



MICHIGAN

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Contact: Bethany Rhodes | National Strategies Public Relations

Phone: 813-865-3093 | Email: brhodes@nspublicrelations.com

\$38,500 OF RECORD-SETTING GIFT TO FUND BOOKS IN REACH OUT AND READ MICHIGAN EXPANSION

10 Reach Out and Read Affiliates, including Michigan, will be funded from the MacKenzie Scott gift

DETROIT (Jan. 30, 2024) – [Reach Out and Read](#), a national nonprofit dedicated to promoting early childhood literacy and healthy early relationships, is using a record-setting donation by philanthropist MacKenzie Scott to support 10 projects at Reach Out and Read Affiliates, including \$38,500 to help families in Michigan. A total of \$400,000 will be invested in communities across the country. These projects strengthen Reach Out and Read’s shared goals, partnership efforts, and vision of growing the program nationwide. In FY23, Reach Out and Read served more than 4.4 million families with young children, working to strengthen parent-child relationships through shared reading.

The \$38,500 allocated to Reach Out and Read Michigan will provide books to clinics — many of which serve low-income families — that were struggling with book funding. The Michigan Affiliate, which launched in November 2022, currently spans 13 counties and 22 primary care clinics across Michigan.

“This grant award will help our Affiliate improve the quality of programming at current sites, strengthen equity by providing access to high-quality books, and allow for the continued integration in pediatric care at sites that are at high risk for not continuing to provide Reach Out and Read due to lack of resources,” said Angie DeLost, President/CEO, Ready for School and Affiliate Leader of Reach Out and Read Michigan.

These new projects will help build staff, relationships, and resources to enable the Affiliates to further foster early childhood development and literacy in their regions. This funding is the first major allocation from [the \\$8 million donation to Reach Out and Read by Scott](#) in 2023. Her commitment to addressing societal challenges aligns seamlessly with Reach Out and Read’s vision of building a strong foundation for children’s future success.

“This investment in our Michigan Affiliate is also an investment into the lives of the children and families there. Building healthy early relationships through shared reading and early literacy is a powerful catalyst for positive change,” said Reach Out and Read CEO Marty

Martinez. “We are grateful for MacKenzie Scott’s transformative gift, which is already helping us to create those moments that matter with their children.”

The remaining nine, growth-minded projects are:

- **Arizona:** Expand support to Reach Out and Read clinics; \$40,000
- **Bay Area:** Hire staff to secure sustained fiscal support; \$40,000
- **Carolinas/Mid-Atlantic:** Increase community partnerships; \$40,000
- **Florida:** Launch Clinician Learning Collaborative; \$40,000
- **Greater New York:** Purchase diverse books; \$40,000
- **Indiana:** Hire staff to secure sustained fiscal support; \$40,000
- **Northeast:** Hire staff to secure fiscal support for expansion into Maine; \$40,000
- **Northwest:** Expand public awareness throughout medical community; \$37,500
- **Wisconsin:** Create diverse books initiative; \$44,995

These Affiliates span diverse communities, transform pediatric care, and provide important resources to families. Reach Out and Read is excited to be able to further the work being done to positively impact the lives of children nationwide. This use of the Scott gift to invest in Affiliates and communities is an ongoing strategy that will continue to grow.

In FY23, Reach Out and Read served more than 4.4 million children and provided 7.1 million free books across 8.8 million well-child visits. More than two-thirds of the children served are from low-income families. Recent research in a [peer-reviewed study published in Academic Pediatrics](#) confirms the program’s effectiveness in increasing the frequency of parental reading. To learn more about Reach Out and Read and the programs offered, go to ReachOutAndRead.org.

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About Reach Out and Read: As a 501(c)3 nonprofit, Reach Out and Read leverages the near-universal reach of the pediatric well-child visit to support caregivers in fostering healthy relationships with their young children through shared reading. The only national pediatric literacy model endorsed by the American Academy of Pediatrics, Reach Out and Read serves children in every state across the U.S., through 6,200 clinics and the expertise of 36,000 clinicians. Discover more at reachoutandread.org.