

A note from the Executive Director

Dear Friends of BookSpring,

As we reflect on the accomplishments of the past year we are overwhelmed with gratitude for the collective efforts that have propelled our mission forward. Together, we have reached significant milestones, enhancing the literacy journeys of thousands of children and their families in Central Texas and beyond.

This year, one of our proudest achievements was receiving the prestigious **2023 Library of Congress Literacy Award**. This recognition reaffirmed our commitment to addressing the literacy gap, especially among underserved communities. Additionally, our B3 Books App, launched as a companion to our **Books Beginning at Birth** program, has seen remarkable engagement. The digital platform has allowed us to bridge gaps in access, offer crucial support in both English and Spanish, and aid in reaching 231 counties across Texas.

We also expanded our on-the-ground efforts through key programs like **ReadWell** and **BookSpring Days**, which empowered local non-profits, ESL programs, and afterschool initiatives to provide children and families with their very own books.

Of course, these successes would not have been possible without the support of our dedicated partners, donors, and volunteers. Whether you donated books, sponsored a program, or joined us for **BookSpring Fest 2024**, your contributions have made a lasting difference.

As we look ahead to **BookSpring's next 50 years**, we stand committed to reaching even more families, fostering a love of reading, and building stronger home libraries. Our vision to create a literate and book-rich future for all children in Texas is more tangible than ever, thanks to your unwavering belief in the power of reading.



With gratitude,

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

Emily Ball Cicchini, PhD
Executive Director



Ford Sanders, KVUE anchor, and ASL interpreter at BookSpring Fest 2024

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



Children at **Tiny Sprouts Academy** holding up their new books.



Partner reading aloud to children at Trinity CDC through our **Early Books for Me** program.



Child looking at the books they received through **Books Beginning at Birth** program.

Partner Spotlight: Todos Juntos Interns

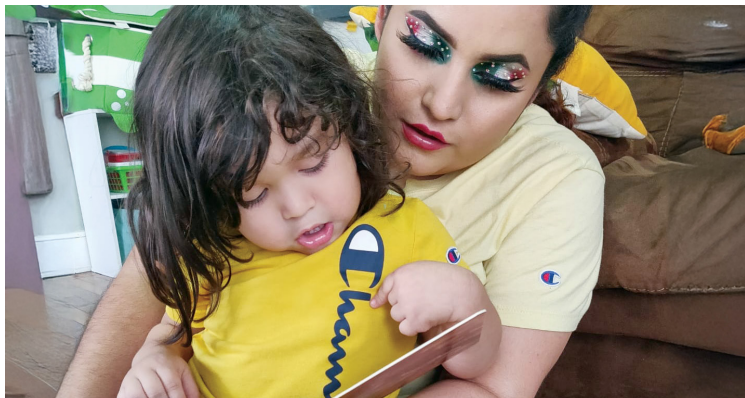


Todos Juntos interns holding up portions of their finished book, **Just A Minute**.

BookSpring partnered with Todos Juntos to create a unique and meaningful children's book creator internship, where passionate participants stepped into the

roles of writers, illustrators, and book designers/editors. This collaboration wasn't just about making books—it was about empowering these interns to share their own stories and talents while enriching BookSpring's digital platform with culturally and linguistically diverse works. The 12-week program culminated in the completion of at least one children's book, credited to the interns.

Books Beginning at Birth Continues Serving Underserved Communities



Caregiver reading to child books they received through the **Books Beginning at Birth** Program.

In partnership with BookSpring and TXAEYC, the Books Beginning at Birth program has made great strides in fostering literacy and early childhood development. By September 2024, we celebrated a major milestone: our program reached 85,386 chil-

dren — an incredible 106.7% over our original goal!

Physical books are still the heart of the Books Beginning at Birth program. We're proud to put books directly into families' hands, whether through at-home deliveries or at vibrant community events. These events help ensure that children are building home libraries and have easy access to books from a young age. 77% of the children who have received books through the program live in these opportunity zones, ensuring that we are providing critical resources to underserved communities.

BookSpring Fest 2024

This year we hosted our second annual BookSpring Fest: A Read Aloud Celebration! BookSpring Fest 2024, held on Saturday, May 4th, was an outstanding success, thanks to the incredible support of our community. This year's event marked a pivotal achievement in our mission to promote childhood literacy, attracting over 1,000 attendees who enjoyed a day of stories, games, and memorable experiences.

We proudly distributed over 800 books, directly placing them into the hands of children and families. Additionally, with the participation of more than 30 special guest readers, children were captivated by stories that ignited their imaginations.



Child smiling with her new face paint from **Silly Sparkles** at **BookSpring Fest 2024**



Young family enjoying their time at **BookSpring Fest 2024**

Literacy Metrics Achieved

Total Children Served	Total Books Distributed	Total Caregivers Served	
135,304	262,161	25,871	
Child Attendance 0-36 months	Child Attendance 3-5 years	Child Attendance 6-8 years	Child Attendance 9-12 years
61,788	50,945	12,589	9,982

Representative Partners

Any Baby Can	Child, Inc.	KIPP Austin
Austin ISD	Communities in Schools	PBS Austin & San Antonio
Austin Voices for Education & Youth	CommUnity Care	Lone Star Circle of Care
Austin Public Library	Del Valle ISD	Literacy Coalition of Central Texas
AVANCE	Dell Children's Health Express	Project Rise
Bastrop ISD	Education Connection	Thinkery
Carousel Pediatrics	Elgin Library	Todos Juntos
	Hutto ISD Reading Bus	

Books Distributed by Partner Area



10,226



46,839



22,576



Books Beginning at Birth

182,520

Volunteer Appreciation



Linbeck volunteers at BookSpring headquarters



FactSet sorting books volunteering at BookSpring warehouse



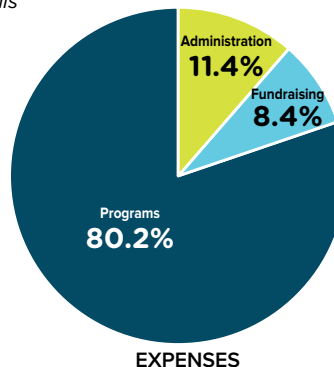
BookSpring staff and volunteers at Austin Humane Society event

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

BookSpring Financial Highlights

Fiscal Year 2024* Audited Financials

Total Revenue	\$1,807,700
Programs Expense	\$1,523,799
Fundraising Expense	\$159,583
Administration Expense	\$216,285
Total Expenses	\$1,899,667
Ending Net Equity	\$1,552,038
Prior Year Equity	\$1,460,078



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* The complete audited financial statements for BookSpring can be obtained by visiting 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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