



2021 IMPACT REPORT





Dedicated supporters,

Thank you for a fantastic 2021. Last year brought (more) unique challenges, but also many successes. As I reflect upon 2021, I am proud of the organization's dedication to our mission and grateful for all of our supporters who continue on this journey with us.

Over the past two years, we took time to learn from each new challenge and pivoted to thrive amid uncertainty. From hosting 14 in-person events to exceeding our distribution goal, we hit new milestones and engaged a record number of stakeholders. We took a hard look at our operations and dove deep into the data to analyze and refine processes that affect how we source, process and distribute free quality books. In 2022, you will see changes as we evolved to better serve our partners and the children who receive our books.

As we embrace our new normal, many have asked: what's next? We are excited to use the learnings from above to expand our mission and are busy planning the next chapter. Which is focused on serving all eligible children in Chicagoland and expanding nationally! We have an ambitious goal to serve every eligible child in the country and are creating a strategic plan to accomplish our goal.

You are the reason Bernie's Book Bank continues to grow and succeed despite difficult times. I truly appreciate all of the ways you engaged with us this year. Whether you volunteered, attended an event, donated books or invested in the children we serve, your actions made a difference in the lives of the children we serve. Together we will solve the literacy crisis and empower children to read their way to success.

With gratitude,

Darrin Utynek, CEO



Friends of Bernie's Book Bank,

2021 was another year of opportunity, challenge and change. At Bernie's Book Bank, our talented team never wavered in its mission, and our impact has never been greater. And, we are just getting started!

After three years as Board Chair, I am proudly passing the baton to Lia Douglas who will serve as our next Chair of the Board. When I reflect on my experience serving as Board Chair of Bernie's Book Bank, the word that comes to mind is gratitude. Gratitude to the amazingly talented and passionate team at Bernie's Book Bank who work tirelessly in support of the mission. Gratitude to the thousands of volunteers who play an important role in fueling the magic that is Bernie's Book Bank, and gratitude to my fellow Board members who give of their time, talent and resources to help ensure the organization continues to thrive into the future. Book ownership is the very foundation to a lifetime of learning, creativity and opportunity. I couldn't be more hopeful for the children we serve. It's been a joy and privilege to be part of the incredible Bernie's Book Bank journey.

To the children we serve, we are so proud of you. Keep reading! The best is yet to come!

Sara Granack, Immediate Past Chair, Board of Directors

Bernie's Book Bank, a registered 501(c)3 organization, sources, processes and distributes quality children's books to increase book ownership among under-served children throughout Chicagoland.

THE NEW NORMAL

The pandemic brought forth untold hardship on our country and the children we serve. It disrupted our typical operations and forced us to take a step back and re-assess our approach - which was truly a silver lining. The unplanned pauses provided time to revisit our model, processes and technology, resulting in a stronger organization positioned for continued success.

Partner feedback has been vital to the organization since inception, however the pandemic gave us the opportunity to dive deeper into the data to reveal opportunities for greater efficiency and impact. When we re-opened to volunteers in July after 16 months, we implemented many improvements.

The Volunteer Experience was enhanced and simplified, beginning with a refreshed [berniesbookbank.org](https://www.berniesbookbank.org). We also launched a new online registration platform and check-in process based on feedback from our generous volunteers. 50 Hour Club and other volunteers quickly noticed that our Processing Center layout was updated, both for Covid precautions and increased efficiency in packing books. Team Members and volunteers leverage state-of-the-art scanners courtesy of Zebra Technologies and the updated database ensured that leveling books is faster and more accurate.

These changes, and many more, strengthened operations and empowered our Team to exceed our original 2021 goal by 17% with a total of 1.56 million books distributed. Of those books, more than 47,000 were Spanish language, meeting a need identified by partners during the pandemic. Overall, we distributed more diverse books in 2021 than years prior and are grateful to all of our supporters participating in the 'Sponsor A Book' program aimed at increasing the number of books reflecting characters and stories from diverse backgrounds.

As we reflect on the accomplishments and challenges of 2021, we are most grateful to our supporters for their partnership through change.



Dear, Bernies Book Bank thank you for all the books. I really love the ones I got. They are all so interesting. I already started one of my books and I can't stop reading it literally. I even think it's my favorite book now. Thank you so much. I honestly like reading more than usual and I'm not kidding. Thank So much for the books.

20 MILLION BOOKS & COUNTING



As the pandemic continued into 2021, our mission remained focused on empowering under-served children to read their way to a better life, one bag of books at a time.

With 750+ distribution partners, children in six counties received free books from Bernie's Book Bank. And on October 13, 2021, Bernie's Book Bank reached another major milestone, the distribution of our **20 MILLIONTH free book** since 2009!

To celebrate this achievement, Bernie's Book Bank worked with St. Ann School, in partnership with Big Shoulders. Darrin Utynek, CEO of Bernie's Book Bank, led an assembly-style book distribution event. The 20 millionth book was wrapped in green paper and students excitedly searched their book bags to find this special book. Mia, a 3rd grade student, discovered the 20 millionth book to much delight.



Mia's book, and the other 1.6 million books distributed in 2021, was made possible thanks to our generous supporters. If you've volunteered your time, donated new or gently used children's books, invested in the children we serve, attended a fundraising event or served on a Board/Committee, you helped make our first 20 million books possible. Thank you.

2021 STRATEGIC PARTNERS

abbvie

Reed
CONSTRUCTION

KPMG



ZEBRA CAPTURE YOUR EDGE

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I have been to multiple World Series, covered Superbowls, celebrated the NBA Finals, held the Stanley Cup and NONE of them compares to the experience I had when we handed out books to those kids. By far, one of the coolest things I have ever done in my life.

David Kaplan, ESPN Chicago

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WELCOME BACK VOLUNTEERS

Just days into the global pandemic, Bernie's Book Bank cancelled volunteer sessions for the health and safety of our supporters. Our small, yet determined Team of 31 processed books at our facility without volunteer support until July 2021. Thankfully our volunteers proved nimble as ever, lending their support at pop-up book drives, outdoor distributions and more. Many 50 Hour Club members stayed connected virtually and planned their return to our Processing Center.

In July 2021, equipped with a brand new Volunteer Registration System including a seamless one-click check-in process, Bernie's Book Bank welcomed back our first volunteers since March 2020. And while the groups are small in size now, the passion and dedication is larger than ever. Our sincerest thanks to everyone who volunteers; your time is appreciated and your impact is infinite.



RETURNING TO BERNIE'S BOOK BANK WAS THE NORMALCY WE CRAVED DURING A TUMULTUOUS TIME. WITH SO MUCH HELPLESSNESS DURING THE PANDEMIC, IT WAS THE PERFECT WAY TO ROLL UP OUR SLEEVES AND MAKE A TRUE IMPACT. IT WAS ALSO A JOY TO SEE OUR BERNIE'S BOOK BANK FRIENDS AGAIN AFTER TOO LONG.

M.G., 50 HOUR CLUB MEMBER

1.6 MILLION

Books distributed in 2021

48K

Spanish books distributed in 2021

750+

Active school and U6 partners

THANK YOU BOOK PARTNERS

The pandemic impacted small publishers deeply, but we continue to donate children's books to Bernie's Book Bank to support your mission and encourage readers to enjoy books at a young age. We are proud of our support, humbled by your work and grateful for the partnership.

Thank you for all you do.

S.V.P., Book Partner

Generous Book Partners donated 692,483 books in 2021. We are extremely grateful to partners like ABDO, Booksource, Children's Plus, Cottage Door Press, Feed the Children, First Book, Follett, IPG, Jumping Cow Press, Kane Press, Kidsbooks, Lerner, Lillypost, Macmillan, The Creative Company and World Book Inc. In addition, the generosity of Book Depot, Books for Less, Cherry Lake Publishing, Disney Publishing Worldwide, Enchanted Lion, Sourcebooks and WorldPub was inspiring; these Book Partners truly prioritize the children we serve.

CONNECTING FACE TO FACE

IN-PERSON EVENTS FUEL OUR MISSION



BIRDIES & BOOKS

Our longest running fundraiser, Birdies & Books, was hosted at Shoreacres in Lake Bluff on August 20, 2021. Nearly 240 players enjoyed the award-winning course and majestic views while learning more about our mission and the children we serve. Presenting sponsor Reed Construction partnered with the organization for our most successful Birdies & Books event in history.



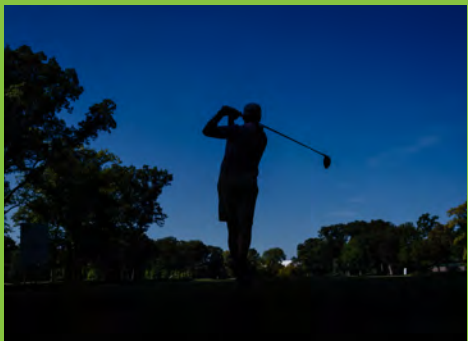
WALK AS ONE CHICAGO

On September 23, 2021, nearly 20 walkers joined David Kaplan of ESPN Chicago and our CEO Darrin Utynek for the 2nd Annual Walk As One Chicago. The route began at the United Center and ended at Northwestern University with stops along the way at Guaranteed Rate Field, UIC, DePaul's Wintrust Arena and Loyola University. The group also had the opportunity to distribute books to under-served children and see the joy of book ownership firsthand.



PATRICK MANNELLY AWARD

The 3rd Annual Patrick Mannelly Award took place on December 11, 2021 where Cal Adomitis of University of Pittsburgh earned the top honor. Joined by finalists Damon Johnson and Alex Ward, the top Long Snappers celebrated successful seasons with family, friends and supporters. Presented by Zebra Technologies, all guests enjoyed a panel with ESPN's David Kaplan, Chicago Bear Lance Briggs, Red Star Sarah Woldmoe & White Sox player Frank Thomas.



BERNIE CUP

Bernie Cup is a golf and learn fundraiser to build awareness of Bernie's Book Bank and its mission in new geographical areas. In 2021, nearly 400 players enjoyed coveted courses including Crystal Lake, Evanston Golf Club, Hawthorn Woods, Ivanhoe, Merit Club, Sunset Ridge Country Club and Wynstone. Expanding our awareness footprint in the areas we serve benefits all stakeholders and we look forward to 2022 events.



TREY TAYLOR

Country star Trey Taylor welcomed Bernie's Book Bank supporters to an intimate evening of music and wine benefitting thousands of Chicagoland children. As a singer, composer, public speaker, philanthropist, multi-instrumentalist and a true entrepreneur in entertainment, Trey wowed guests as they enjoyed varieties from Future Perfect Wines.



STORYBOOK FESTIVAL

Children of all ages gathered in Lake Bluff for our Storybook Festival featuring characters from favorite books, a costume parade, book readings, music, food and a celebration of literacy. This outdoor event in May 2022 was a welcome relief for readers and their families during the pandemic. All proceeds benefitted the children served by Bernie's Book Bank.

SAVE THE DATES FOR 2022 EVENTS:

7/16 Bookapalooza | 8/29 Birdies & Books | 9/22 Walk As One Chicago | 12/10 Patrick Mannelly Award

READERS ARE LEADERS

2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Lia Douglas (Chair), KPMG
- Erin Kirchner (Vice Chair), DLA Piper
- Nick Jones (Secretary), Teletrac Navman
- Sara Granack (Immediate Past Chair), CDW
- Veronica Appleton, The Marketing Arm
- Amit Bir, Zebra Technologies Corporation
- David Carlson, Brunswick Group
- Caroline Abzug Ceisel, Reyes Holdings
- Sasha Diskin, Horizon Therapeutics
- Danielle DuMerer, John G. Shedd Aquarium
- Matt Frekko, Prairie Management Group
- Nicole Graham, Learn 6 North Chicago/Great Lakes Charter School
- Tracie Haas, AbbVie
- Karen Habercoss, University of Chicago Medicine
- Patrick Mannelly, Chicago Bears (Retired)
- Sherri Maxson-Goodlove, Association for Supply Chain Management
- Valerie McCall, Ed.D., West Aurora School Dist. 129
- Phil Menzel, JM Search
- Al Miralles, CNA Insurance
- Scott Patterson, William Blair & Company, LLC
- Kristie Vainikos Stegen, Nielsen IQ
- Lynn Van Cleave, Wintrust Financial

ASSOCIATE BOARD

- John Greenzalis (Co-Chair), Discover Financial Services
- Catherine Napier Fisher (Co-Chair), Heidrick & Struggles
- Paul Cashman (Communication Chair), Loyola University
- Caitlin Daly McCann (Event Co-Chair), Reed Construction
- Grayland Phillips (Past Co-Chair & Event Co-Chair), Houghton Mifflin Harcourt
- Amanda Pictor (Past Co-Chair & Membership Co-Chair), Marcum LLP
- Jillian Radke (Recruitment Chair), Aon
- Peter Roehmholdt (Finance Chair), Shore Capital Partners
- Julie Yarusinsky (Membership Co-Chair) Enlivan
- Jake Anderson, Leopardo Companies
- Mallory Horejs Altenhofen, William Blair
- Ann Schumar, EY
- Rachel Shay, General Electric

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I was lucky enough to grow up in a home where books were a constant presence and those pages helped shaped who I am today, which is why I am so passionate about Bernie's Book Bank. They work to ensure that every kid in Chicago is afforded the same ability to own books and to dive into worlds beyond what they see in front of them, to grow and to better themselves. There are few things that matter more than giving the next generation a boost.

John Greenzalis, Associate Board Co-Chair

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BERNIE'S BOOK BANK LEADERSHIP

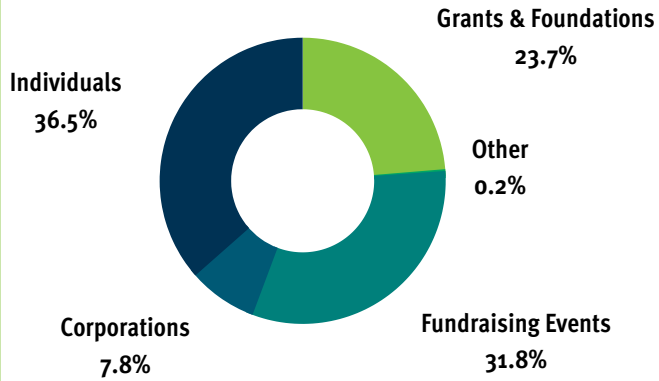
- Darrin Utynek, Chief Executive Officer
- Brian Floriani, Founder



BOOK ADVISORY COUNCIL

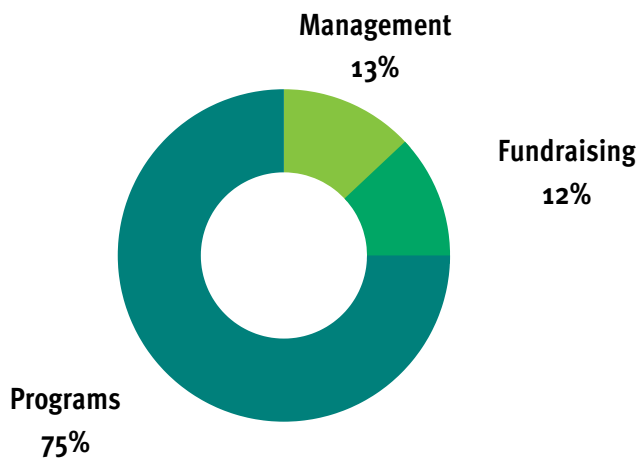
- Maggie Binz (Librarian), Jefferson Elementary School
- Jackie De Leo (VP, GMM) Bookstore at Barnes & Noble, Inc.
- Jane Fleming (Director of Literacy), Chicago Public Schools
- Rita Gertie (Teacher), Cullen Elementary School; 50 Hour Club Member – Bernie's Book Bank
- Kennan Marsh, (Senior Research Fellow), AbbVie; 50 Hour Club Member – Bernie's Book Bank
- Valerie McCall, Ed.D., (Director of Educational Equity) West Aurora School Dist. 129; Board Member- Bernie's Book Bank
- Sasha Quinton (Executive Vice President) Scholastic Corporation, and President, Scholastic Book Fairs
- Yesenia Sanchez (Chief Academic Officer), North Chicago Community Consolidated Unit School District 187
- Tinaya York, PhD (Director of Elementary School Design Programs and Supports), Chicago Public Schools

2021 FINANCIALS



2021 Revenue

36.5%	Individuals	\$1,261,881
23.7%	Grants & Foundations	\$820,966
31.8 %	Fundraising Events	\$1,101,353
7.8%	Corporations	\$268,627
0.2%	Other	\$8,214
	TOTAL	\$ 3,461,040



2021 Expenses

75%	Programs	\$2,464,736
13%	Management	\$427,221
12%	Fundraising	\$394,358
	TOTAL	\$3,286,315

2021 Financial Information is Unaudited



THANK YOU TO OUR 2021 DONORS

\$250,000+

AbbVie Foundation

Anonymous

Hunter Family Foundation

\$100,000 - \$249,999

The Gliniecki Family Charitable Fund

Zebra Technologies Corporation

\$50,000 - \$99,999

KPMG's Family for Literacy

Reed Construction

\$25,000 - \$49,999

Caputo Cheese in Melrose Park, IL
CDW

Elkes Foundation III
TAWANI Foundation

Webb Financial Group/
Chris & Diana Webb Family

\$10,000 - \$24,999

Adams Street Partners
Arnold Simonsen Family Foundation
Backstop Solutions Group, LLC
Bob & Cindy Broten
Clerestory Consulting LLC
D & R Legacy Fund
Damico Family Foundation
DLA Piper LLP (US)
Dr. Scholl Foundation
Emerson - Rosemont

The Equal Opportunity Book Box
GEM Realty Capital
Gorter Family Foundation
Anders & Donna Gustafsson
Harger
Marc & Jessica Kafka
Craig Karmazin & Kelli Gabel
Kastenholz & Steans Household
Kemper Educational & Charitable Fund

Daniel & Karen Lee Family Foundation
Macy's
The Mannelly Family
Anonymous
Julie & Chuck Parsons
R. Scott & Alisa Patterson Family
Terzich Family Giving Fund
ULINE
Anonymous
Kristin & Jamie Wildman

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Anonymous
AllianceCo
American Family Insurance Dreams Foundation
Jason C. Anderson Family
Aurelio's Pizza
Book Depot
The Brinckerhoff Family
Craig & Caryn Caffarelli Family
CapitalOne Healthcare
Caroline Abzug Ceisel
Cherry Lake Publishing
Chicago Bears
CIBC
CNA
Consolidated Flooring of Chicago/Milliken Carpet
CORE Industrial Partners
Coyote Logistics
Cushman & Wakefield - Chicago

David B. & Pamela M. Waud Foundation
Jennifer & Peter Dunne
Efengge Electrical Supply
Eisiminger Family
Gelber Household
Julie & Ryan Gish
Golub Family Foundation
Alison Gutterman Charity Fund
Harold F. & Suzanne D. Falk Foundation
Nancy & Jack Hartung
Helen Brach Foundation
Kyle Hendricks
Hirsch Brick & Stone
ITW Foundation
Jack Miller Family Foundation
Nick & Dana Jones Family
Kemper Corporation
Kinter

Levenfeld Pearlstein - Chicago
May River Capital, LLC
McCarthy Family
John McCauley Family
McMaster-Carr Supply Company
Phil Menzel & Ellen Debus Family
Mighty Hook
Albert Joseph Miralles, Jr. Charity Fund
MoLo Solutions
Morris Capital Management
Northern Trust - Lake Forest
Northpond Partners
NXT Capital
OKW Architects
Rausch Infrastructure
RSM US LLP
Sakach Household
SecurityScorecard

Sheets Household
Kevin & Janet Terry
The Anthony Rizzo Family Foundation
The Book Stall
The John & Kathleen Schreiber Foundation
The Utynek Family
Valby Capital Management
Venture One Real Estate, LLC
Grainger
Wagner Foundation
Weick Household
Andrew Weil Family
Barbara A. Weiner, J.D.
Winston & Strawn LLP

Many other generous donations were made in amounts ranging from \$12 to \$4,999. Bernie's Book Bank is grateful for every dollar invested in our mission.



THANK YOU FOR CHANGING THE STORY

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Just wanted to say thank you for the books for my son this year and last year. It's such a nice variety of books that are put together and we really enjoy reading them. Thank you for all your hard work.

Alicia

Parent of a student who receives books

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“

My family and my business feel fortunate to volunteer and donate to Bernie's Book Bank. The organization puts quality books in the hands of under-served children and gives them a chance to improve their literacy, a skill and gift that can change a child's life forever.

Chris Webb

President, Webb Financial Group

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