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A MESSAGE FROM **JEFF HARTMANN**, TREASURER

Maintaining stability. Preparing for growth.

Those were the guidelines at Read to Grow during the 2017–18 fiscal year.

While continuing to work with more than 60 partners through our Books for Babies and Books for Kids programs, we began building the foundation for the launch of a third program in our then-18 years. We started to raise funds and meet with community leaders in New Haven to introduce Early Steps to School Success. Read to Grow is now managing that program through a partnership with Save the Children and New Haven Public Schools.

A \$14,775 grant from the six Shoreline Rotary Clubs of Branford, Clinton, East Haven, Guilford, Madison, and North Branford provided much-needed funds for our purchase of bilingual books. The demand for books for children in Spanish-speaking families has risen dramatically—more than 300 percent—since initiatives began in 2014 and 2015 in both Books for Babies and Books for Kids. Those new programmatic components target at-risk populations.

Read to Grow welcomed a first-time grant from The Stocker Foundation. The \$10,000 grant has supported our work in the Greater Hartford area, at Saint Francis Hospital and in a partnership with United Way of Central and Northeastern Connecticut. Through the latter, we provide books for reading tutors in elementary schools.

A grant from Branford Community Foundation has allowed us to supply books for a town-wide, annual event that offers books to young residents. The "Week of the Young Child" takes place every spring, and the local celebration is organized by the Branford Early Childhood Collaborative.

To help fortify our work in eastern Connecticut, the Jeffrey P. Ossen Family Foundation granted \$5,000 to Read To Grow. That award supports our Book Place and other book distributions in Windham.

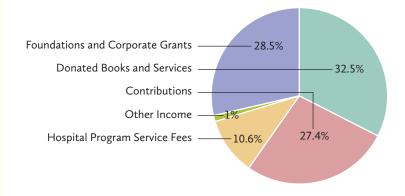
During the year, we planned to expand the distribution of information about the Connecticut Higher Education Trust (CHET) Baby Scholars plan to reach the pregnant women served by our Prenatal Project at sites across the state. Read to Grow began giving this information two years earlier to mothers of newborns in our partnered hospitals. CHET Baby Scholars (a 529 plan) encourages families to start savings accounts for their newborns' future higher education. Enticements include as much as \$250 in contributions from the state.

In FY2018, our programs began to study the returns from various surveys that we give to pregnant women in our Prenatal Project and parents of young children in workshops. These surveys are essential in shaping the content of our services and the methods of delivering information and books.

Read to Grow received an unqualified, or clean, audit opinion for the 2017-18 fiscal year from our external auditors, Donald L. Perlroth & Company, CPAs.

PUBLIC SUPPORT AND REVENUES

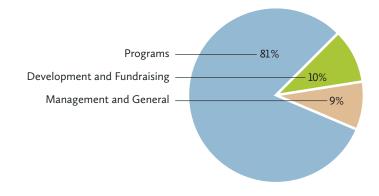
Foundations and Corporate Grants	\$ 203,254
Donated Books and Services	232,254
Contributions	195,701
Hospital Program Service Fees	75,501
Other Income	7,208
Total Public Support and Revenues	\$ 713,918



FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES

Programs	\$ 740,233
Development and Fundraising	92,150
Management and General	78,682
Total Expenses	911,065
Decrease in Net Assets	\$ - 197,147 1

 1 In FY2018, the second-year donation of a significant three-year pledge was not recorded as income. As accounting standards stipulate, the total amount of a multi-year pledge appears as income only in the year the pledge is first made. Therefore, subsequent donations of the same pledge are not recorded as income.



Program expenses account for 81% of total expenses.