



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.

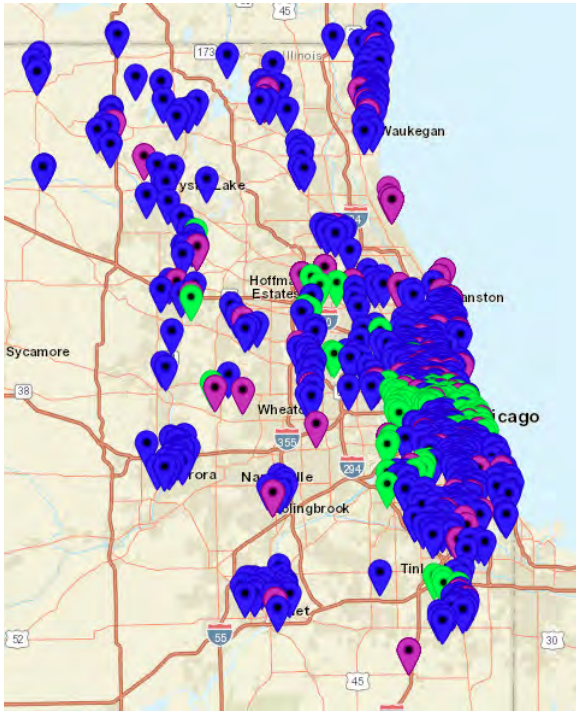
On behalf of the entire Board of Directors, thank you for all the ways you have supported our mission to date. Please join us in 2023 as we take audacious steps to support aspiring readers beyond Chicagoland.

Lia Douglas

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.

23 MILLION BOOKS & COUNTING



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.

2022 STRATEGIC PARTNERS

abbvie



KPMG

ZEBRA CAPTURE YOUR EDGE

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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

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A BRIGHT FUTURE

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



EFFICIENCY SCALED



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.

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

2.3 MILLION

Books distributed in 2022

90K

Spanish/bilingual books distributed in 2022

1,200

Active Title I School & Early Childhood Program Partners

OUR MISSION IN ACTION

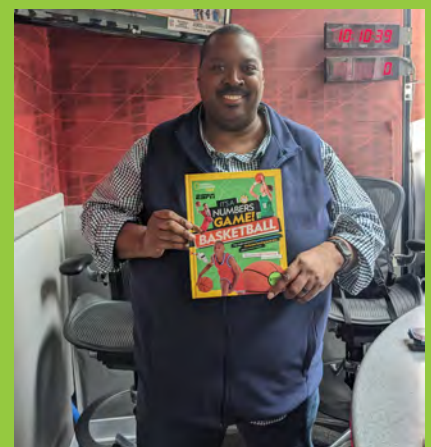
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As someone who has gone on a book distribution, it's amazing to see a child's eyes light up when they see the books and then ask, "these books are for me?" And we get to tell them, YES! These are your books, you don't have to give them back. Then,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

Jonathan Hood

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

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PATHWAYS TO PAGES

EVENTS FUEL OUR MISSION



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.



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.

Save the dates for 2023 events. Contact [Nikki Bonamarte](#) to learn more:

7/12 Walk As One Chicago | 7/15 Bookapalooza | 8/28 Birdies & Books | 12/9 Patrick Mannelly Award

BERNIE CUPS: 5/22 Evanston Golf Club | 6/5 Women's Cup- Crystal Lake Country Club

6/26 White Eagle Golf Club | 7/24 Bull Valley Golf Club | 9/12 Glen View Club

LEADERS EMPOWER READERS

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

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

BERNIE'S BOOK BANK LEADERSHIP

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

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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

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ASSOCIATE BOARD

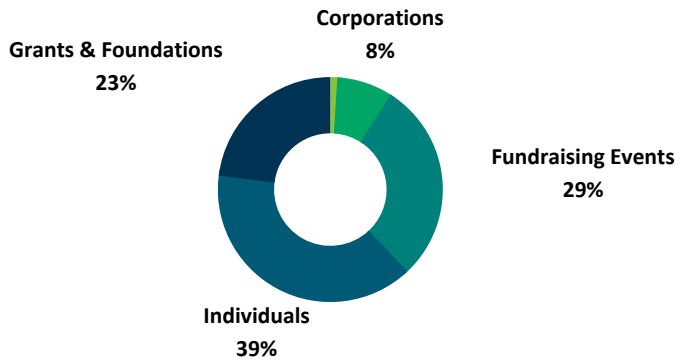
- John Greenzalis (Past Co-Chair), Discover Financial Services
- Caitlin Daly McCann (Event Co-Chair), Equity Commonwealth
- Grayland Phillips (Past Co-Chair), Houghton Mifflin Harcourt
- Amanda Pictor (Past Co-Chair), Marcum LLP
- Peter Roehmholdt (Finance Chair), Shore Capital Partners
- Julie Yarusinsky (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 ASSOCIATE BOARD MEMBERS

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



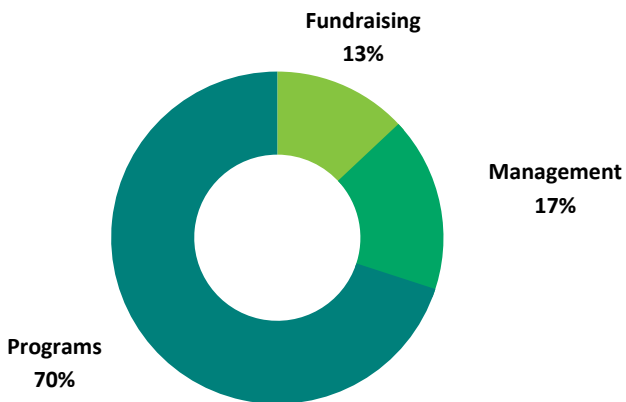
2022 FINANCIALS



2022 Revenue*

39%	Individuals	\$1,629,594
29%	Fundraising Events	\$1,225,876
23%	Grants & Foundations**	\$950,946
8%	Corporations	\$354,667
1%	Other	\$32,409
	TOTAL	\$ 4,193,492

**Includes \$714,975 of PPP forgiveness/government grant



2022 Expenses*

70%	Programs	\$2,821,328
17%	Management	\$694,331
13%	Fundraising	\$521,154
	TOTAL	\$4,036,813

*2022 Financial Information is Unaudited



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

Anonymous (4)	D & R Legacy Fund	The Mannelly Family
AbbVie	Damico Family Foundation	Wes & Margie Matthias
Adams Street Partners	ELCO Mutual	May River Capital, LLC
Aurelio's Pizza	The Equal Opportunity Book Box	ORIX USA Group
Backstop Solutions Group, LLC	Gorter Family Foundation	Scott & Alisa Patterson
Bears Care	Habercross Family	RAR
Helen Brach Foundation	Craig Karmazin & Kelli Gabel	Rosborough Partners
Bob & Cindy Broten	Kastenholz & Steans Family	John & Kathleen Schreiber Foundation
Capital Group	Kemper Educational & Charitable Fund	TAWANI Foundation
Mark Carlson	Daniel & Karen Lee Family Foundation	Terzich Family Giving Fund
Coghill Family Foundation	Ricky & Julie Levitz	Treco Foundation
Community Foundation for	Liberty Health Supply	Trustmark Foundation
McHenry County		William Blair

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Anonymous (2)	Executive Construction Inc.	Morris Capital Management
Academic Approach	Harold F. & Suzanne D. Falk Foundation	Kathy & William Newlands
Allstate Insurance Company	Dan & Aleesha Fischer Family	Northpond Partners
Bruce & Ann Bachmann Family Foundation	The Frekko Family	OKW Architects
Mark & Brooke Bechtold	Gallagher Family Foundation	Provision Bridge
Courtney & Andrew Berlin	Brian & Coleen Gelber	Reyes Holdings
Beyond Identity	GEM Realty Capital	Tom Ricketts
Book Depot	Golub Family Foundation	Ropes & Gray
The Brinckerhoff Family	Nicole & Eric Graham	Rose Pest Solutions
Bulley & Andrews	Alison Gutterman Charity Fund	RSM US LLP
Capital One	Kyle Hendricks	Nelson & Karen Santos
CBRE	Hirsch Brick & Stone	Ryan & Beth Satterfield
Caroline Abzug Ceisel	Hogan Family	Segal Family Foundation
Cherry Lake Publishing	Home Dugout	Special People in Need
Chicago Bears	JMR Charities	Takeda
Chicago Blackhawks & Chicago Bulls	Nick & Dana Jones Family	Takiff Family Foundation
CIBC	Kemper Corporation	Brady Tinkham
Clune & Associates	Kenilworth Union Church	U.S. Cellular
Continental Electrical Construction	Lake Forest Bank & Trust Co, N.A.	ULINE
Company	Linder Family Foundation	The Utynek Family
Cooley LLP	Macy's	Valby Capital Management
Brian & Lisa Cornell	McCarthy Family	Vantage
Coupon Cabin	C.R. McCauley II Family	Venture One Real Estate, LLC
DLA Piper LLP (US)	John W. McCauley IV	David B. & Pamela M. Waud Foundation
Dolby	Phil Menzel & Ellen Debus Family	Andrew Weil Family
Jennifer & Peter Dunne	Mighty Hook	Wesco
Egerter Family Foundation	Miller, Cooper & Co., Ltd	Kristin & Jamie Wildman
Eiserman & Associates	Jack Miller Family Foundation	
Eisiminger Family	Albert Joseph Miralles, Jr. Charity Fund	

Many additional generous gifts were made in amounts ranging from \$16 to \$4,999. We are grateful for every investment in our mission.

TRANSFORMING CHILDREN'S STORIES

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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

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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

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