

LEARN

LITERACY
PARTNERS

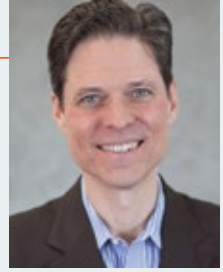


WINTER 2018

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READING CHANGES EVERYTHING



Dear Friends,

Mr. Rogers famously said, *"When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, 'Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.'"* By supporting Literacy Partners, **YOU** are a helper.

Visible helpers like you are needed now more than ever because, let's face it, 2018 has been a scary year for many of our students. I don't have to tell you about the climate of political bullying and constant fear-mongering and what that does for families living on the margins of society. With armed white supremacists attacking innocent families and terrorizing entire communities, visible helpers like you are needed more than ever.

The communities under assault are the very people that Literacy Partners serves every day – the people **YOU** are helping with your support. Our students come from 38 countries, ranging from Mexico to Senegal to Yemen. **Most of our students are women:** mothers going to school 10 hours a week to make a better life for themselves and their families. Many are overcoming trauma and seeking to begin a new life. I am so honored that Literacy Partners can be such a supportive and important step on their way.

Despite the challenging climate, you have helped us expand our reach this year to serve dozens more women in Sunset Park, Brooklyn, and to launch a highly innovative new program in the South Bronx to focus on teenage girls who are already mothers themselves. In both cases, Literacy Partners empowers these women through education to build confidence and leadership skills that help them achieve success in today's world while working towards their hopes and dreams for their children.

On behalf of all of our students, their families, and our staff, thank you for being a helper.

Your involvement in this community is making a major difference. If you'd like to share more of your story with us, please contact me at anthonyt@literacypartners.org.

Here's to a more just and more literate 2019!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anthony Tassi". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Anthony Tassi, CEO

LITERACY PARTNERS

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We strengthen families by empowering parents through education. Together, we can close the achievement gap before children even begin school.

STUDENT STORY

IOVANNA: “The Change Has Been Big”

Iovanna came to the United States two years ago in order to escape persecution and the instability in Venezuela. Her dream of a better life and tranquility led her to New York.

Although Iovanna finds it very hard to live away from her family, she is grateful for the security and peace her new home offers. However, Iovanna has struggled with the language barrier.

After enrolling in our *English for Parents* class at the Malcolm X Early Childhood Education Center, she understands more, can express herself better, and her overall communication skills have improved. Iovanna’s job entails bringing important papers to court and she is now more confident speaking English at court and is **doing her job effectively**.

“The change has been big,” she says.

Her daughter, Aroa, is very happy that her mother is studying English in the same school as her. *“Although Aroa can’t read yet, I take the initiative to read to her in English. Her favorite books are about Tito Puente and Frida Kahlo. She also likes The Pout-Pout Fish. I feel good reading to Aroa because it is a moment for us to be together,”* Iovanna says.

Through reading with Aroa, her confidence has increased. *“I see the difference the classes make. Before, I would read Aroa stories without understanding what they were about. Now when we read together, I realize I can understand the story,”* she says proudly.

“I feel very fortunate to have this program. It really helps me,” she says.

“Forever family is my favorite phrase I’ve learned,” she says. Iovanna recently gave birth to her second child, and she looks forward to building a safe and happy home for her children.



SUBWAY READS:

Sharing the Joy of Reading Across NYC



Masih Alinejad and Radhika Balakrishnan discuss Masih's book, *The Wind In My Hair*



Sayu Bhojwani and Naomi Wolf discuss Sayu's new book, *People Like Us*

This summer we brought our love of reading, books, and literacy to all of New York City through our **#SubwayReads** initiative. We partnered with 14 publishing houses to provide free promotional excerpts from 250+ of the best books on a new website, **subwayreads.org**. The site includes books that reflect our mission across topics like Immigrant Stories, Black Voices Matter, Women's Leadership, and more. We also featured some easy-to-read content and stories of our own students and how learning English and reading books have changed their lives.

Thanks to hundreds of donated advertisements from the MTA and Transit Wireless throughout the subway system, more than **150,000 users** have made over **450,000 visits** to read excerpts from award-winning authors like: **America Ferrera, Tomi Adeyemi, Roxane Gay, Diane Guerrero, Angie Thomas,** and **Jacqueline Woodson.**

THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS IN PUBLISHING FOR THEIR GENEROUS SUPPORT:

Hachette Book Group

HarperCollins Publishers

Harvard Business Review

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

Macmillan Publishers

The New Press

New Readers Press

Penguin Random House

Phaidon

ProLiteracy

Rosetta Books

Simon & Schuster

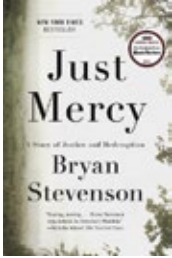
Townsend Press

Workman Publishing

World Education

W.W. Norton & Company, Inc.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM SUBWAYREADS.ORG

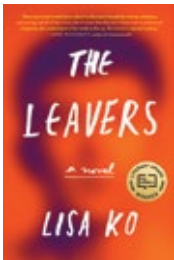


TAYE DIGGS on *Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson:

“A fascinating look at the justice system by someone who is making a real impact on the world.”

DARREN WALKER on *Notorious RBG* by Irin Carmon and Shana Knizhnik:

“This lighthearted, illuminating take on the life and times of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg proves her worthy of the book’s pithy title.”

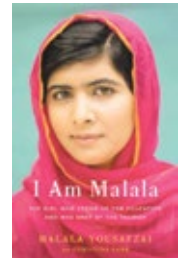


JACQUELINE WOODSON on *The Leavers* by Lisa Ko:

“Ko weaves a stunning, sometimes funny, sometimes heartbreaking, always beautiful narrative of what it means to be an immigrant in today’s America.”

ANDREW TISCH on *I Am Malala* by Malala Yousafzai:

“An inspiring book about vision and wisdom by a courageous young woman fighting for the same right so many of us take for granted, an education.”



CYNTHIA MCFADDEN on *The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas:

“This book is powerful and heart-wrenching and should be added to school curriculums across America. Starr will teach you, empower you, and change your life.”

Thanks to all our friends who recommended a book to our audience.

Save
the
date!

LITERACY PARTNERS

EVENING OF READINGS & GALA DINNER DANCE
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13, 2019
Cipriani Wall Street

WAYS TO SUPPORT LITERACY PARTNERS!

- 1 Give the gift of reading to a family in need.** No contribution is too small (or too big!) – visit our donate page or mail your gift to our office.
- 2 Provide year-round support by making your gift a monthly recurring contribution** – offer reliable support to keep our classes free, minimize administrative costs, and ensure your commitment to our families never falters.
- 3 Know someone who adores reading, but has every book?** Make a gift in their honor to Literacy Partners this holiday season. We will send them a holiday card and welcome package sharing your generosity!
- 4 Does your company match charitable donations?** Many do! Just ask your HR office for details and your gift will double (or in some cases triple!).
- 5 If you shop on Amazon, do so via Amazon Smile** and Amazon will donate a percentage of the price of your eligible purchases to the nonprofit of your choice! (smile.amazon.com -> choose Literacy Partners)
- 6 Get involved!** Follow @Literacy Partners on Facebook and @LitPartners on Twitter and Instagram and help by sharing our content. Also, sign up for our email list so you can be sure not to miss a thing. Visit literacypartners.org to get started.

Together we are changing the lives and futures of low-income and immigrant families across New York City and beyond through literacy education. **Thank you!**

THANK YOU!



"I want to thank the people who support Literacy Partners. Thank you for supporting reading and for helping parents become better role models for their children. I am very happy to be in such a different English class, where we feel like very important people." —MORAVET



"I want to tell the program thank you because I am learning English. I feel more confident, and I can do what I need to. Everything is much better now." —LEOBA



"Don't lose hope in us because we're trying really hard. Thank you for having these programs because it helps our community. I have a lot to learn and need your support." —HERMINIA



"I have so much respect and love for all of the teachers. The classes and the teachers were all part of a beautiful experience. I love Literacy Partners!" —DARIN



"I never had teachers like the ones at Literacy Partners. If I would lose confidence, it's like they put a fresh battery in my back. I had no vision for my future. I thought I'd always be homeless with nothing." —CHRISTINA

A BIG THANKS TO THE DOROTHY STRELSIN FOUNDATION

Literacy Partners is deeply grateful for the Dorothy Strelsin Foundation's generous gift to establish the Dorothy Strelsin Foundation Endowment for the students of Literacy Partners. The Endowment will continue to bring the joy of reading to families across New York City.

LITERACY PARTNERS

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**“ I WANT TO TELL THE PROGRAM
THANK YOU...EVERYTHING IS
MUCH BETTER NOW.”**

—LEOBA, LITERACY PARTNERS STUDENT