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A MESSAGE FROM JEFF HARTMANN, TREASURER

Read to Grow's two programs—Books for Babies and Books for Kids—continued their strong advancements in the 2016–17 fiscal year. Support from book donors, including individuals, foundations, and publishers such as Simon & Schuster, was essential to our robust activities and services.

A new van for Read to Grow has made our programs run even more smoothly. We purchased the Ram ProMaster, thanks entirely to a grant from Walmart. The van is used daily for book deliveries for our programs across the state and for book pickups from donors.

Other notable grant awards came from United Way of Coastal Fairfield County, Pitney Bowes, The Community Foundation of Greater New Haven, and Seedlings Foundation.

Two book author events, featuring Kareem Abdul-Jabbar in New Haven and Carly Simon in Madison, were among the year's highlights.

We were grateful for many sponsorships for the New Haven event, which included those from Citizens Bank; McInerney Family Foundation; The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven; Accel; The Safety Zone; The Hartmann Group; Hy's Limousine; Seedlings Foundation; Suzio-York Hill; Updike, Kelly & Spellacy; and Yale New Haven Health. Sponsors donated blocks of their tickets so that high school students could attend the event at College Street Music Hall and could also receive free copies of Abdul-Jabbar's book *Coach Wooden and Me*.

Carly Simon drew people from far and wide. The audience for the lively Sunday afternoon event in November included travelers from Wisconsin and Florida.

The strength of our programs is reflected by these high watermarks reached in the 2016–17 fiscal year:

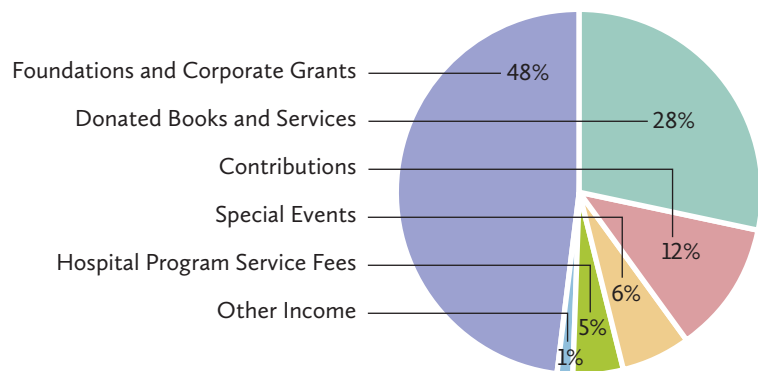
- Books for Babies added two hospital partnerships, making a total of 14 hospitals with our special services on their maternity units. Backus Hospital in Norwich and Charlotte Hungerford in Torrington are the latest partners.
- Books for Babies formally signed on the first six partners with its new Prenatal Project. This important initiative offers new baby books and workshops to pregnant women receiving care at community health centers and primary care clinics.
- Books for Kids was operating 32 Book Places across the state by the end of the fiscal year, up by five from the year before. It also had 12 Partnerships. All 44 of these formal collaborations are with other nonprofits.

For both of our programs, Simon & Schuster gave 53,341 new children's books. We also received 6,818 new books in the Jumping Cow series through a grant from The Elkes Foundation.

Read to Grow received an unqualified, or clean, audit opinion for the 2016–17 fiscal year from our external auditors, Murphy & Company, LLC.

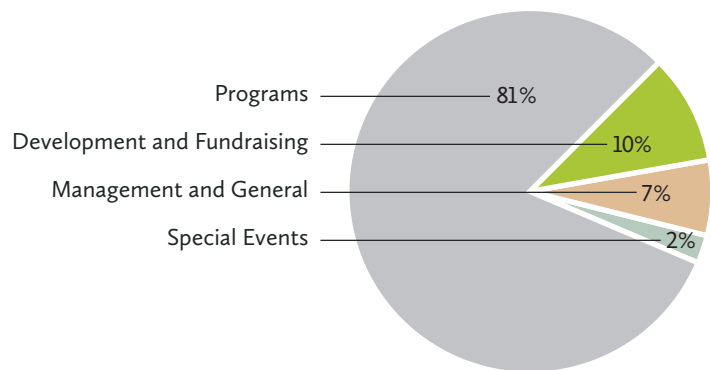
PUBLIC SUPPORT AND REVENUES

Foundations and Corporate Grants	\$ 684,851
Donated Books and Services	404,708
Contributions	168,663
Special Events	85,901
Hospital Program Service Fees	63,750
Other Income	18,069
Total Public Support and Revenues	\$ 1,425,942



FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES

Programs	\$ 717,666
Development and Fundraising	86,160
Management and General	59,515
Special Events	19,780
Total Expenses	883,121
Increase in Net Assets	\$ 542,821



Direct program expenses accounted for 81% of total expenses.