2022 IMPACT REPORT

Bernie's BOOK BANK
Transforming children's stories
Friends,

Last year brought continued success, learning opportunities, and operational enhancements/improvements. As we do every year, we harnessed each of these elements to promote growth inside our organization and allow for better mission delivery within the dynamic communities we serve. This resulted in a redesigned distribution model, providing 8 books annually to each child. This allows us to serve more children, implement more efficient logistic models, and increase the speed and accuracy at which we process new and used books.

People often ask me about the secret to our success, and it is always an easy answer - our PEOPLE! We simply have the most incredible volunteers, donors, partners, Board of Directors, and team members. You are the reason Bernie’s Book Bank is such an inspirational and thriving organization, positively impacting the lives of the children we serve. Together, we are creating pathways to success through book ownership. While you may never fully understand the impact of your support, please know it will be significant.

As such, I invite you to find a way to engage with us in 2023. Whether you volunteer, attend an event, donate books, or make a contribution, you’ll experience our mission. Working together, we can transform children’s stories!

Darrin Utynek
CEO

Supporters,

The 1939 book, "The Country Bunny and the Little Gold Shoes," was nearly 50 years old when my mother first read it to me. By its every appearance it is an old-fashioned book. Cottontail is told that she can never be an official Easter Bunny for a variety of reasons. But she works hard and her wisdom, kindness and ingenuity, among other qualities, earn her a coveted role as one of the Five Easter Bunnies.

When the book turned 75, I had the honor of reading it to my young daughters. With the same captivating illustrations and revolutionary lessons I learned as a child, my girls experienced similar joy to hear their own copy read aloud.

This is our mission at Bernie’s Book Bank – providing access to quality books for aspiring young readers so that they may enjoy the same opportunity as my daughters and I had.

In 2023, our goal is to distribute 2.5 million books and transition 175 schools from our “wait list” in Chicago. Our vision will also take us beyond this community, laying the groundwork to bring our model to other markets.

On behalf of the entire Board of Directors, thank you for all the ways you have supported our mission to date. Please join us in 2023 as we take audacious steps to support aspiring readers beyond Chicagoland.

Lia Douglas,
Chair, Board of Directors

Bernie’s Book Bank, a registered 501(c)3 organization, creates pathways to success through book ownership. We empower children to explore new ideas, gain knowledge and strengthen reading skills with free, quality books.
In 2022, Bernie’s Book Bank distributed our 23 MILLIONTH book, a metric that is both humbling and inspiring. By partnering with 900+ Title I Schools and early childhood programs, 300,000 children across the city of Chicago, and Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry and Will counties, each received a bag of 8 books. Our organization proudly distributed 90,000+ bilingual/Spanish books in 2022, including a custom print run of "Isabel & her Colores Go To School" by Alexandra Alessandri. This book exemplifies our Book Philosophy which mandates each bag of books contain titles that are age-appropriate, high-quality and culturally relevant. Bernie’s Book Bank believes in providing children free access to developmentally appropriate books that will engage them by reflecting their own lives and providing insight into a full range of human experiences. This concept, as articulated by Dr. Rudine Sims Bishop in her “Mirrors, Windows and Sliding Glass Doors” speech, is reflected in our Book Philosophy. Every bag distributed contains a variety of fiction and non-fiction titles, including picture and chapter books, graphic novels, mysteries, biographies, science fiction, sports, science, technology, and more. Every book distributed is vetted by dedicated volunteers and the Bernie’s Book Bank team.

I saw a girl receive a book on dinosaurs and she just lost it! She told me she couldn't wait to bring it home and read it to her brother who loves dinosaurs. Witnessing how much joy comes to kids when they receive a book is truly inspiring.

Patrick Mannelly
Chicago Bears Long Snapper (retired) & Bernie’s Book Bank Board Member
As Bernie's Book Bank enters our 14th year, we reflect on our success to date and acknowledge that there is still work to do.

Our goal is to serve as many children as possible. By leveraging data to pivot to a more efficient distribution model in 2022, we made great strides toward this goal. Distributing books once annually with partners, instead of twice, enables our distribution team to visit more Title I schools and Early Childhood Programs each year, and allows more time to pick up donated books.

As a result of these changes in 2022, and generous support from our donor base, we transitioned numerous schools off of our waiting list.

More than 50,000 children who had been waiting for books since 2017, 2018 and 2019 are now building their own personal libraries. This is a major milestone as we focus on serving every eligible child in Chicago and look towards national expansion.

30,000
Volunteer hours served in 2022

147
Schools moved off our waiting list in 2022

142,547
Used books collected at 129 book drives in 2022
Processing more than 2.3 MILLION books requires efficiency, accuracy and dedication. In 2022, Bernie's Book Bank scaled all three elements. With the support of Zebra Technologies scanners and a custom database developed by the Bernie's Book Bank team, books can be sorted by age level with greater precision and less time. Dedicated volunteers using scanners can now process almost twice as many books per session. The increase in accuracy and decrease in time required to conduct quality control frees up team members who can now manage 4-5 times more volunteers per session. With three sessions daily, six days a week, Bernie's Book Bank hosted more than 30,000 volunteer hours in 2022. Overall our capacity has increased by 8 to 10 times, which positions the organization for success in 2023 and beyond.

As someone who has gone on a book distribution, it's amazing to see a child's eyes light up when they see the books and then ask, "these books are for me?" And we get to tell them, YES! These are your books, you don't have to give them back. Then, the kids start swapping books. It's really special to see.

Jonathan Hood
Co-host of Kap & J.Hood on ESPN Chicago

Our Vision: A future where every child has equal access to books and the opportunities they inspire.
INTRODUCING BOOKAPALOOZA

The inaugural Bookapalooza took place in Cornell Square Park on Saturday, July 16, 2022. Inspired by our successful StoryBook Festival, Bookapalooza celebrated the magic of children’s books for local families. Attendees enjoyed interactions with book characters, games, literacy activities, food, music and a free bag of books for children 12 and under. At this special event, Bernie’s Book Bank distributed 1,256 free books to empower children to explore new ideas, gain knowledge and strengthen reading skills. Bookapalooza was made possible by our partnership with the Back of Yards Neighborhood Council and generous sponsors.

EVENTS FUEL OUR MISSION

2022 EVENTS

Bernie's Book Bank hosted hundreds of supporters at nine 2022 events to fund and share our mission. Bernie Cup 'Friend-raisers' engaged new players to enjoy top-tier courses while learning more about our organization and the children we serve. Our annual Birdies & Books Charity Golf Classic was the most successful to date, challenging players at Shoreacres and raising critical funds to provide quality books to Chicagoland children. During our 3rd Annual Walk As One Chicago in September, walkers spent the day traversing the city to raise awareness and donations for Bernie's Book Bank in partnership with ESPN Chicago. A live broadcast, book distribution and first pitch at the White Sox game made this event one for the books! Our year culminated in the Patrick Mannelly Award where we celebrated the top collegiate Long Snapper for the 4th year. We are grateful to all of our sponsors and attendees for making 2022 events so successful.
2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Lia Douglas (Chair), KPMG
- Erin Kirchner (Vice Chair), Cooley LLP
- Nick Jones (Secretary), Teletrac Navman
- Tina Allen, Zurich North America
- Veronica Appleton, The Marketing Arm
- Rob Armstrong, Zebra Technologies Corporation
- Jeff Burtelow, William Blair & Company, LLC
- David Carlson, Brunswick Group
- Danielle DuMerer, John G. Shedd Aquarium
- Nicole Graham, Amplify
- Karen Habercoss, University of Chicago Medicine
- Patrick Mannelly, Chicago Bears (Retired)
- Valerie McCall, Ed.D., West Aurora School Dist. 129
- Phil Menzel, JM Search
- Al Miralles, CDW Corporation
- Tanusree Misra, AbbVie
- Usha Patil, United Health Group
- Kristie Vainikos Stegen, CoreLogic
- Lynn Van Cleave, Wintrust Financial

ASSOCIATE BOARD

- John Greenzalis (Past Co-Chair), Discover Financial Services
- Caitlin Daly McCann (Event Co-Chair), Equity Commonwealth
- Grayland Phillips (Past Co-Chair), Houghton Mifflin Harcourt
- Amanda Pictor (Past Co-Chair), Marcum LLP
- Peter Roehmholdt (Finance Chair), Shore Capital Partners
- Julie Yarusinsky (Membership Co-Chair) Enlivant
- Jake Anderson, Leopardo Companies
- Mallory Horejs Altenhofen, William Blair
- Heather Pasek-Delaney, Discovery Education
- Ann Schumar, EY
- Rachel Shay, Dynamhex

THANK YOU OUTGOING BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Amit Bir, Zebra Technologies
- Caroline Ceisel, Reyes Holdings
- Sasha Diskin, Horizon Therapeutics, plc
- Matt Frekko, Prairie Management Group
- Tracie Haas, AbbVie
- Scott Patterson, William Blair & Company, LLC

THANK YOU OUTGOING ASSOCIATE BOARD MEMBERS

- Paul Cashman (Communication Chair), Loyola University
- Catherine Napier Fisher (Past Co-Chair), Heidrick & Struggles
- Jillian Radke, Nike

BERNIE’S BOOK BANK LEADERSHIP

- Darrin Utynek, Chief Executive Officer
- Brian Floriani, Founder

I am humbled and excited to be part of an organization committed to exposing children to books.

Books have always been a way for me to learn, dream and escape. I hope to help Bernie’s Book Bank find more ways to build on its strong foundation.

Tina Allen
Bernie’s Book Bank Board Member
**2022 FINANCIALS**

**2022 Revenue***

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Revenue</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Individuals</td>
<td>$1,629,594</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundraising Events</td>
<td>$1,225,876</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grants &amp; Foundations</td>
<td>$950,946</td>
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<td>Corporations</td>
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<td>Other</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$4,193,492</strong></td>
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**2022 Expenses***

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Expenses</th>
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<tr>
<td>Programs</td>
<td>$2,821,328</td>
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<tr>
<td>Management</td>
<td>$694,331</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$4,036,813</strong></td>
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**2022 Financial Information is Unaudited**

**Includes $714,975 of PPP forgiveness/government grant**
THANK YOU 2022 DONORS

$250,000+

AbbVie Foundation
Anonymous

$100,000 - $249,999

The Gliniecki Family Charitable Fund
Hunter Family Foundation
Zebra Technologies Corporation

$50,000 - $99,999

ESPN Chicago
KPMG's Family for Literacy
Notified
Reed Construction
Savills
Steans Family Foundation

$25,000 - $49,999

CDW
Elkes Foundation III
First Bank Chicago
Dominique Raccah & Raymond Bennett
The Employees from VTech Electronics
Webb Financial Group/Chris & Diana Webb Family
Erika Weiman
Wintrust
THANK YOU 2022 DONORS

$10,000 - $24,999

- D & R Legacy Fund
- Damico Family Foundation
- ELCO Mutual
- The Equal Opportunity Book Box
- Gorter Family Foundation
- Habercross Family
- Craig Karmazin & Kelli Gabel
- Kastenholz & Steans Family
- Kemper Educational & Charitable Fund
- Daniel & Karen Lee Family Foundation
- Ricky & Julie Levitz
- Liberty Health Supply

$5,000 - $9,999

- Executive Construction Inc.
- Harold F. & Suzanne D. Falk Foundation
- Dan & Alesha Fischer Family
- The Frekko Family
- Gallagher Family Foundation
- Brian & Coleen Gelber
- GEM Realty Capital
- Golub Family Foundation
- Nicole & Eric Graham
- Alison Gutterman Charity Fund
- Kyle Hendricks
- Hirsch Brick & Stone
- Hogan Family
- Home Dugout
- JMR Charities
- Nick & Dana Jones Family
- Kemper Corporation
- Kenilworth Union Church
- Lake Forest Bank & Trust Co, N.A.
- Linder Family Foundation
- Macy's
- McCarthy Family
- C.R. McCauley II Family
- John W. McCauley IV
- Phil Menzel & Ellen Debus Family
- Mighty Hook
- Miller, Cooper & Co., Ltd
- Jack Miller Family Foundation
- Albert Joseph Miralles, Jr. Charity Fund

The Mannelly Family
Wes & Margie Matthias
May River Capital, LLC
ORIX USA Group
Scott & Alisa Patterson
RAR
Rosborough Partners
John & Kathleen Schreiber Foundation
TAWANI Foundation
Terzich Family Giving Fund
Treco Foundation
Trustmark Foundation
William Blair

Anonymous (4)
AbbVie
Adams Street Partners
Aurelio's Pizza
Backstop Solutions Group, LLC
Bears Care
Helen Brach Foundation
Bob & Cindy Broten
Capital Group
Mark Carlson
Coghill Family Foundation
Community Foundation for McHenry County

Anonymous (2)
Academic Approach
Allstate Insurance Company
Bruce & Ann Bachmann Family Foundation
Mark & Brooke Bechtol
Courtney & Andrew Berlin
Beyond Identity
Book Depot
The Brinkerhoff Family
Bulley & Andrews
Capital One
CBRE
Caroline Abzug Ceisel
Cherry Lake Publishing
Chicago Bears
Chicago Blackhawks & Chicago Bulls
CIBC
Clune & Associates
Continental Electrical Construction Company
Cooley LLP
Brian & Lisa Cornell
Coupon Cabin
DLA Piper LLP (US)
Dolby
Jennifer & Peter Dunne
Egerter Family Foundation
Eiseman & Associates
Eisiminger Family

Many additional generous gifts were made in amounts ranging from $16 to $4,999. We are grateful for every investment in our mission.
Just wanted to share how appreciative we are of your proactive efforts to ensure children have access to books in which they can find themselves, their families and their communities represented and valued.

Thanks again for your partnership and for your effort to increase students' access to culturally relevant texts.

Educator, Chicago, IL

Everything I have achieved and am grateful for can be traced back to reading. Reading has changed my life! Let’s help kids change their own stories and lives.

M.C.
Bernie's Book Bank Supporter