

## A note from the Executive Director

2022-2023 has been a truly transformative period for BookSpring: New program, new staff, new home. Same great mission!

In August 2022, a finding that the number of families with at least 20 books at home dropped to a new low of 16%, down from 54% in 2019, sparked an urgency to get books into the hands of children in Texas.

We went right into action, enrolling 15,000 children across Texas in our Books Beginning at Birth Program, delivering free print books every six months to their homes through age 4. The program also provides video tips and a digital library of hundreds of books to help parents and caregivers feel more confident reading together with their young children.

Also, our new headquarters in South Austin has been a delight, with great new spaces for our dedicated volunteers and public events like our successful BookSpring Fest: A Read Aloud Celebration, which we plan to do again in May 2024. Our flagship programs Books for Me and ReadWell are still going strong, and we are excited to be offering Family Book Clubs, BookSpring Days, and Open Book. We are aiming to distribute over 200,000 books to more than 100,000 children in Texas.

We are excited and honored to continue our early literacy services in Central Texas while expanding our reach to families across the state of Texas through terrific partnerships and the advocacy of many proactive individuals and organizations, just like you!

Please join in or continue your support with a gift that is meaningful to you. New babies are being born every day, and they all deserve beautiful, meaningful books! Let's make sure they have access to them, together.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Emily".

**Emily Ball Cicchini**  
Executive Director



### Our Mission

BookSpring builds early literacy in children and families through healthcare, education, and the community.

### Our Vision

A world of families reading and succeeding together.

### Our Values

**Excellence:** We set high standards and support each other to achieve them.

**Integrity:** We treat all individuals with respect and dignity.

**Innovation:** We embrace change, creativity, continuous learning, and personal growth.

**Diversity:** We recognize that a range of thoughtful perspectives is necessary.

**Collaboration:** We collaborate with organizations to improve children's access to literacy opportunities.

## Programs in Action



Pflugerville City Council Member, **Kimberly Holiday** helps distribute books at the Juneteenth Pfamily Reunion as part of our **Open Book** program.



Child flipping through a board book they received at our **Early Books for Me** program hosted by **Child, Inc.**



Another cohort of parents from **Todos Juntos Learning Center** completing BookSpring's **Parent Book Club**.

## Partner Spotlight



BookSpring partnered with the Texas Association for the Education of Young Children to launch a joint program, **Books Beginning at Birth**. This statewide program serves children and families from birth throughout age 4.

Children are sent a continuous stream of books every 6 months while caregivers are provided with tips and resources to get their children motivated to start their reading journey. Together with TXAEYC, BookSpring has signed up over 20,000 children to receive services provided by the **Books Beginning at Birth** program.

## Housing Authority of the City of Austin



In 2023, BookSpring partnered with the Housing Authority of the City of Austin to bring our **Family Book Club** directly to Austin neighborhoods. Each week, the program has a different theme

that empowers parents to read with their children. BookSpring Facilitators read aloud to the participating children and families, host an activity, and give caregivers and parents tips on reaching with a child.

BookSpring has hosted this program in four different recreational centers across the city of Austin since May 2023 and will continue the program throughout the coming year.



## BookSpring Fest: A Read Aloud Celebration

After moving into our new headquarters, we hosted our inaugural **BookSpring Fest: A Read Aloud Celebration**.

BookSpring Fest was a free public event with help from generous sponsors. The centerpiece of the festival was our special guests who read their

favorite books aloud to children and families in attendance. All the while, attendees enjoyed story-themed carnival games, face painting, balloon making, free books, prizes, snacks and refreshments. BookSpring Fest had over 600 children and families in attendance all celebrating the importance of reading aloud as a community.



## Literacy Metrics Achieved

Total Children Served	Total Books	Hours of Activity	Total Caregivers Served
148,887	210,510	45,294	35,882
Child Attendance 0-36 months	Child Attendance 3-5 years	Child Attendance 6-8 years	Child Attendance 9-12 years
71,327	54,332	17,187	11,205

## Main Partners

- Any Baby Can
- Austin ISD
- Bastrop ISD
- Birdville ISD Early Childhood
- Carousel Pediatrics
- Child, Inc.
- Communities in Schools
- CommUnity Care
- Del Valle ISD
- Literacy United, Dallas
- Pflugerville ISD
- Texas Association for the Education of Young Children
- YMCA of Austin

## Books Distributed by Program Area



15,927



53,088



31,957



101,640

## Volunteer Appreciation

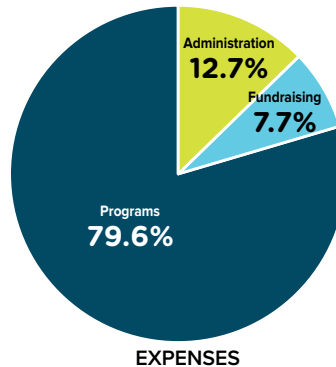


Our dedicated volunteers are indispensable to our mission. We sincerely thank everyone who volunteered this year. Our volunteers play a pivotal role in our programs helping children to experience an enriched world of reading.

## BookSpring Financial Highlights

Fiscal Year 2023\* Audited Financials

Total Revenue	\$1,767,541
Programs Expense	\$1,560,670
Fundraising Expense	\$151,426
Administration Expense	\$249,264
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$1,961,360</b>
Ending Net Equity	\$1,552,038
Prior Year Equity	\$1,745,856



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## Community Advisory Council

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\* The complete audited financial statements for BookSpring can be obtained by visiting [www.bookspring.org](http://www.bookspring.org) or by requesting a copy at 512-472-1791 x 100.

# Thank you to our Sponsors and Donors

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## \$500+

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