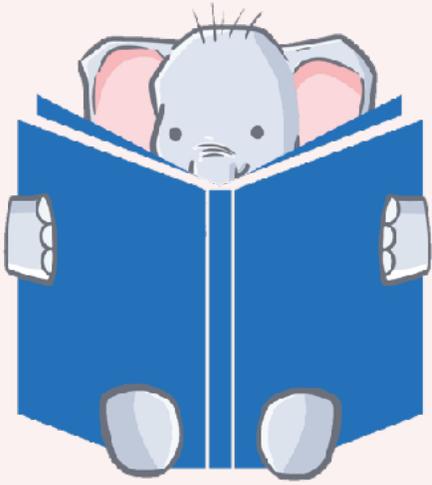


# 2025 Annual Report

**More Books in  
Children's Hands**



# Letter from the President

Dear Friends,

2025 was a year of excitement and new opportunities for us.

We expanded to new school districts, set up recurring distributions with CPCD preschools, participated in the CPCD Literacy Night, added a handout of reading tips for parents, and had our first experiences applying for (and receiving!) grants to continue to fund our mission.

The result of this work was another record-breaking year!

As you look through this report and the numbers and charts inside, I encourage you to keep two things in mind:

- 1) None of this would be possible without your help and support. Every year we are amazed at the generosity of our supporters in time, effort, books, and money. We cannot thank you enough for allowing us to keep spreading the joy of reading!
- 2) Every number or bar in a chart or graph is a young child who might not have had any age-appropriate books to call their own (61% of low-income children don't), and now does because of your work and generosity.

May we always remember the power of each individual spark of reading that is shared, even as we appreciate overall numbers that continue to grow.

2026 will again bring new challenges and opportunities. But I know that with your continued help, we will rise to meet the moment!

With appreciation,

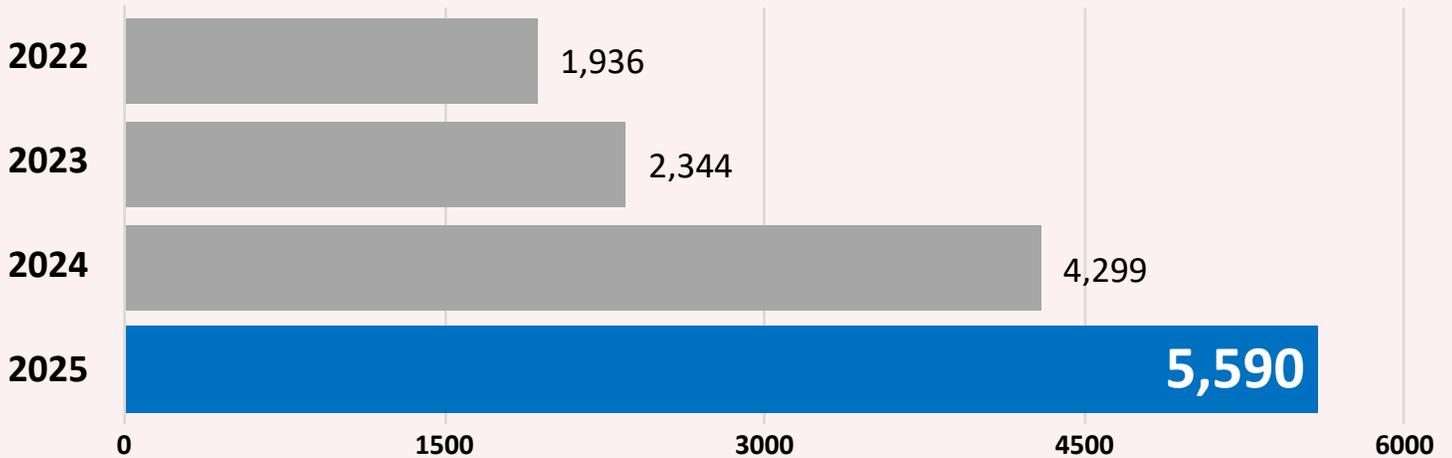
Carl Leivers  
President, More Books in Children's Hands

*Your passion for literacy is contagious, and 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.***

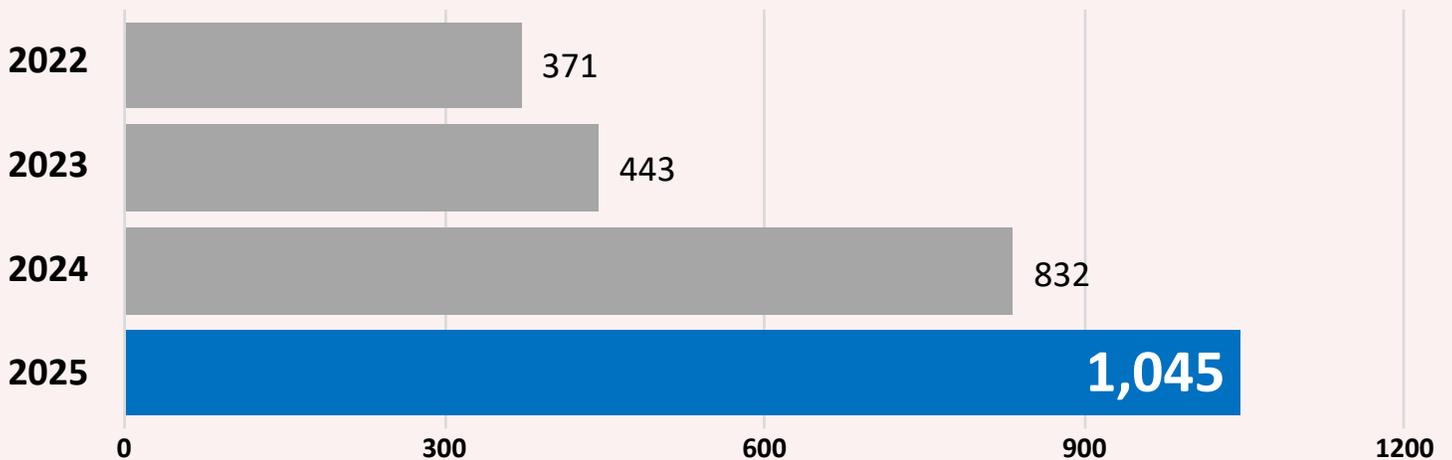
*Tricia Bentley  
Executive Director of Early Learning, Widefield School District 3*

# 2025 Impact Summary

## Books Distributed by Year



## Students by Year

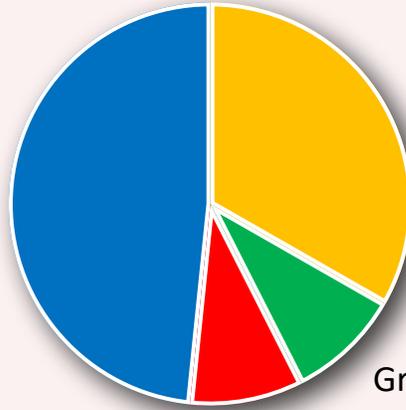


**Since 2022 ...  
14,169 Books in  
2,691 Children's Hands!**

# 2025 Financial Report

**Funding: \$37,828**

Books donated by individuals 49%



Individual cash donations 33%  
(Median contribution: \$125)

Grants 9%

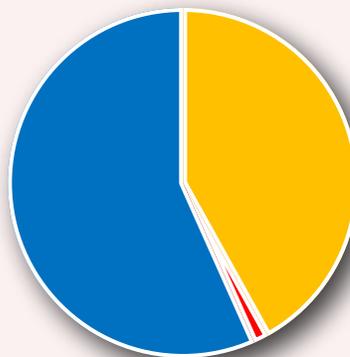
In-Kind/Other 9%

**Distributions and expenses: \$32,321**



**Net Assets: \$31,101**

Books \$17,450



Cash \$13,218  
(\$12,000 earmarked for the "Widefield Project")

Other \$433

# 2025 Donor Report

**50 Donors**

**24 Volunteers**

**16 book donors**

**8 cash & book donors**

**26 cash donors**



**Estimated value of time:  
\$8,100**

## March Match and the Widefield Project

Every 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 in 2023!**

We also hosted a separate fundraising drive for our “Widefield Project.” In March of 2026 we’ll be visiting **every** preschool and kindergarten classroom in Widefield School District, delivering over 5,000 books! An undertaking of this size meant exploring all possible funding avenues.

To supplement grants and donations from local charity groups, we asked our supporters to help cover the remaining \$4,000 needed to make the project a reality, and **they came through in a big way, contributing over \$5,000!**

# 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.

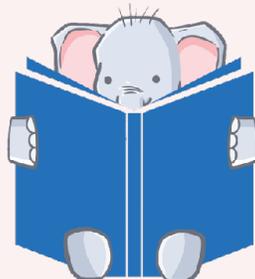
To accomplish this, we visit Title 1 kindergarten classrooms and Head Start preschool classrooms, read to the students, and give them each a bag of five books. We also give a bag of books to each teacher for their classroom library.

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.

*We love watching the children responding to how More Books was started, reacting with questions and personal stories to books being read, **and accepting with almost disbelief their bag of books "TO KEEP?!"***

*– Norm and Joanne Renaud, volunteers*

**More Books in  
Children's Hands**



# Organizational Information

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

**President** -- Carl Leivers

**Director of Development** -- Bob Leivers

**Treasurer** -- John Boyle

**Secretary** -- Jessica Leivers

## CONTACT INFORMATION:

**Website:** [morebookscos.org](http://morebookscos.org)

**Email:** [morebookscos@gmail.com](mailto: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

