

READ ALOUD

WEST VIRGINIA



Hello Elena,

It's been another great start to the school year for our volunteers statewide.

Read Aloud West Virginia has placed **493** readers in **898** classrooms this year.

As of Thanksgiving, **149** schools in **26** counties have signed up for Read Aloud!

We want to thank the **414** readers who have completed a New Reader Orientation since January, including **285** new readers who have been trained since August.

Our volunteers and staff are still working to fill **108** vacancies across WV.

There's still plenty of time to read this year! We will be offering New Reader Orientations during the new year, so please check [our Facebook page](#) for future announcements. If you've already been trained this year; we're still working to find you a classroom. Some schools have filled all their slots. We're also working to expand our program into new schools. Please contact our office at 304-345-5212 or stateoffice@readaloudwv.org if you have any questions.

Fall 2024 Newsletter

Read Aloud goes full circle in Jackson County

At an in-person New Reader Orientation in Jackson County in September, one of our new volunteers approached Chapter President Janet McCauley and said, "You probably don't remember me, but you taught me how to read 30 years ago.

"You were my first-grade teacher," new volunteer Kyle Smith said. "I had planned to do the online training but when I saw that it was you doing the training, I had to come see you!"



Who knew 30 years ago that Mrs. McCauley was not only inspiring her students to learn to read and love to read, but she was also building a foundation for a future

Read Aloud volunteer?

"What we do today truly does impact the future," Janet said.

Thank you to Janet, Kyle, and the rest of Jackson County's hardworking volunteer crew!

One baby book leads to something more in Putnam County

Elizabeth Ochoa, store manager at Teays Valley Starbucks, has nominated Read Aloud WV for the Starbucks Neighborhood Grant for the past two years. Each year we've been awarded \$1,000. Elizabeth told us her personal Read Aloud WV experience that led her to champion our cause:

"I grew up in rural WV and, as a child, reading was the only way I could explore the world outside of my community. Reading is the best way for the children of WV to explore and learn and imagine things that they'd otherwise not experience," Elizabeth said.

"Read Aloud WV strives to foster a love of reading from birth, to motivate a want to read. My youngest child benefited from this program. They partner with CAMC Women and Children's hospital to donate books to babies born there, including my baby."



Elizabeth Ochoa (left) poses with Read Aloud WV Development and Grants Manager Elena Compton and the Starbucks Neighborhood Grant Award.



Elizabeth shows the original board book "Animals" she received after her baby was born at CAMC Women and Children's Hospital in Charleston.

Thanks to Elizabeth and Starbucks, hundreds of WV schoolchildren will take home new books to keep this year. We appreciate you and everything you do for our state's young readers!

"More than a grocery store"

We were honored to attend the grand opening of Miss Ruby's Corner Market on Charleston's West Side just before Thanksgiving break. Former Read Aloud WV state board member Dural Miller and his community organization opened a grocery store and deli in their neighborhood to fight food insecurity.

As childhood literacy is one of Dural's strongest passions, he invited us to set up a small free library in the market for kids to take a book home whenever they visit.



Above: The new Read Aloud WV cart offers high-interest books to families. Below: Locals walk through the store during its grand opening.



Above: Dural Miller works Read Aloud's 2023 WV Book Festival table. Below: Our cart will greet customers in the front corner of Miss Ruby's.



"More than a grocery store" is the mantra Dural and his team at Keep Your Faith Corporation have adopted. Beyond serving fresh, locally grown food to their neighborhood, Miss Ruby's hopes to hold story times and foster other kinds of

Your help makes these Read Aloud moments possible

It's Annual Fund season at Read Aloud WV – the time of year when donors contribute funds to support our work year round. Our donors make it possible to recruit, train, and match volunteers to classrooms across West Virginia.

Last school year, our donors made it possible to distribute 29,756 books and allowed our volunteers to read to 16,454 students weekly around the state. Read Aloud WV exists entirely on individual contributions, corporate donations, and grants.

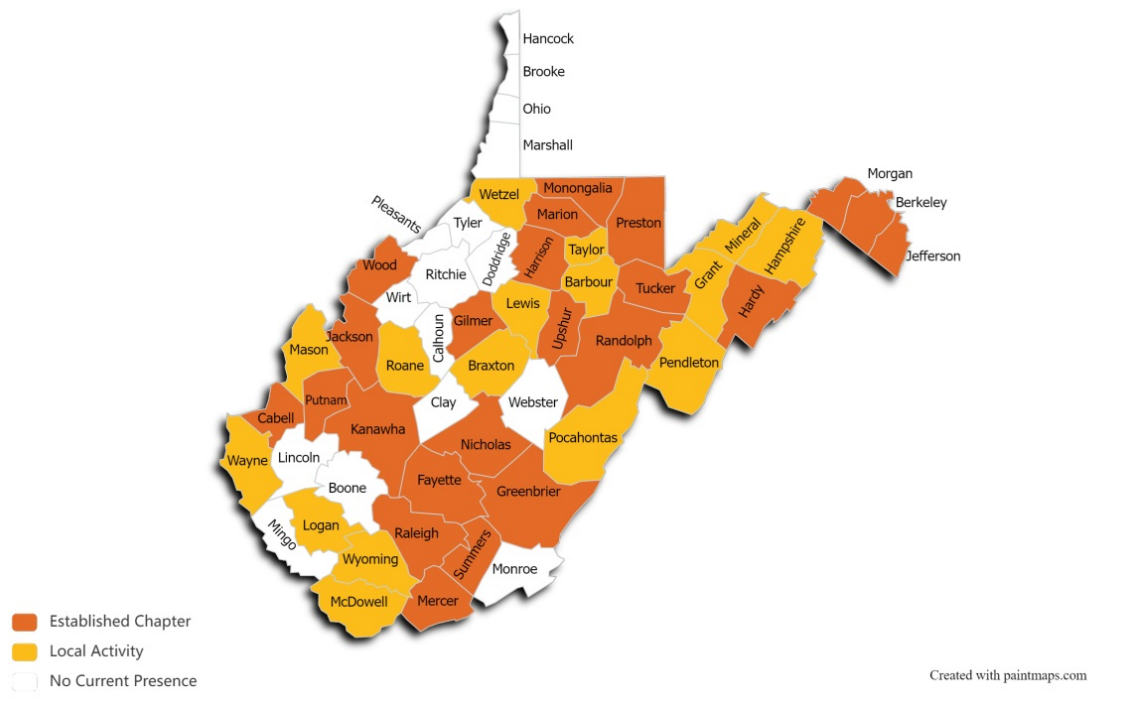
Our programs are all designed to motivate children to WANT to read on their own. One new book giveaway model we're really excited about – Book Bundles – gives children five books on a subject they're passionate about. The books range from easy to challenging.

Seasoned Read Aloud volunteers were overwhelmed by kids' enthusiasm for their books during our pilot distributions last year.



Research shows this method helps increase background knowledge and grows overall reading comprehension. Your donation will help grow our Book Bundles program to reach more children across West Virginia.

Any questions about Annual Fund contributions can be directed to Elena Compton: ecompton@readaloudwv.org



Help us reach all 55 counties!

Jackson: Volunteers trained 3rd, 4th and 5th graders to be "Book Buddies" with younger students at Fairplain Elementary School. Students were instructed the same as adult readers, emphasizing practicing their read alouds and helping young readers build confidence.

Marion: Fairview Elementary School Principal Mel Coleman and Title 1 Facilitator Kelly Garcia recently accepted the Stephen D. Tanner Children's Enrichment grant through Your Community Foundation to hold their own Summer Book Binge! This will be the school's third consecutive Summer Book Binge, thanks to help from YCF and Read Aloud WV.

Mercer: The local chapter recently held a Snuggle and Read event for families. Mercer County volunteers created and held the first Snuggle and Read nearly 30 years ago.

Monongalia: The chapter's Book Club grant award period has distributed \$500 grants to four local schools. There are six more grants available for schools to apply.

Raleigh: Volunteers will be distributing Book Bundles at Marsh Fork Elementary School in Rock Creek, following a very successful and enthusiastic giveaway at Mabscott Elementary last year.

Save the date!

Read-A-Palooza:

A Ticket to Anywhere

will be Thursday, April 3, 2025

5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
University of Charleston



Sponsorships are available!

Please contact Elena Compton at ecompton@readaloudwv.org for details.

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