



BARBARA BUSH  
FOUNDATION for  
FAMILY LITERACY

## Reading Mentoring Programs 2023 Impact Report

### Dear Friends,

We're grateful to our donors, supporters, partners, and program participants for helping us bring much-needed books, resources, and trained reading mentors to students in grades 1-3 nationwide. Third grade reading levels are a key predictor of future academic success. Children who read proficiently by the end of third grade are **four times** more likely to graduate from high school than those who read below grade level. I'm pleased to share this report on our trusted, effective programs,

which help struggling young readers close the gap with their peers – empowering them to succeed in school and in life. Together, we are building brighter futures.

**Andrew Roberts**  
*President*



Since 2002, our reading mentoring programs, ReadSquad and Book Explorers, have:

**Distributed**  
**600,000+**

Distributed more than 600,000 books to build children's home libraries



**Provided**  
**\$24M+**

Provided more than \$24M of value in volunteer hours<sup>1</sup>



**Helped**  
**40,000+**

Helped more than 40,000 students in grades 1-3 boost their reading skills



**Engaged**  
**760,000+**

Engaged mentors in more than 760,000 volunteer hours



<sup>1</sup> 2023 Value of Volunteer Time Report. Independent Sector (2023)

## In-Depth Impact

# 3x

### Literacy Gains

Students participating in our ReadSquad reading mentoring program made literacy gains at three times the rate of their peers who did not participate.



# 78%

### Title I Schools

Of the school sites served nationally by Barbara Bush Foundation reading mentoring programs, 78% were designated as Title I.<sup>2</sup>



➔ ReadSquad was recognized as a **2021 Library of Congress Literacy Awards Best Practices Honoree**

## What Participants Have to Say

“Our sessions are steadily improving and the feedback from mentees has been overwhelmingly positive, indicating that they are thoroughly enjoying their time and learning experiences. We have even had mentees ask their mentors to stay to read more books.”

— Book Explorers Program Advisor

“ReadSquad was so much fun! Not only did I teach my mentee, but I strengthened my reading as well. As a child, I never struggled with reading, but seeing other kids doing it bothered me. If I have the chance to brighten someone’s future I will take it, not only in reading but in everyday life. It was an honor to be a part of ReadSquad and I hope my mentee enjoyed the time there as much as me.”

— ReadSquad Student Mentor



<sup>2</sup> Based on a three-year average for programs in 2020-2023