



## A MESSAGE FROM JANE LEE

As a newer member of the Read to Grow board, I am thrilled to step into the role of treasurer of this wonderful organization doing such meaningful work in the early literacy field. Like many organizations, Read to Grow continued to adjust to the realities of the ongoing pandemic during FY 2020–2021, pivoting the implementation of programs to meet the literacy needs of families and community partners. We distributed 126,699 books throughout the course of the year, including 31,903 books through our Books for Babies programming, 92,744 books through our Books for Kids programming, and 2,052 books through our Early Steps to School Success programming.

During the summer of 2020, Read to Grow continued to distribute books at school meal distribution sites around the state in response to the pandemic and in partnership with Senator Chris Murphy, RJ Julia Booksellers and many generous donors.

As schools reopened to in-person learning in fall 2020, Read to Grow dove into raising funds for the publication and distribution of a new board book, *Hello Sometimes*, in direct response to the COVID pandemic. The first printing run of 11,000 copies of *Hello Sometimes* landed in the Read to Grow warehouse in June 2021, and we are now deep into distributing a second run of 11,000 copies of the book statewide.

Read to Grow launched a new virtual event series in spring 2021: Popcorn & PJs: Virtual Family Storytime events with a dynamic array of children’s book authors and illustrators, including Hyewon Yum, Lizzy Rockwell and Abdul-Razak Zachariah. Families had the option to order just the link or for \$30 receive a box with the book, a link to the event, popcorn, crayons, sketch pads and more shipped straight to their door. Founding supporter Citizens Bank stepped up to sponsor the events, Alliance for Community Empowerment sponsored their Head Start families and other generous donors sponsored families enrolled in the home visiting portion Early Steps for School Success.

Read to Grow set a goal to raise \$10,000 through the Great Give, an annual giving event organized by the Community Foundation of Greater New Haven. Thanks to our committed supporters, Read to Grow raised over \$30,000 during 24 hours of giving in spring 2021.

The Roxanne J Coady Legacy Fund for Children’s Literacy saw a gain of \$26,851.

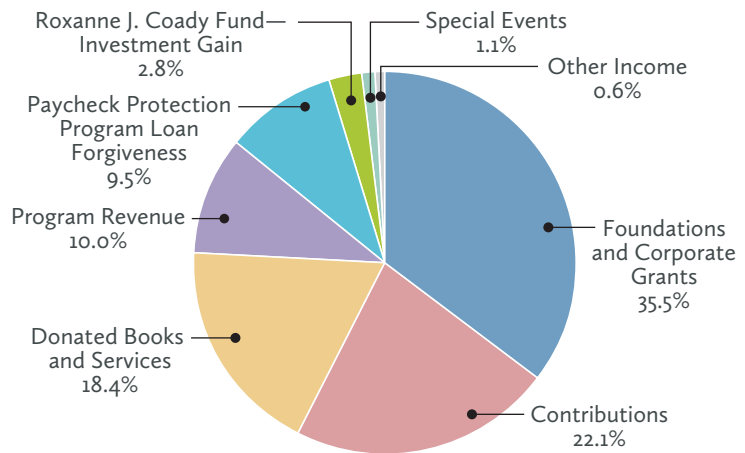
Read to Grow applied for and received a second-round Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan of \$109,348 and applied for and received full forgiveness of the loan in October 2021.

Read to Grow received an unqualified, or clean, audit opinion for the 2020–2021 fiscal year from an external auditor, Whittlesey.

This annual report is available online at [www.readtogrow.org/about-us/annual-reports/](http://www.readtogrow.org/about-us/annual-reports/)

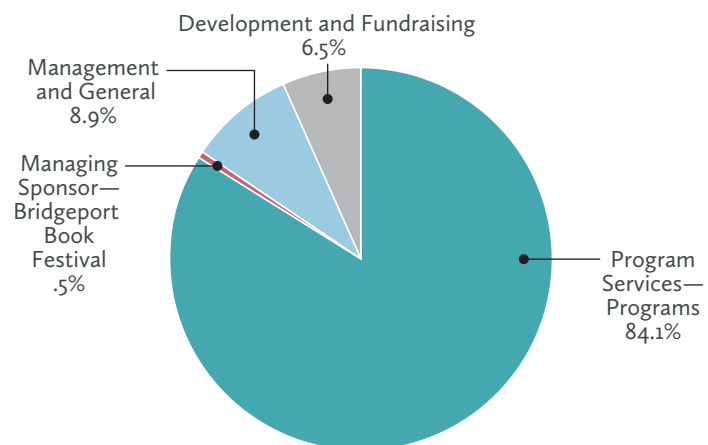
### PUBLIC SUPPORT AND OTHER REVENUES

Foundations and Corporate Grants	\$ 346,406
Contributions	216,090
Donated Books and Services	180,078
Program Revenue	97,280
Paycheck Protection Program Loan Forgiveness	92,800
Roxanne J. Coady Fund—Investment Gain	26,851
Special Events	11,207
Other Income	6,179
<b>Total Public Support and Other Revenues</b>	<b>\$ 976,891</b>



### FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES

Program Services—Programs	\$ 1,072,190
Managing Sponsor—Bridgeport Book Festival	6,267
Management and General	112,840
Development and Fundraising	83,154
<b>Total Functional Expenses</b>	<b>1,274,451</b>
<b>Change in Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ -297,560</b>







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