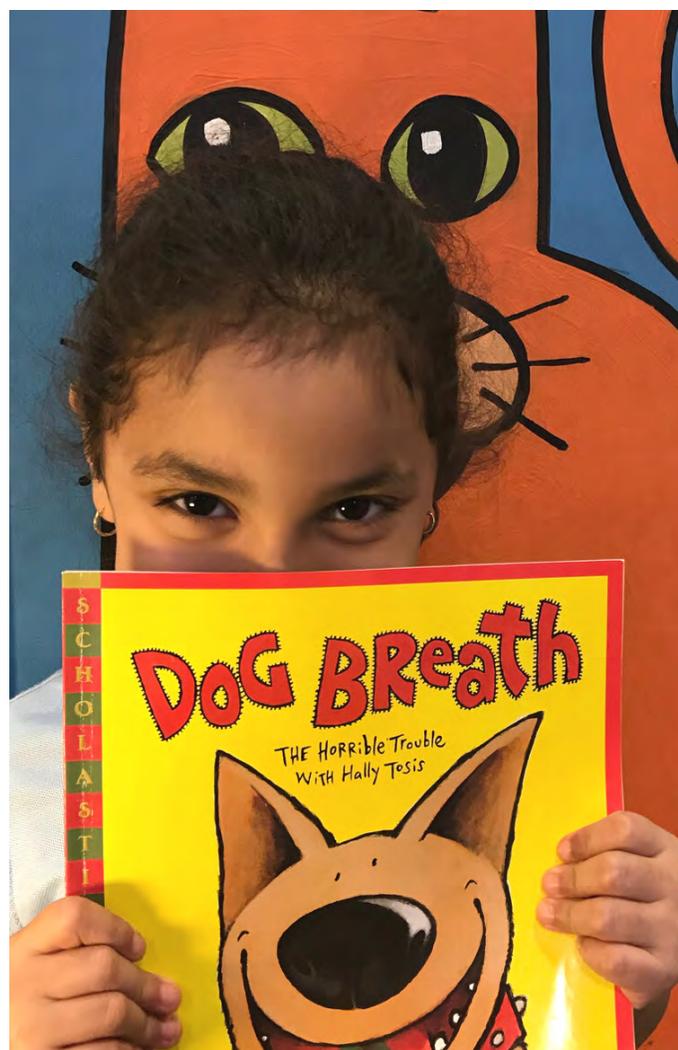
## STARTING EARLY

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



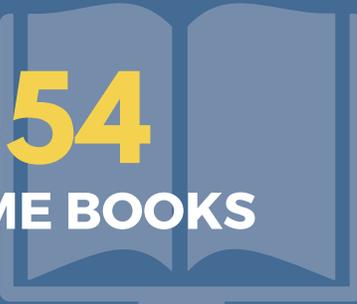
## CURRICULUM

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.



# OUR IMPACT IN 2018-2019

BUILDING A LOVE OF READING THROUGH STRONG MENTORSHIPS



**66,354**  
TAKE-HOME BOOKS

We aim to help build or expand **home libraries** for our ReadingPals students. On average, our students receive **17 take-home books per year.**



**69,883**  
TOTAL HOURS  
OF READINGPALS TIME

A strong **mentorship** requires **consistent time** between our students and our volunteers.

**215**  
LOCATIONS



**586**  
CLASSROOMS



# OUR IMPACT OVER TIME

MAKING A DIFFERENCE FOR SEVEN YEARS AND COUNTING



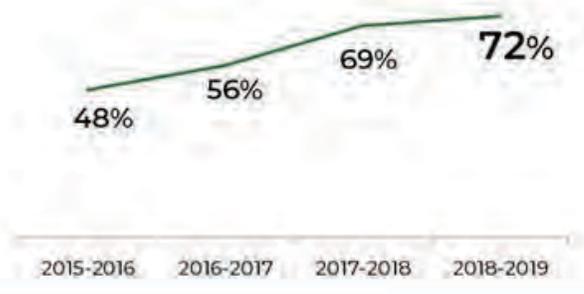
## IN SEVEN YEARS...



## STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

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.

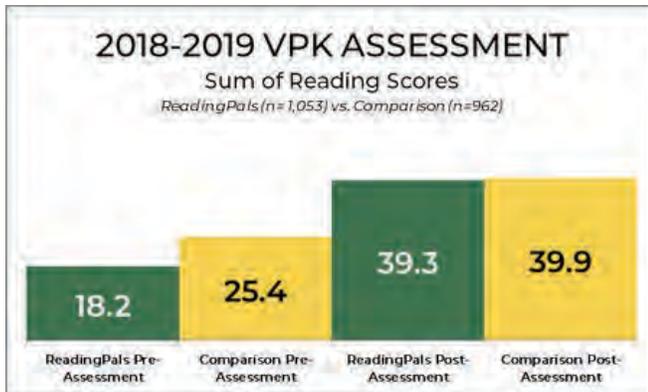
**STUDENT ENGAGEMENT**  
Percentage of Students with 19+ Hours (weighted)





# OUR VPK STUDENT DATA

OUR VPK CASE STUDY DEMONSTRATES THE IMPACT OF READINGPALS



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**.

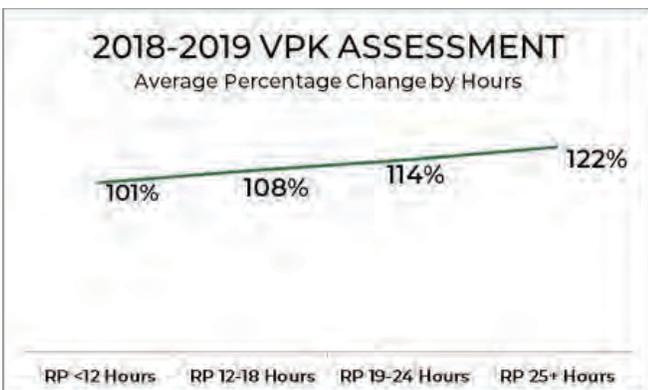
## GROWTH

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.



### 2018-2019 VPK ASSESSMENT

Average Percentage Change  
*ReadingPals (n=1,053) vs. Comparison (n=962)*



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

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# OUR TEAM

7th Annual End-of-Year Conference, 2018-2019



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:** Kristy Craig, United Way of West Florida
  - **Most Impactful:** Cheri Simek, United Way of Citrus County
  - **Most Creative:** Lynnea Crawford, Heart of Florida United Way
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# THE CHILDREN'S MOVEMENT OF FLORIDA

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.

## KINDERGARTEN RE DINESS

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Investing in brain  
building today  
prepares the  
workforce of  
tomorrow.

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The  
Children's  
Movement  
of Florida  






# MENTOR TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE



**ReadingPals**

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