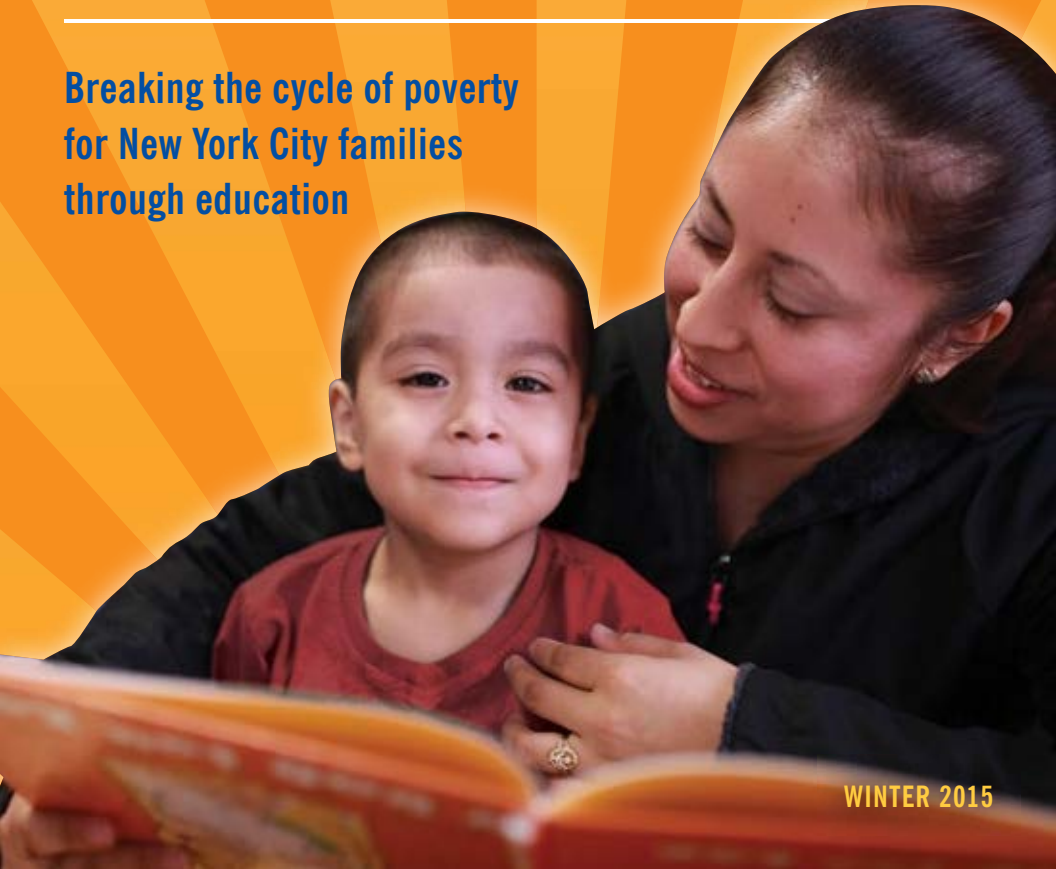


Update from Literacy Partners

READING CHANGES EVERYTHING

Breaking the cycle of poverty
for New York City families
through education



WINTER 2015



Our Results 2014-2015

80%

80% of our immigrant students who were tested at the end of the semester had made a year's worth of academic progress in just 12-14 weeks.

76%

76% of our students who took the high school equivalency exam (formerly known as the GED), passed it.

62%

62% of our students read to their children at least 3 times a week – a 50% increase from the start of the year.

Pay Big Dividends for Working Families

\$4,150 ➔

Immigrant adults who can speak English “well” earn, on average, **\$4,150** more per year than adults who can’t speak English “well.”*

\$10,000 ➔

NYC adults who have a high school degree earn, on average, roughly **\$10,000** a year more than people who never finished high school.**

**Love of
Reading
& School
Readiness**

Parents reading to children fosters a love of books. It also strongly predicts school readiness and increases the odds of a child graduating from high school.



* Unpublished analysis of data from Wilson, Jill H. “Investing in English Skills: The Limited English Proficient Workforce in U.S. Metropolitan Areas” Brookings Institution (2014)

**NYC Department of City Planning analysis of US Census Bureau data (2010)

Remembering Our Good Friend, Arnold Scaasi

ARNOLD SCAASI was not a fashion minimalist. His designs made a statement and were worn by Hollywood stars, New York socialites and four First Ladies. He was not a minimalist in his philanthropy either. Arnold served on our Board of Directors for 23 years and co-hosted the annual Evening of Readings and Gala Dinner Dance with his husband and partner of more than 50 years, Parker Ladd, and dear friend, Liz Smith. He made a significant impact on the world of fashion and changed thousands of lives for the better through his support for literacy. •



Arnold Scaasi, Liz Smith and Parker Ladd

Crossing the Finish Line with Team Literacy Partners

What do marathons and the battle against illiteracy have in common? They both require unwavering commitment, consistency and endurance to successfully reach the finish line. The fight for literacy is not a sprint, but a marathon steadily closing the achievement gap one student at a time.

This year, Literacy Partners was an official charity partner of the 2015 TCS New York City Marathon which provided a powerful platform for our passionate runners to fundraise and boost awareness for our cause.

Together, **Team Literacy Partners** raised nearly \$20,000 from more than 130 individual donors to help break the cycles of illiteracy and poverty for New York City families. And then, they ran 26.2 miles! Congratulations and a big thank you to Mary Allen, Jesse Haines, Lauren Southwick, Lee Stanton and Ayisha Tahir! •



Lee Stanton


GIVE THE
GIFT OF
READING
#READ1GIVE1

Thanks to Simon & Schuster for promoting independent bookstores and donating hundreds of books to our families – just in time for the holidays!

Check out the [#READ1GIVE1](#) campaign.

Literacy Partners Expands to Staten Island and Queens

Literacy Partners is expanding! We recently won a 3-year City grant to expand our classes to the North Shore of Staten Island. We are proud to partner with the Staten Island Mental Health Society, one of the first Head Start programs in the nation and a pioneer in promoting social-emotional development of young children living in poverty. Our classes will help parents living at or below the federal poverty level to improve their reading and writing and ultimately earn High School Equivalency diplomas. With a diploma, these hard working New Yorkers can improve their job prospects and continue their education by going to college.

We also launched a new partnership in Corona, Queens to provide intensive classes for low-literate immigrant parents of children enrolled in Sheltering Arms Children and Family Services, an early childhood development program noted for its high-quality services.

With these new classes – and our existing classes in Brooklyn, the Bronx, and Manhattan – Literacy Partners is now offering classes in all five boroughs of New York City. •



Literacy Partners Receives Gift from the Romance Writers of America



Every year, writers and literary aficionados travel from all over the world to attend the annual Romance Writers of America (RWA) Conference. An author's book signing at the conference raises money for adult literacy. To date, RWA has raised approximately \$1 million for this important cause.

This year's conference was in New York City and Literacy Partners was presented with a check for more than \$10,000 following the book signing. We would like to thank the Romance Writers of America for their commitment to literacy and our partners at ProLiteracy, who helped make this gift possible. •



OUR MISSION

We strengthen families by empowering parents through education. With our free classes, low-income parents gain the skills to create a better life for themselves while transferring important literacy skills to their children. Together, we can close the achievement gap before children even begin school.

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