Books can change the world.
Dear Friends of the Book Bank,

The book Change the World Before Bedtime has become a favorite at the Maryland Book Bank. It describes the simple acts that anyone can take each day to make the world a bit better for those around them. It may be a storybook, but it’s true—anyone can tie on their hero cape and make a difference. In fact, we see it every day.

Our donors, volunteers, staff, and partners are truly among the many everyday heroes who have emerged during the pandemic. Without them, we wouldn’t have put nearly 450,000 books into the hands of eager young readers in 2021. It’s not an exaggeration to say that taking a child from zero to 20 children’s books in their home is a life-changing event—research bears it out. Books are essential to learning. They encourage persistence in education. They ignite our imaginations and help us to see things we’d never dreamed possible. They inspire us to be our best.

In 2021, we grew our partnerships, our programs, and our circle of volunteers. We re-opened our warehouse to visitors and expanded our popular Story Kit program to serve nearly 9,000 young people. We launched partnerships with tutoring programs in Baltimore City Schools to wrap striving readers in support. And, we sent our beloved Bookmobile back into the community to deliver smiles.

Folks will ask, “What’s your secret? What gives you such powers? You’ve made the world better in just a few hours!” And we’ll say, “Just believe. You can be super, too! Start small and think big and you’ll make dreams come true.”

Thank you for your support of the Maryland Book Bank and for making dreams come true for the young people, educators, and organizations we serve.

In difficult times, we have been lifted by the energy and generosity of our community. Your cape may be hidden, but that doesn’t make your power any less super.

With gratitude,

Mark Feiring
“My son didn’t have many books to read since the library closed because of Covid. When his teacher said we could order Story Kits from the Maryland Book Bank, I knew it was the perfect opportunity. After receiving his Story Kit in the mail, he immediately started to read and enjoy his new books. He received a book about Lego characters that he must have read 100 times by now—it is his favorite. He also got his first chapter book and was so excited to have a ‘big kid’ book. Because the books are interesting to him, I find him reading when he would otherwise be watching TV or on the tablet. I want to thank the Maryland Book Bank for helping Baltimore City kids get their own books. Covid made it hard with worrying about school and how to make ends meet, but the books from the Story Kit really made my son feel special and important and made one less thing I had to worry about this year.” - Parent of Baltimore City Schools Student
Story Kits

When schools closed during the pandemic, the Book Bank needed to find a way to keep young people reading. We created Story Kits—specially boxed kits of five books matching a reader’s interest and reading level that can be shipped to homes or delivered in bulk to schools, early learning centers, and youth programs. This year, we began partnering with schools and nonprofits to produce customized Story Kits for their students and programs, and the Bookmobile began delivering them directly to schools.

We also launched a partnership with Reading Partners, The Literacy Lab, and Amplify, three high-quality tutoring programs helping K-4 students in Baltimore City schools get back on track after pandemic learning disruptions. Each student involved in tutoring also receives a Story Kit shipped to their home. In total, we provided nearly 9,000 Story Kits in 2021.

“MBB’s donation of books and Story Kits to Reading Partners enables us to provide the very thing that can help sustain and grow the impact of our one-on-one tutoring model. And beyond this, our collective efforts help to promote the importance of early childhood literacy across our city to the children, families, and communities that deserve nothing less. We are honored to call the Maryland Book Bank a key partner in our work.” - Jeffrey Zwillenberg, Sr. Executive Director, Reading Partners Baltimore

“My favorite thing about having books at home is that they make me feel creative. If I can’t think of something to draw, I check one of the books, and that makes me imagine fun things.”

-Mya, 2nd Grade
Home Library Project

Now in its fifth year, the Home Library Project (HLP) is a partnership with Baltimore City Schools that provides a home library of 20 books to 5,000+ K-2 students in the district’s 27 Literacy Blueprint sites. Through the HLP, the Bookmobile makes two visits to each school (once in the spring and again in the fall), and students take home a cinch sack of 10 new books each time. We love working with educators to source culturally affirming books that match students’ interests. The great big smiles aren’t bad, either.

Community Memberships

Community Memberships allow members to visit the Book Bank and select their own books for their home, school, or youth program. Members with our no-cost Community Membership can take up to 25 books per month, and children can always take as many books as they can carry. The Book Bank’s Individual Membership costs just $45 per year and comes with unlimited books, including our Educator Boxes of 100 books for teachers. We were thrilled to re-open the warehouse to visitors and welcome nearly 1,800 visitors in 2021.

“My dreams are joyful because the books I read help give me good dreams and not bad ones.”

- Amir, Kindergarten

“So leap out of bed, tie your hero cape on, let’s show our true colors before the day’s gone.”
Volunteers
Volunteers continue to be the Book Bank’s super power, and they showed up for us in a big way in 2021. The number one task for volunteers is sorting books by reading level and topic so we can get them in the right hands. Volunteers also pack each Story Kit and even write a personal note to each reader on the box.

We were thrilled to welcome back many corporate volunteer groups as well as individuals this year, bringing our volunteer numbers higher than previous years. We have to especially thank our Volunteer Leads Susan Cohen, Joanne Wells, Debbie Kasper, and Helen Walper for their outstanding commitment to the Book Bank. Of our 4,000 total volunteer hours this year, about 2,000 of them came from our four Volunteer Leads alone. Super doesn’t begin to cover their heroism!

Funders
At the end of 2021, several of our funders swooped in with year-end grants that helped us to soar. The Ravens, the Clayton Baker Trust, and the Thalheimer Foundation all funded us to buy and distribute books specifically for young people of color, and the Wright Foundation supported the expansion of our online book sales program. These grants were on top of their previous support during the year and really gave us an extra lift.

Community Partners
The Book Bank was thrilled to partner with the Student Support Network in Baltimore County this year to provide 1,000 books a month to under-resourced students. The Student Support Network operates 13 school-based Rooms of Support stocked with food, school supplies, clothing, and personal care products—all free to children who need them. We’re so happy to be associated with their good deeds.

“And later, we’ll join all our friends for some fun, to share in the goodness our good deeds have done.”

Volunteers
4,000 Volunteer Hours

Funders
665 Volunteers

Community Partners

The Bookmobile went out for the first time in over 2 years on November 1, 2021.
Like all good superheroes, we were hiding in plain sight. That is, until our building got an amazing new costume in 2021. You may have noticed the Baltimore Warehouse Collaborative for the first time ever in 2021 while driving south on the Jones Falls Expressway. A once drab warehouse became a colorful showstopper through the work of artist Jess Langley. All warehouse organizations now have their names listed on the façade, and we love our rainbow photo op that reads: Baltimore is better when we work together. The Book Bank added 10,000 sq. ft. of space for our online book sales, providing more earned income for our children’s programs.

It was an exciting year for the entire team at the Baltimore Warehouse Collaborative. Each organization experienced growth, and the warehouse is now full. Leveling the Playing Field also grew their footprint to accommodate a growing equipment sales operation, and Bedtime in a Box added 3,000 sq. ft. to make room for their program’s expansion into Colorado and California. We are thankful for the investments by the Wright Foundation and the Ravens that made the Book Bank’s increased impact and growth possible.
Unsung Superheroes

Financial Donors

Institutional Donors

$10,000 and above
- The Abell Foundation
- The Baltimore Ravens Foundation
- The Clayton Baker Trust
- The David and Barbara R. Hirschen Foundation
- Eutaw-Charitable Foundation
- The Wright Family Foundation

The Alan and Fanny B. Blauschaint Foundation, Inc.

$2,000 to $9,999
- The R. Scott Rosenberger Foundation
- The Frank E. and Miriam Blauschaint Foundation
- The Jacob and Hilda Bessemer Trust
- The Bessemer Trust

$1,000+
- Individual Donors

Charitable Foundation, Inc.

The Thalheimer Foundation
- The Alvin and Fanny B. Thalheimer Foundation
- The Wright Family Foundation
- Divinity Lutheran Church
- Hirschhorn Foundation
- The David and Barbara B. Foundation
- The Baltimore Ravens Foundation

$10,000 and above
- Institutional Donors

Superheroes

Nancy and Darl Packard
- Anna Nawoj
- Will Murnane
- Aaron Milstone
- Alexander McIntyre
- Ly-Anh McCoy
- Aliza Libman
- Amy Lechmann
- Jennifer Lawrence
- Kenneth Jones
- Jessica Iannetta
- Rebecca Heaton
- Dunkirk Hardware
- Patricia Harcarik
- Nina Galvez
- Maureen Flaherty
- Tim Fisher
- Dana Fidazzo
- Vivian Felitstra
- Craig Duftler
- Dawn Dodson
- Donna Dannals
- Richard Cohen
- Sandra and Doyle Chedick
- Angela Chambers
- Elizabeth Fields
- Kathleen Dowd
- Megan Cullen
- Rachael Crout
- Amy Contevita
- Melissa Constantopoulos
- J Conklin
- Frona Colker
- Jennifer Chavez
- Sydney Burns
- Maria Buettner
- Jessica Baron
- Jennifer Davis
- Mark Wright
- Anna Sachs
- Lily Milstone
- Jo Marvan
- Planet Aid
- Lisa Elliot
- Leonid Zhuravel
- Lisa Young
- Nathanial Wilson
- Elizabeth Whitner
- Sheila Weiss
- Bryan Wassenius
- Sheila Weiss
- Alanna White
- Elizabeth Whitmer
- Nathaniel Shub
- Lisa Young
- Leon Zorawel

Volunteer

Chapter Leaders
- Be Our Next Superhero!

The need has never been greater! Make a financial contribution to the Maryland Book Bank today to give every child a home library of books they love. Visit www.mdbookbank.org/donate.

Donate
Give your beloved books a second life! Donate your new and gently used books of all kinds to our warehouse, or host a book donation drive at your school, job or place of worship. We’ll provide the materials and make it fun for your community.

Volunteer
Volunteers are the lifeblood of the Maryland Book Bank. Email Kimberly at kcrout@marylandbookbank.org to set up a special volunteer event.

Visit www.mdbookbank.org/donate.
We've Already Reached Nearly 800 Schools and Community Organizations in Maryland. Are your favorites on the list?
Financial Summary

Revenue
2020 COVID-19 funding carryover $225,658
Book Sales $533,330
Gifts in Kind (Books) $5,104,679
Grand Total Budget Giving $75,804
Program Income $1,013
Individual Giving $89,302
Warehouse Collaborative $10,079
Total Revenue & Support $8,089,790

Cost of Book Sales
Consignments Commission $14,295
Shipping $205,647
$219,942

Indaba Systems $30,636
Total Cost of Book Sales $1,137,458

Gross Revenue & Support $4,952,342

Expenses
Fees, Taxes, Insurance $45,305
Professional Services $37,758
Supplies, Office Goods, Postage $12,804
Salaries and Wages $204,040
$216,597

Reimbursements $59,272
Utilities, IT, Telecommunications $445,272
Consignment Commissions $14,295

Individual Giving $82,504
Grants/Institutional Giving $74,944
Gifts in Kind (Books) $5,104,679
Book Sales $523,330
2020 COVID-19 funding carryover $225,658
Total Revenue & Support $8,089,790

Warehouse Collaborative $10,079

Total Expenses $533,161

Net Revenue & Support $4,419,271
Total Donated Books $4,408,300
Increase in Net Assets $10,971

“I like reading. The books you gave me are inspiring. Story Kits make reading really nice and special for me.”
-Michael, 2nd Grade
We are grateful to our team of staff and Board of Directors for another year of growth and learning.

Maryland Book Bank Staff 2021
Mark Feiring, Executive Director
Kimberly Tabb, Program Manager
Tracey Hipp, Sales Manager
Tameka Hudson, Shipping Manager
Kenneth Ford, Warehouse Associate

Program Associates
Kenyatta Williams
Kathryn Schmitt
Grace Brown

Program Interns
McKale Williams
Lou Fusco
Elam Boockvar-Klein

Maryland Book Bank Board of Directors 2021
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