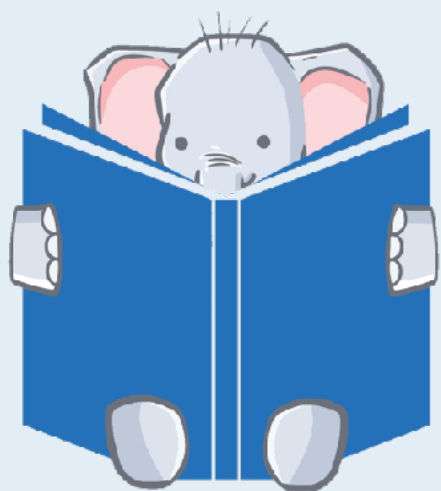




More Books in Children's Hands



2024 Annual Report



More Books has brought incredible joy to CPCD classrooms! Many of our families cannot afford to have age-appropriate books in the home, **and this is an incredible program supporting vulnerable young children in our community.**

Marty Kemmer-Contreras
Chief Development Officer, CPCD (Head Start)

Letter from the President

Dear Friends,

Looking back at 2024, it's amazing to think about the start of this project. At our first meeting in 2022, we didn't know if we'd collect enough books for more than a single school visit.

But last year alone, we visited 48 classrooms and over 800 students. Since we started, we've donated over 8,500 books to underserved nursery, preschool, and kindergarten students throughout the Colorado Springs area (4,000+ just in 2024!).

We hope those books are a spark that lights a love of reading throughout the lives of those children.

The spark that keeps **US** going is the incredible help of our volunteers and donors! It's inspiring (and a bit of a relief!) to know that when we need help, our volunteers are just an email away.

We head into 2025 with aspirations to increase the frequency of our book distributions, explore more grant opportunities, and to spread the joy of reading even farther. I know we'll do it -- and I know it wouldn't be possible without all your support and help.

Thankfully,

Carl Leivers

President, More Books in Children's Hands



*The hundreds of books you've provided our elementary schools have made a tangible difference in the lives of our youngest learners. We are so fortunate to have partnered with an organization that shares our dedication to enriching the lives of children through the power of reading. **Thank you for investing in our students and our community.***

Tricia Bentley

Executive Director of Early Learning, Widefield School District 3

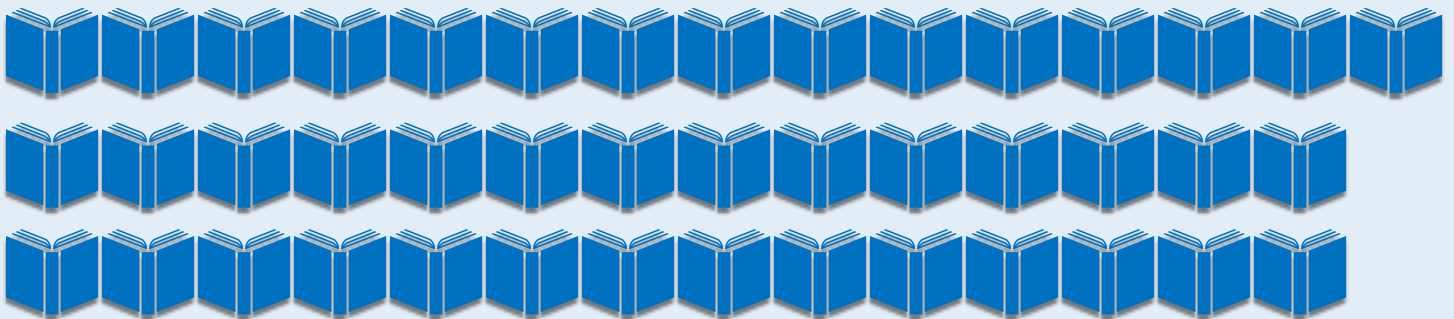
2024 Impact Summary



48 classrooms visited

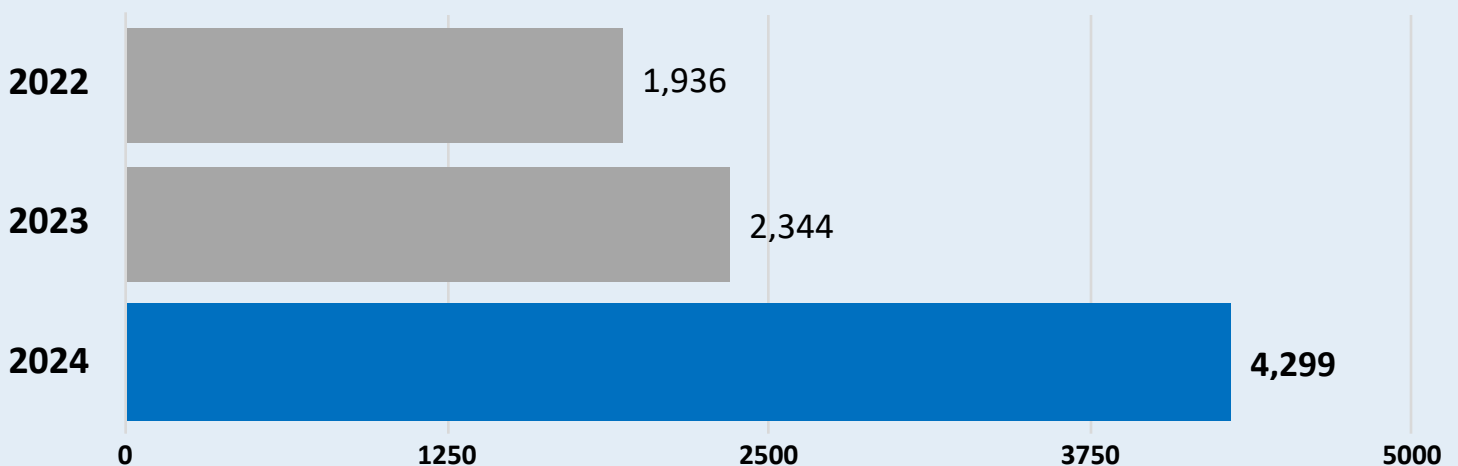


832 students inspired



4,299 books distributed

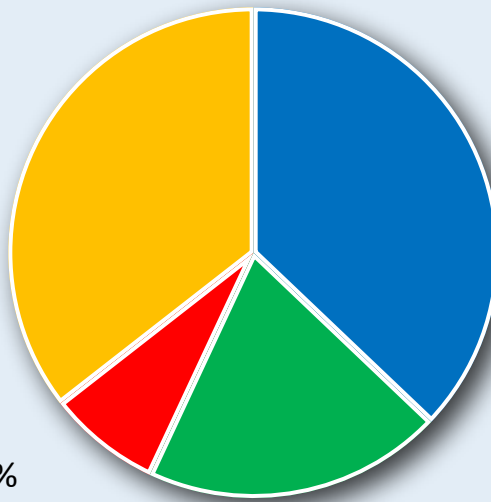
Books Distributed by Year



2024 Financial Report

Funding: \$24,274

Individual cash
donations 36%
(Median contribution: \$100)

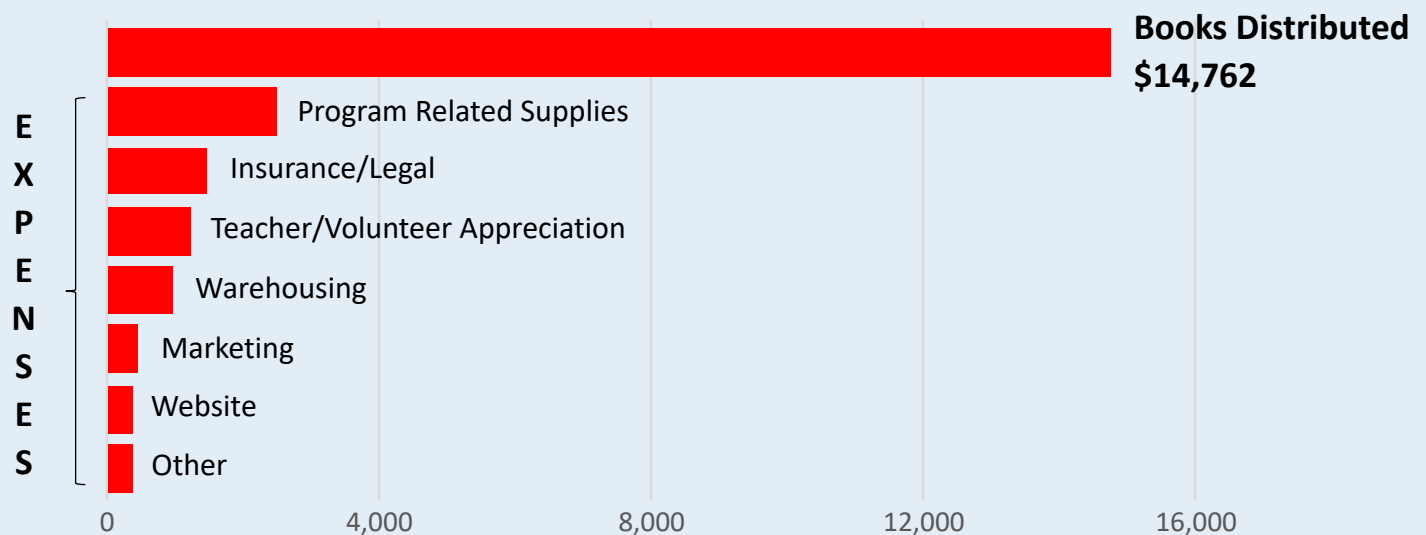


Book drives 37%
(conducted on our behalf
by businesses, schools,
and churches)

Other 7%
(for example: grants,
in-kind donations)

Books donated by
individuals 20%
(1,004 books)

Distributions and expenses: \$22,114



*We are enthusiastic financial supporters of More Books in Children's Hands and regular volunteer workers for the organization. **We feel financial support is funds well spent** to expand their mission in our community.*

— Jim and Martha Borgstede, donors and volunteers

2024 Donor Report

64 Individual Donors

36 cash donors

20 book donors

8 cash & book donors

I'm proud to be a monthly supporter of More Books in Children's Hands because *EVERY* child deserves the opportunity to develop essential reading skills and explore their imagination **in a way that only books can provide.**

– Heath Washburn, donor



Annual “March Match” Donation Event

Each March we host our “March Match” book donation event. Each of the first 313 books donated in March (in honor of Debbie Leivers’ birthday of March 13) is matched on a title-by-title basis by members of our board. We are thrilled that we have met this goal every year since we started the March Match event!

2024 Volunteer Report



4 volunteer events

Group volunteer events are held about once a quarter and focus on cataloging and cleaning book donations, as well as preparing the book bags for distribution



12 school visits

Including nursery (birth to 3 years old), preschool, and kindergarten classrooms across multiple school districts in the Colorado Springs area



95+ volunteer hours

Volunteers ranged in age from 5-91 and their time represents \$3,454 in donated labor
(per independentsector.org)

*It never ceases to amaze me that when the special bags are distributed to the students, **their faces light up** when they realize the books are theirs to take home and keep. What a great way to expand their love of reading!*

– Beth Regan, donor and volunteer

History and Mission

More Books in Children's Hands was founded in March 2022 to honor the life and legacy of Debbie Leivers -- a long-time elementary teacher in Academy School District 20. There was little that Debbie enjoyed more in life than children and a good book.



After her passing in late 2021, we wanted a way to continue to share the things that were important to her and founded More Books in Children's Hands.

Our mission is simple: to help spread the joy of reading by making sure that underserved preschool and kindergarten students in the Colorado Springs region have access to age-appropriate reading material.

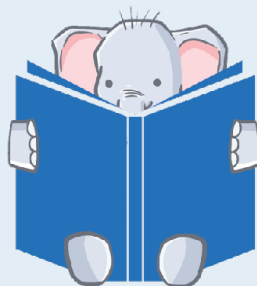
To accomplish this, we visit Title 1 kindergarten classrooms and Head Start preschool classrooms, read to the students, and give them each a bag of five books.

Our approach is modeled after Children Read Atlanta, a non-profit based in Atlanta that Carl and Jessica Leivers (Debbie's son and daughter-in-law) volunteered with prior to the formation of More Books in Children's Hands.

I always smile when I see the delight and happiness the gift of books brings to so many children. I know it would fill Debbie with joy.

– Marilyn Bribach, donor and volunteer

**More Books in
Children's Hands**



Want to get involved?

1-2 HOURS

is all it takes to help:



Catalog incoming books
and prepare book bags to
be delivered



Share a favorite book and
read to the classrooms
that we visit



Hand out bags and explore
the new books with the
children

To get involved as one of our volunteers, visit:

www.morebookscos.org/get-involved

and let us know how you'd like to help! We can't do what we do
without the support of all our tremendous volunteers and we'd
love to add you to the list!

Organizational Information

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

President -- Carl Leivers

Director of Development -- Bob Leivers

Treasurer -- John Boyle

Secretary -- Jessica Leivers

CONTACT INFORMATION:

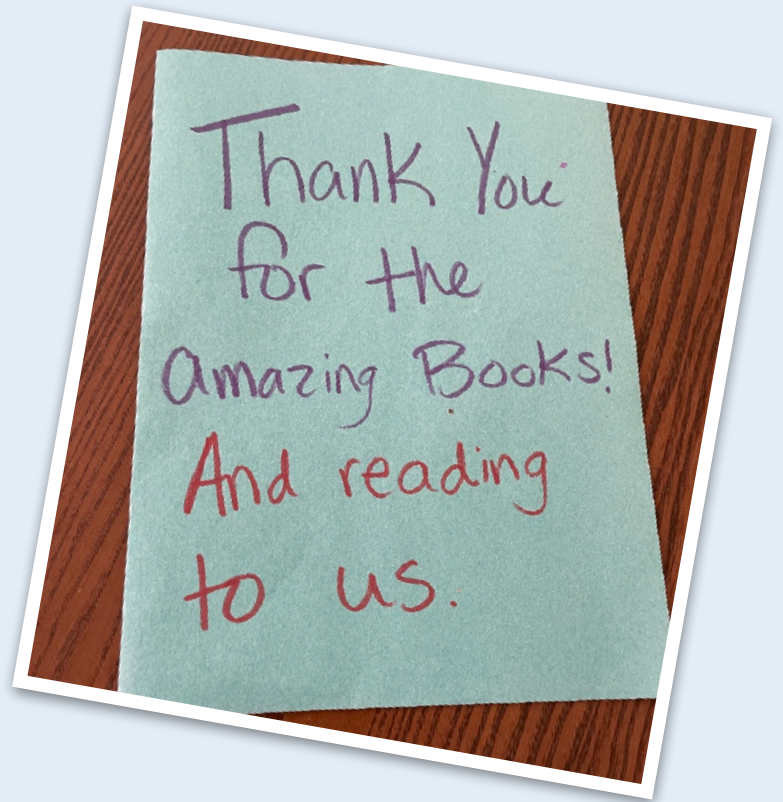
Website: morebookscos.org

Email: morebookscos@gmail.com

Mailing address:

1022 Oak Hills Drive

Colorado Springs, CO 80919



NON-PROFIT INFORMATION:

More Books in Children's Hands is a 501(c)(3) organization that is registered to solicit donations in Colorado.

EIN #88-0613762