

# 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Community Report

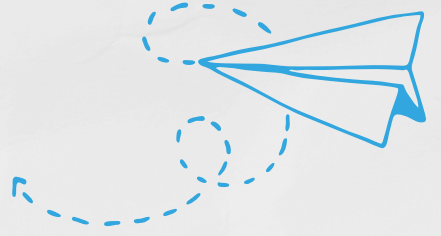


 **SPREAD THE WORD**  
NEVADA

[SpreadTheWordNevada.org](http://SpreadTheWordNevada.org)



## A Message From Lisa



As we celebrate 25 years of Spread the Word Nevada, I find myself reflecting with deep gratitude on the incredible journey that began with a simple idea and a heartfelt belief that every child deserves the opportunity to own a book.

What started in a school library with gently used books and a rolling cart has grown into a statewide movement, fueled by the passion of volunteers, the dedication of educators, the generosity of donors, and the support of our incredible community. Today, thanks to all of you, Spread the Word Nevada has placed more than 8.5 million books into the hands of children who need them most. That is a testament to lives changed, dreams nurtured, and futures made brighter.

To our community partners, volunteers, school staff, families, and donors: thank you. Your belief in our mission and your unwavering support have been the foundation of our success. You've helped us grow from garages and borrowed vans to a 32,500-square-foot facility that now serves 81 schools across Nevada.

This milestone is really a call to action. Every day, children in our communities are falling behind in reading. Not because they lack potential, but because they lack access. Circumstances beyond their control are keeping them from the basic literacy skills they need to succeed. We must keep showing up for them, for their future, for our future. Together, we are building a legacy of literacy, equity, and opportunity that will echo for generations.

Thank you for 25 remarkable years. Here's to the next chapter.

*Lisa Habighorst*

Lisa Habighorst  
CEO & Co-Founder, Spread the Word Nevada



# Founder's Story



Once upon a time...in 2001, inside a quiet Las Vegas elementary school library, one moment changed everything. Laurie Hartig, the school librarian, watched the annual Scholastic Book Fair unfold with excitement until she saw something that broke her heart. Many children were leaving empty-handed, not because they didn't want a book, but because their families simply couldn't afford one.

Some children quietly approached her and asked, "Ms. Laurie, what can I get for a quarter?" Their voices were filled with hope, but their pockets were nearly empty. Laurie couldn't forget the look in their eyes, the deep longing to take home a book of their own.

Determined to help, Laurie began gathering gently used books from her home and reached out to friends to do the same. When the book fair returned, she rolled out a small cart filled with these donated books and invited students who couldn't afford one to pick a book to keep. Forever. That simple act of kindness sparked something bigger.

The joy on the children's faces and the pride they felt owning their very own book told Laurie this was just the beginning. She joined forces with Lisa Habighorst, a passionate math teacher who shared her vision, and together they turned that spark into a mission. Spread the Word Nevada was born.

The early years were full of heart, hustle, and humble beginnings. Without an office, staff, or budget, Laurie and Lisa operated out of garages and storage units, surrounded by stacks of donated books and powered by sheer determination. Family and friends became their first volunteers - sorting, boxing, and delivering books using their own cars and gas money. Every book felt like a small victory.



*Kids need to be surrounded by books. I always knew that books could carry children beyond their circumstances. They help kids learn about the world around them, see new possibilities, and enrich their lives. Books give them a way to imagine, to dream, and sometimes, to escape reality.*

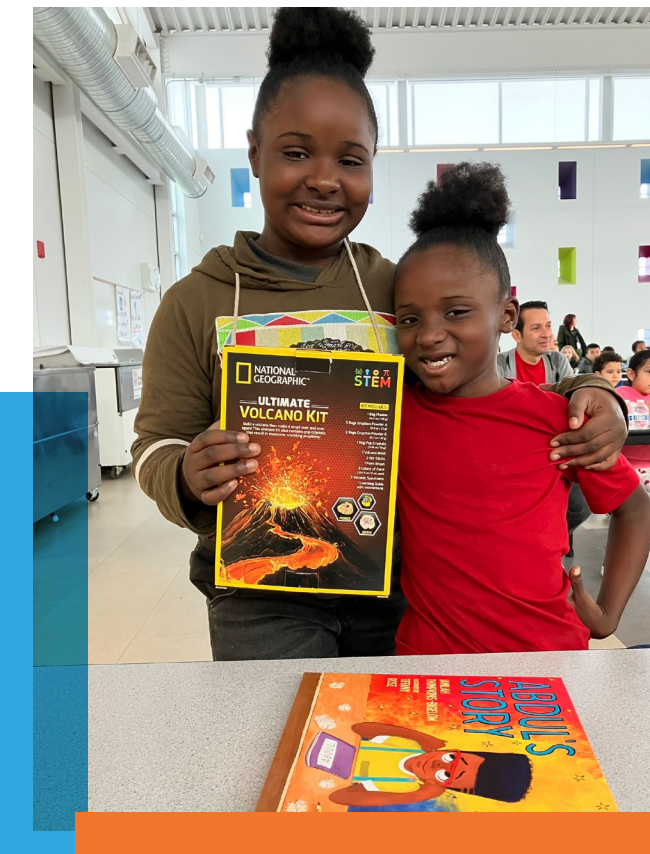
-Laurie Hartig, Founder of Spread the Word Nevada

A couple of their earliest champions were Kenny and Hae Un Lee of Lee's Discount Liquor. When they heard how Laurie and Lisa were hauling books in their own vehicles, Kenny offered to donate a van. Laurie and Lisa arrived, dreaming of a shiny new ride, only to be led to the back lot, where an old van sat with bullet holes in the windshield and a beer keg for a driver's seat. They laughed, accepted it with gratitude, and got to work. They patched it up, hired their first driver, and that beat-up van became a lifeline, getting thousands of books into the hands of children faster than ever before.

That van became a symbol of generosity, grit, and the scrappy spirit that built Spread the Word Nevada from the ground up.

Thanks to the support of the community, Spread the Word Nevada has grown into the largest children's literacy nonprofit in the state. Now headquartered in a 32,500-square-foot facility, the organization serves 81 elementary schools across Nevada.

Focusing on underserved students from Pre-K through 5th grade, Spread the Word Nevada provides books and literacy support to help close achievement gaps and empower young readers. By building home libraries for children in low-income communities, the organization ensures consistent access to books, an essential tool for developing literacy skills, improving academic performance, and nurturing a lifelong love of reading.



*We knew right away our program was working. At our very first school, Sunrise Acres, the stories we heard were unforgettable. The books we gave out on "adoption day" were literally the first books some of these kids had ever owned in their lives. Kids were reading to their siblings, teaching their parents English. We didn't have studies or data. Their words were the validation. And teachers were seeing it too: real change in their students' reading skills.*

-Laurie Hartig, Founder of Spread the Word Nevada

“Our biggest challenge was always staying one step ahead; making sure we had enough books, enough materials, enough helping hands. But thanks to the unwavering support of the community, we never missed a single distribution. It just made sense. There were people who had found success in life and could trace it back to that one book that sparked everything. They understood the power of paying it forward.”

-Laurie Hartig, Founder of Spread the Word Nevada



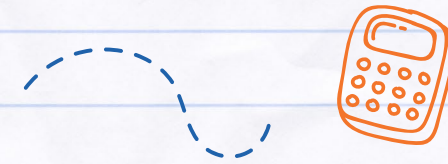


# The Problem

In Nevada, where only 28% of fourth graders read proficiently and the state ranks 46th in education and 47th in child well-being (KIDS COUNT, NAEP), the literacy gap is not just an academic issue, it's a crisis. Without intervention, thousands of children will face limited opportunities, widening the cycle of poverty and inequity.



# The Data



A major 2010 study by Professor Mariah Evans at the University of Nevada, Reno, found that children who grow up with books in the home - regardless of family income or parental education - complete an average of 3.2 more years of school than their parents. Even having just 20 books can significantly boost educational outcomes, with greater benefits as the number increases.

Supporting this, a 2012 study by UNLV and Spread the Word Nevada showed that schools with the longest access to the organization's literacy programs had a 23.4% rise in students reading at a proficient level. This improvement spanned all backgrounds, proving that book access benefits all children.

These findings align with research from the Annie E. Casey Foundation, which shows that third-grade reading proficiency increases the likelihood of high school graduation by 42%. This research highlights how early access to books and consistent literacy support can profoundly shape a child's educational success.

# The Solution

Backed by 25 years of community impact and powered by our four proven programs, Spread the Word Nevada is leading the charge to transform literacy across the state - one book, one child, one future at a time.



# Our Impact



**8.4 million**  
*books distributed since 2001*



**70,000+**  
*books given each month to students*



**1.6 million**  
*students served since 2001*



**81**  
*adopted Nevada elementary schools*

# Our Programs

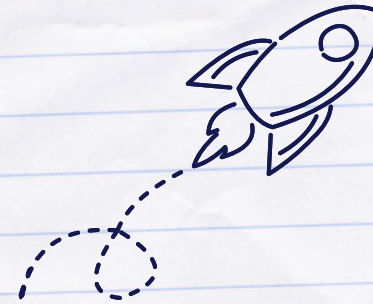
## *Kids To Kids*

The flagship program of Spread the Word Nevada, providing every child in our partner schools the opportunity once a month to select their own book to keep and build their in-home library.



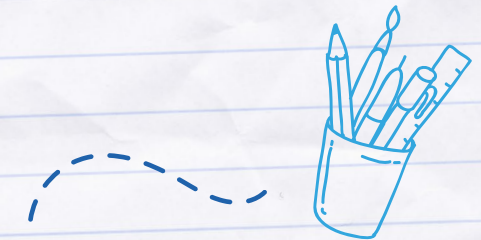
## *Breakfast & Snack Time With Books*

A before or after school read aloud program. We work with families and students to provide literacy-based training to encourage reading at home as a family activity.



## *Books & Buddies*

Books & Buddies pairs students with volunteer mentors acting as reading buddies. Working together, the mentor and student focus on improving the child's reading proficiency, comprehension, and fluency skills.

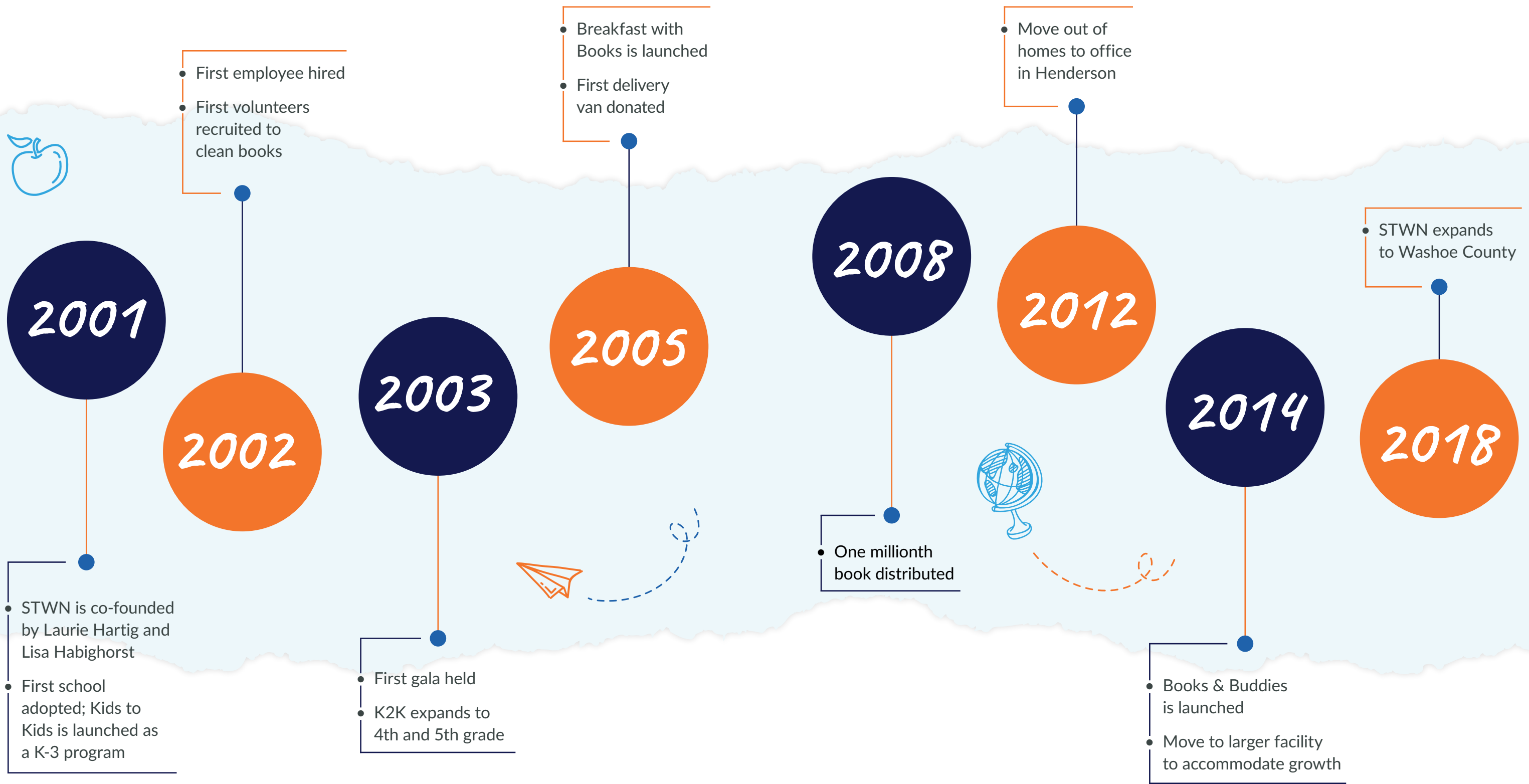


## *Readers In Training*

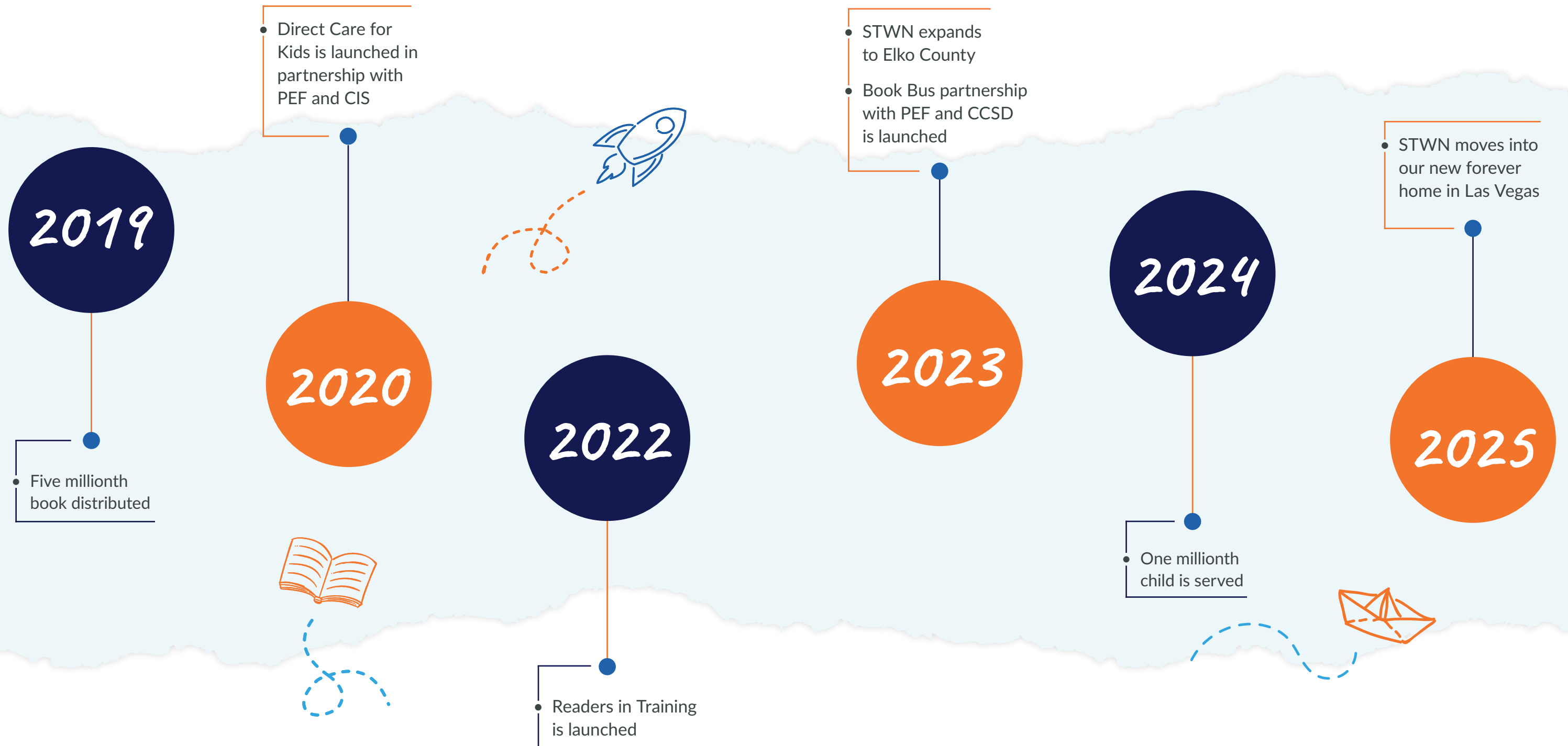
An early literacy program designed for children from birth to age five and their parents or guardians. This program helps foster a love of reading from an early age, allowing loved ones to truly be their first teachers.



# Historical Timeline



# Historical Timeline

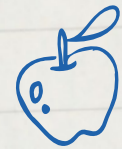


# From Breakfast With Books To Building Futures


by Dane Neves - Marketing Manager, Spread the Word Nevada


**Breakfast/Snack Time with Books is Spread the Word Nevada's signature before- and after-school read-aloud program designed to promote family engagement and a love of reading. Held at select partner schools, this program provides literacy-based training to families and students, encouraging reading as a meaningful and enjoyable activity at home.**


At each session, all attendees are invited to choose a title from a curated collection of gently used books donated by the community, supporting the growth of home libraries. Families enjoy light refreshments and have a chance to win fun prizes such as literacy toys and games. Students are encouraged to complete and submit reading logs, which earn them a special prize from the treasure chest.





Each Breakfast/Snack Time with Books session focuses on enriching themes such as:

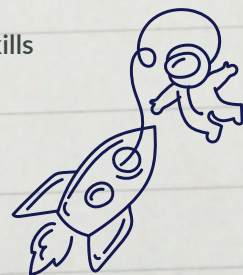
 Fostering a Love of Reading and Building a Reading Culture

 Exploring Nonfiction

 Character Development

 Rhyming and Word Play

 Early Writing Skills



One of our most heartwarming success stories is that of Yulissa Leon, a former student from Robert Lunt Elementary School. Yulissa fondly remembers those mornings as a cherished opportunity to connect with her mother and fall in love with books.

*My mom was always working. It was always really hard for her to come to many events. She did believe that we needed to have access to reading. She always made sure to attend [Breakfast with Books]. That meant a lot to me.*

As a second-language learner, Yulissa recalls the challenge of navigating early education and how access to books at home helped bridge that gap.

*By being able to provide books [to the children and their families], it definitely helps them make those connections better at home. Once they get to school, they are more confident because they've already practiced it.*



Today, Yulissa has come full circle. She works as a Part-Time Facilitator at Spread the Word Nevada's Washoe County office, where she inspires and supports the next generation of young readers. She is currently attending the University of Reno and is studying to become a nurse. Once a part of our story, now helping write it.

*I was able to connect to people so well through Spread the Word Nevada. And I love the fact that I can bring comfort to some of our families that need it, especially families that struggle with a language barrier.*

Yulissa's younger siblings are now students at Robert Lunt Elementary and actively participate in Spread the Word Nevada's Kids to Kids and Breakfast with Books programs, continuing a legacy of literacy, learning, and family connection.



**A principal's perspective on transformation:** Dr. Jodi Notch, principal of Cozine Elementary School, shares how partnering with Spread the Word Nevada has changed the culture of reading at her school. From students receiving their first-ever books to families engaging more at home, these programs are building confident readers, inspiring young writers, and bringing the whole school community closer together.

As the principal of Cozine Elementary, I've seen such a positive change in our school since we partnered with Spread the Word Nevada. Before the program, many of our students didn't have books at home. They loved learning, but without books to read outside of school, it was harder for them to grow as readers.

That all changed once Spread the Word Nevada became part of our school. Now, our students get excited every time new books are passed out. You should see their faces - they're smiling, flipping through the pages, and talking to their friends about what they're going to read first. For many of them, these are the first books they've ever owned. That makes a huge difference.

Along with the Kids to Kids monthly program, we also have Books with Buddies and Snack Time with Books programs. These programs have been instrumental in improving our literacy scores schoolwide. These programs help connect families to support reading at home and give students individualized support with reading at school. Without mentors to read with our students, we would not be able to reach as many students as we do, providing each student with the attention they need to be successful.

Since the program began, we've seen students become more confident readers. They want to read more often, and some even write their own stories. One student who used to struggle with reading shared a book of stories he wrote after being inspired by one of the books he received. That's the kind of growth that makes us proud - not just better reading skills, but stronger self-confidence.

Our teachers love the program, too. They see that more students are reading at home, which translates to improved performance in the classroom. Families are getting more involved as well. When students bring books home, many parents tell us that their children are asking to read together more often. The Snack Time with Books events, paired with our existing family academic nights, have also helped bring us closer together as a school community.

Spread the Word Nevada works so well at Cozine because it's simple and powerful. It gives students something real to hold onto - books they can love, learn from, and grow with. It shows them that reading can be fun and meaningful.

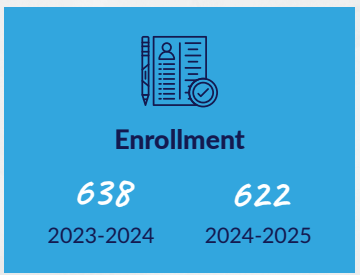
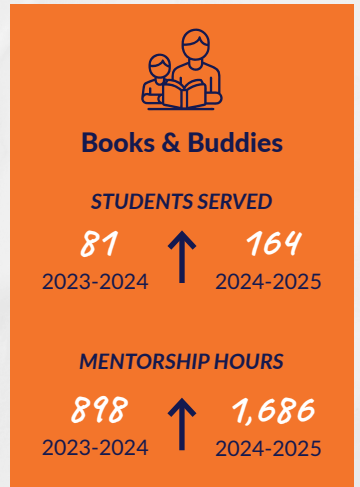
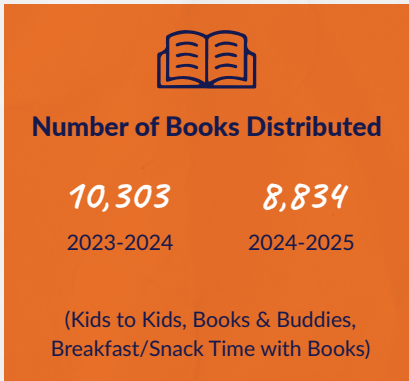
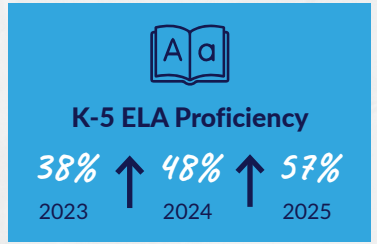
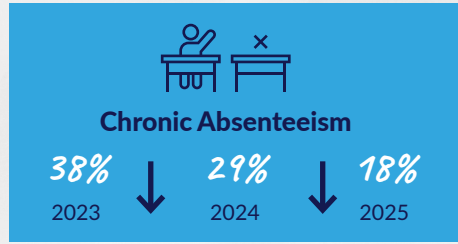
To other principals or school leaders considering this kind of partnership, I highly recommend it. This program helps kids, supports teachers, and brings families together. We're so thankful to be a part of it, and we see its impact every day.

# Cozine Elementary

Cozine Elementary School stands as a shining example of Spread the Word Nevada's impact in action. In just 2 years of partnering, our consistent delivery of free books and literacy resources, our work with families through the Breakfast/Snack Time with Books program, and the opening of an on-site, busy Books & Buddies Mentor Center has contributed meaningfully to Nevada's ongoing efforts to raise childhood literacy rates.

This multi-pronged approach directly supports Nevada's statewide literacy goals. Cozine has integrated both before- and after-school programming to expand access, provided consistent space for one-on-one mentoring, and helped students build home libraries, proven to boost reading frequency and achievement. The school's educators are key drivers of success, consistently referring students, attending events, and reinforcing a campus-wide culture of literacy.

## Cozine Elementary - First-year STWN stats:



# Reading Unlocked



**Books & Buddies mentor Veeda Bybee of Cozine Elementary shares how the right book helped her 4th grade book buddy find her voice, her joy, and her diary.**

After a long winter break, I picked up my book buddy from her 4th-grade classroom. As we walked down the hall to the Spread the Word Nevada resource center, I asked about her time away from school. She turned to me with excitement and said, “I finished Dork Diaries!”

I expected her to talk about the gifts she received or the movies she’d watched with her family. Instead, she happily told me all about discovering the fictional middle school world of Nikki Maxwell in the Dork Diaries series.

I was blown away. In the few months we’d been paired together, my book buddy had never shown much interest in finishing anything she’d taken home from Spread the Word. As we got to know each other, I learned she loved all things Disney Channel, princesses, and fairies. She often picked books along those lines, but nothing seemed to stick.

Before school ended in December, I spotted Dork Diaries: Tales of a Not-So-Fabulous Life on the shelf. With its hot pink cover, doodles, and diary-style entries, I thought it might be just her style. We spent some time together breaking down words like “tremendous,” “ecstatic,” and “dazzle.” She liked it enough to take home, and it ended up being the last book she chose before the new year.

Little did I know, this book would be the key that unlocked something in my book buddy—and in me. She now loved to read. I now loved Dork Diaries and all its glittery glory. Week by week, I saw her confidence grow. As an author, I know the power books can have on young readers, but to personally witness that transformation over the school year? That was an absolute gift.

Right before our time ended, my book buddy found another Dork Diaries title in the resource center. As we read it together, she suddenly stopped and turned to me.

“Can I tell you something?” she whispered.

I leaned in closer. “Yes.”

She put her hand over her mouth. “I’m writing in a diary right now, too.”

For a moment, I didn’t know how to respond. I almost cried. “That’s incredible!” I said.

Through her time with Spread the Word Nevada, my book buddy was not only reading, she was writing. Seeing the difference in her life has inspired me and given me new motivation to strengthen my own work. I can’t wait to meet my new book buddy again this year!



# Readers in Training: Building Lifelong Readers from the Very Beginning

by Dane Neves - Marketing Manager, Spread the Word Nevada

**Did you know that reading readiness begins at birth? That's not just a catchy phrase. It's backed by science. It's also the heart of *Readers in Training (RIT)*, Spread the Word Nevada's early literacy program for children from birth to five years old and their parents or guardians.**

Designed for families living under a certain income threshold, RIT ensures that support reaches those who need it most, households that may not have access to books, educational tools, or early learning support.

The program is built for flexibility and accessibility, allowing families to participate in person in Clark County and Washoe County, and virtually for families living in other counties.

Each family with a child enrolled receives:

- Brand-new, age-appropriate books mailed monthly
- Simple reading tips and fun, hands-on activities
- Four opportunities per month (mornings and evenings) for in-person small group meetups with story time, crafts, and learning games (including one in Nye County)
- One or two opportunities per month to attend trainings by community partners to learn about resources, specific literacy tools and more
- Four monthly virtual check-in opportunities with RIT staff to stay connected and track progress
- Access to a closed group app to find resources, ask questions and share information

**RIT is a movement to change the trajectory of children's lives.**

"Books aren't cheap," says STWN Program Manager Ally Fary, who helped shape the program from its early days in 2022. "They're not the first thing families think about when they're stretching a paycheck. Because of that (and a dozen other reasons) kids are stepping into kindergarten without the tools they need to thrive. Here's what happens when that's the case: they start behind, they stay behind. And that gap? It only gets wider."



Research shows early literacy is essential. It boosts language development, vocabulary, emotional growth, and a lifelong love of reading. These books become launchpads, introducing kids to new ideas, teaching early math and social-emotional skills, and creating cherished moments of connection with their caregivers.

Parents play a central role. As Janeisha Phillips, mom of 3-year-old Justice, explains: "She's using a lot of expressive language. She likes to talk, explore the books, and point out what she can identify. I think she's doing her own type of reading, as opposed to me reading for her."

Thanks to Spread the Word Nevada's new forever home in the heart of Las Vegas, RIT now has a dedicated space for in-person playgroups. While these gatherings have always been part of the program, this new space allows for a more engaging, consistent experience. Kids play and make friends, while parents attend free workshops led by experts in parenting and early childhood education. These sessions give families tools to build strong literacy habits at home, and a stronger start in school.

Still, the need is urgent. RIT has a long waitlist, and without increased funding, hundreds of families may be left without access to these essential services. Without intervention, the gap only grows. Children miss out on critical brain development, early bonding, and the skills that shape their futures.

"We have the tools. We have the program," says Ally. "But without funding, too many children will be left behind before they even get started."

*Readers in Training gives kids a longer runway, a chance to build momentum before takeoff. We need as much support as possible to keep that runway clear, so that these kids, all our kids, can fly.*





# Opening Doors *Through Books*



by Melissa Vilven - Librarian, Cannan Elementary School

An elementary school in Washoe County shares how an eight-year partnership with Spread the Word Nevada has transformed students' lives by giving them the joy and confidence that come from owning their own books.

At Cannan Elementary School, where the majority of our students qualify for Title I support, the gift of books through Spread the Word Nevada has been nothing short of amazing. In a community where many families face barriers to accessing books at home, this partnership has created opportunities that go beyond just reading. It has nurtured curiosity, confidence, and a deeper love for learning.

For many of our students, their first experience of owning a book came through Spread the Word Nevada. Watching a child select a book from our library tables - turning it over in their hands, smiling when they find a book that interests them - reminds us that access is powerful. What may seem like a simple gift is, for our students, an invitation to use their imagination and discover new and different genres.

The impact shows up in small but meaningful ways. Teachers notice students bringing their books back to class, eager to share a favorite page or character. Parents tell us that reading before bed has become a family routine. For some children, having a book that is theirs - not borrowed, not shared, but truly theirs - builds a sense of pride and ownership that extends into other areas of school life.

Reading at home changes the way children approach reading in the classroom. With their own books within reach, students grow more confident sounding out words, asking questions, and making connections. That confidence begins to show outward. Students who once hesitated to read aloud begin to volunteer, while others spark new conversations with classmates about the stories they're exploring. Having books at home doesn't just make children better readers; it helps them see themselves as forever readers.

Spread the Word Nevada has given Cannan Elementary more than boxes of books; they have given our students a sense of possibility. In a Title I community, where resources are sometimes limited, this program fills a critical gap. It ensures that every child has the chance to experience the joy of reading, the power of knowledge, and the confidence that comes with discovering new stories and ideas.

Our experience with Spread the Word Nevada reminds us that literacy is not just a skill, it is a gateway. With every book placed in a student's hands, we are shaping futures, fueling imagination, and building a culture where reading is not just encouraged but celebrated. Our gratitude to this organization is endless. Thank you, Spread the Word Nevada.

# A Partnership for Literacy: *Spreading the Word in Rural Nevada*



by Bobby Steensen - Principal, Liberty Peak Elementary School

For schools in rural areas, partnerships with dedicated organizations are essential to achieving educational goals. Spread the Word Nevada has proven to be a vital collaborator in our mission to enhance literacy exposure and build students' personal home libraries, particularly within our community. Spread the Word Nevada's commitment throughout the state, including Elko County, has helped support many students' reading growth by helping schools provide literacy access.

Over the last couple of years, the organization has specifically extended its reach to communities in Elko County, demonstrating a clear understanding of the unique challenges faced by schools outside of major metropolitan areas. Through its Kids to Kids program, Spread the Word Nevada directly addresses the foundational need for book ownership. This flagship initiative goes beyond a simple donation; it provides students with the empowering opportunity to select and keep their own books. This frequent interaction fosters a sense of agency and pride, transforming the act of reading from a classroom assignment into a personal, enjoyable pursuit.

The impact of this program on our school's goal of literacy exposure cannot be overstated. By ensuring that every student has access to a variety of books, Spread the Word Nevada creates a

book-rich environment both within and outside our school's walls. Research consistently shows that having books in the home is a key indicator of future academic success. By providing students with the chance to build a personal home library, the program directly supports their academic development and instills a lifelong love of reading.

The inclusion of Snack Time with Books underscores the belief that literacy is a shared responsibility, and that fostering a strong reading culture at home is just as important as classroom instruction. For our school, which strives to involve families in the educational process, this partnership is invaluable. It provides resources and tools for parents to become their child's first teacher, reinforcing the skills learned in school and encouraging a family-wide appreciation for stories and learning.

Spread the Word Nevada's dedication to serving Nevada communities aligns perfectly with our school's mission. Their targeted efforts have not only helped us meet our goals of providing literacy exposure and building personal home libraries but have also strengthened the overall reading culture of our community. Their work ensures that our students, regardless of location or background, have the resources they need to become confident and engaged readers.



# A Message from Our Founding Board Member

Former Chair Susan Miller



When I think back to the early days of Spread the Word Nevada, it's hard to believe it has already been twenty-five years. I remember vividly when Laurie Porter first shared her vision with me over lunch. She and her partner, Lisa Habighorst, spoke passionately about putting books directly into the hands of children who needed them most, children who might not otherwise have had the opportunity to build their own home libraries. Their energy and determination were contagious, and I knew immediately I wanted to be part of their mission.



At that time in my own life, my kids were grown and off to college, I had just closed my paralegal service, overcome a personal medical challenge, and was ready to pour myself into something meaningful. I knew this was it. Those early days were both exciting and a little chaotic. Books arrived by the boxful, spilling out of homes and garages and then into storage units. As school adoptions grew, so did our challenges - finding more books, more space, more community support, and, yes, becoming more comfortable asking for money. But together, with Lisa at the helm, we built the foundation for not just a program, but a movement.

Over the years, I've watched Spread the Word Nevada grow from an inspired idea into a powerful force for good. What started as a simple but ambitious effort to distribute books has become a sustained movement - one that has reached hundreds of thousands of children and families across Nevada. The numbers are impressive, of course, but what stays with me are the individual stories: a child proudly showing me the books they've collected at home, a parent expressing gratitude for the opportunities these books provide, or a teacher describing the difference in enthusiasm and confidence they see in their students.

The organization's success is a testament to Laurie's vision and Lisa's leadership over these many years, the dedication of its team, and the unwavering support of volunteers, donors, and community partners. Together, they have created not just access to books, but access to imagination, learning, and opportunity.

For me personally, being part of Spread the Word Nevada has been one of the most meaningful experiences of my life, serving as the first chairwoman of the board, watching my friends and family rally in support of our Storybook Galas, Libraries of Dreams, exciting auctions, and celebrations of an extraordinary organization. My latest chapter in this journey is mentoring in the Books and Buddies program.

A single book may seem like a small thing, but placed in the hands of a child, it can ignite curiosity, spark confidence, and shape a future. In describing the value of reading, Albert Einstein said, "The only thing you absolutely have to know is the location of the library." Spread the Word Nevada serves as a guide in that direction.

# A Message from *A Past Board Chair*



As Immediate Past Chairman of the Board of Spread the Word Nevada, I am continually impressed by the work our team does to support the most vulnerable students and families throughout our state.



We distribute over 70,000 books each month to children, and we log hundreds of hours of one-on-one mentorship by reading with struggling readers in CCSD schools. Additionally, we help over 500 families every month through our Readers in Training program, which inspires Nevada's youngest children with the gift of reading and empowers parents to understand the importance of reading to their little ones. Our mission is to model and encourage families on how to teach their children to read and to help break the cycle of generational illiteracy.



These impressive programs and statistics are part of the reason I give back to this organization, and why I encourage everyone I know to become a donor. But what truly drives my passion for this [work is the realization of what my four young children have access to simply because of the home and circumstances they were born into. I want my children to see their father being a "do-er." I hope this example inspires them to grow into kind humans with a sense of community and a responsibility to give back to those in need.

I am a sixth-generation Nevadan who graduated from CCSD and UNLV. This community is part of who I am. I was raised by two incredible parents who have always been "do-ers." For as long as I can remember, they have served others, offering a place to stay, a ride to the doctor, a warm meal, or a shoulder to cry on without seeking recognition or praise. They are the reason I became the man I am today.

I also have a loving wife, Brittney, who is patient, supportive, and always ready with sound advice. She never complains when I'm home late from an event, and her encouragement means everything to me.

Spread the Word Nevada has made a lasting impact on me because I recognize how fortunate my children are to have access to so many opportunities. That simply isn't the case for every child, and it's not fair. I want to help change that. I want every child to have access to books and the ability to read, so they can open their eyes to a big, bright world full of possibilities.

I hope Spread the Word Nevada can remove the dozens of schools currently on our waitlist and expand our mentor centers to serve every school in our program over the next 25 years. These programs are truly life-changing. They are helping end generational illiteracy and reduce the effects of poverty. Without the ability to read, individuals struggle to find stable employment, support their children's learning, or navigate daily life. The consequences are devastating.

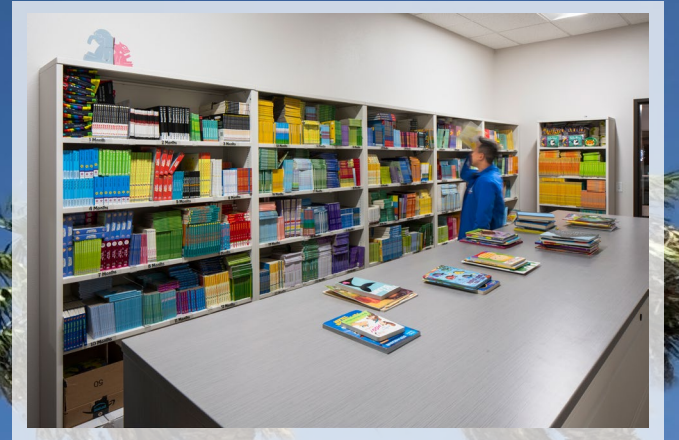
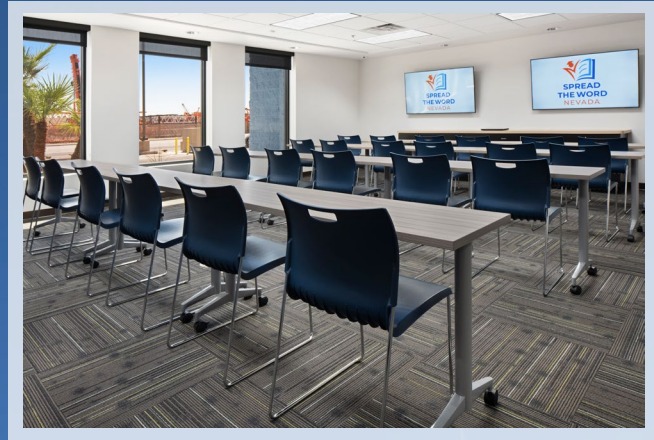
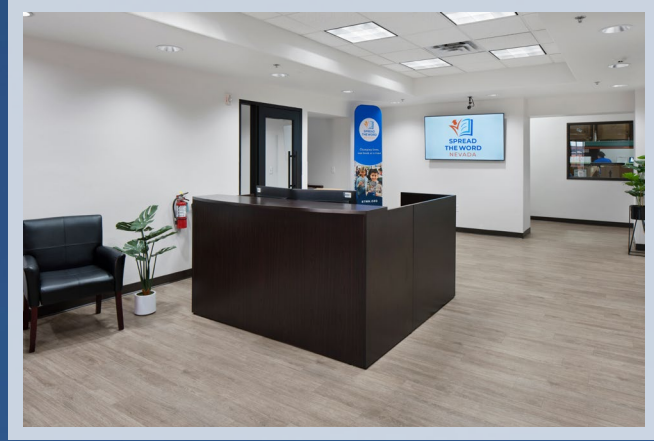
That's why I'm proud to be a "do-er" and a board member of Spread the Word Nevada.

*Chad Leavitt*

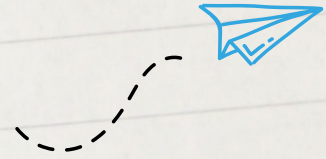
Chief Accounting Officer, Findlay Automotive Group

## In January 2025,

Spread the Word Nevada moved into a new facility in the heart of Las Vegas, a space that allows us to serve more children and families and expand our impact across communities statewide. More than 128,000 children in Nevada qualify for our programs. This new forever home positions us to not only continue our mission but to grow it, ensuring no child is left behind on their journey toward literacy.

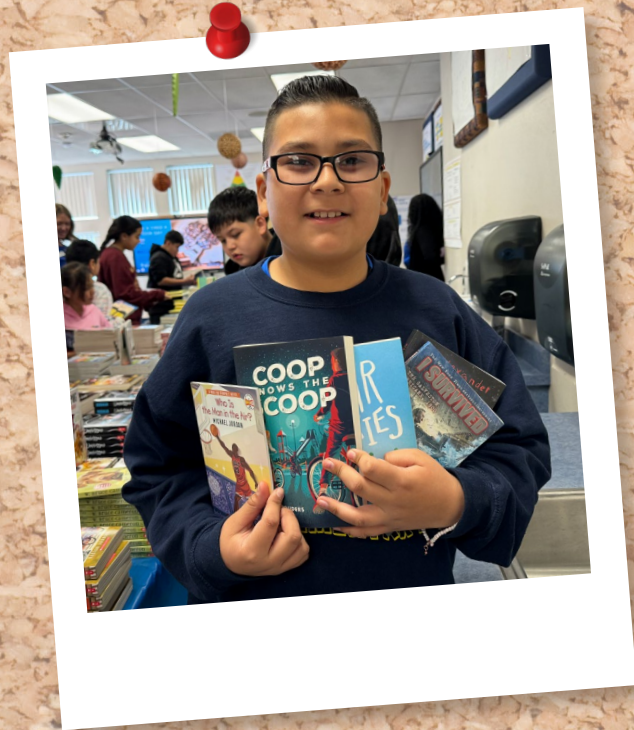
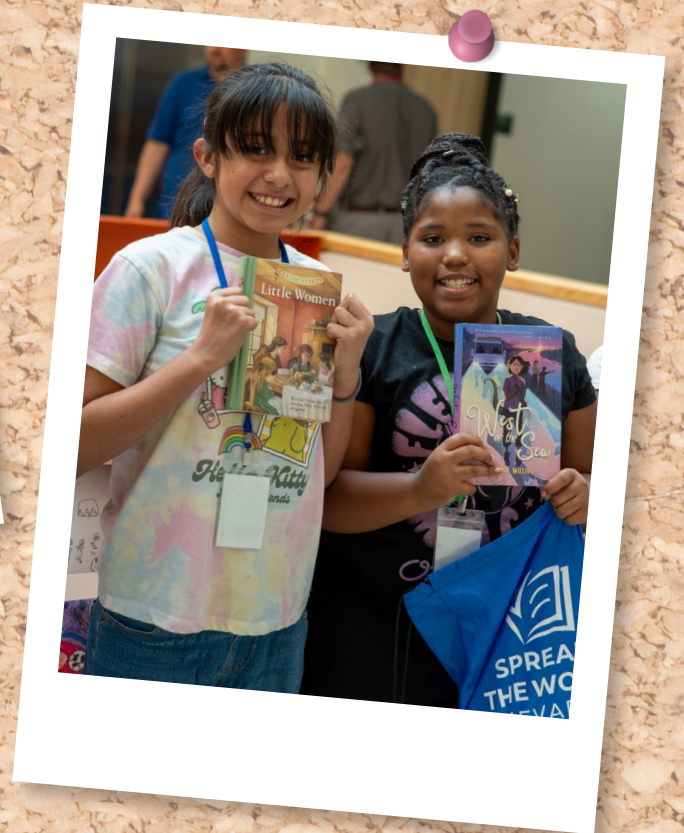


# What's Next?



Children across Nevada are caught in the middle of a literacy crisis that threatens their future. Far too many are entering classrooms without the foundational skills they need to succeed, and without immediate intervention, the gap only grows wider. These children are still hoping for the chance to open a book of their own, not just for the joy of reading, but for the opportunity to learn, to thrive, and to break the cycle of poverty. Spread the Word Nevada is not a luxury. It's a lifeline. Our work is more urgent than ever, because literacy is the key to success - in school and in life.

Join us in writing the next chapter of our story. Your support helps ensure that every child in Nevada has access to the joy of reading. Volunteer, donate, or help spread the word!



 **SPREAD THE WORD**  
NEVADA

