

Reading Is Fundamental Pittsburgh

*2023-2024 City of Pittsburgh STOP the
Violence Community Investment Grants*

Reading Is Fundamental Pittsburgh

10 Childrens Way
Suite 300
Pittsburgh, PA 15212

O: 412-321-8022

Florri Ladov

fladov@rifpittsburgh.org
F: 4125860883

FollowUp Form

Quarter Three Activities Update

Greetings, STOP the Violence grantees!

As the City of Pittsburgh prepares to update our stakeholders on the impact of this process, we need to gather some evaluation-focused information about your programs. Please answer the following survey about your services and activities from the third quarter following receipt of your grant award.

Thank you!

Organization Name*

Please enter the name of your project/program in the box below.

Reading Is Fundamental Pittsburgh

Did you spend any of your STOP the Violence grant funds during this period?*

Yes

How did you spend the funds?*

Please check all categories that apply.

Other

If you chose "other", please describe.

Books

Tell us how many people your organization/group served from the following age groups during this period.

Ages 0-17*

5419

Ages 18-30*

0

Ages 30+*

0

Programs and Services*

Provide a brief description of any programs or services your organization or group provided in alignment with your STOP the Violence proposal.

Our libraries-on-wheels have continued to be a personal sanctuary—a safe, welcoming space—for thousands of kids and families to learn, grow and explore together. During our biweekly visits to early childhood centers, schools, after-school sites, and public housing communities, our RIF kiddos have had a blast learning new songs; listening to memorable read-alouds; and engaging in fun, educational activities that have helped them to develop foundational literacy and social-emotional skills, setting them up to lead safer, healthier lives. And, of course, they’ve enjoyed picking out terrific books to borrow or keep every visit! As always, we’ve intentionally offered a wide array of high-interest, diverse titles that reflect the primarily Black communities we serve and inspire everyone to read more! We’ve even taken it a step further by fulfilling more special book requests that those joining us for Storymobile visits could place at any time.

Did you partner with any other organizations or groups during this period?*

Yes

Did your organization intentionally engage officers from the Pittsburgh Police during this period?*

Yes

Did you use STOP the Violence logos in marketing and media (social or traditional)?*

Yes

Give a brief description of your STOP the Violence during this period*

Since June, our organization has provided more than 9,500 high-quality, diverse books to more than 2,500 children this past summer and more than 2,800 children so far this school year. As part of our Storymobile program’s focus on kindergarten-readiness, we have provided more than 1,128 storytime kits, including books, rhyme/song sheets and complementary literacy activities, to early childhood centers that teachers can keep and reuse in their classrooms. Lastly, we have served more than 6,700 kids and families at community events, providing even more books and promoting the importance of literacy to children’s future success.

By increasing access to high-quality reading materials, engaging at-risk youth in frequent, meaningful and motivational reading experiences that help open opportunities for their futures, and building positive relationships with the families we serve, we are working upstream to help prevent violence in our communities every day.

Is your organization planning any public activities in the next few months?*

Yes

If "yes", please provide a brief description.

We have coordinated with other organizations and partner schools in our target areas to attend community events in the coming months and throughout the rest of the school year.

Does your organization need capacity-building support?*

No

On what areas of focus would you like your capacity-building support?

Share Your Stories*

Upload a clip or provide text to share one or more specific stories (please avoid using full names of clients/participants) that illustrates the impact of your work.

Here are a few anecdotes and some recent feedback we have received from children, parents and educators that speaks to RIF's role in providing safe, welcoming spaces for at-risk youth and their families:

- Our RIF kids have loved our visits so much that one boy even called our office to ask when the Storymobile would be back to his neighborhood next, because he didn't want to miss it!
- "It's beautiful! I'm speechless." - RIF kid entering the Storymobile for the first time, Kelly Primary
- "Thank you so much! Our kids absolutely adore storytime—it's such a magical part of their day! We appreciate the books you provided us with! We can't wait to see you soon!" - Parent
- At an event, a mother told us that a book her son picked out from us became his favorite story to read at night together before bed.
- "Being able to go on the Storymobile gets students out of the classroom and into a different environment where they are reinforcing rules/expectations. Most of my students have never been to the library, so this is a great experience for them." - Teacher, Training Wheels ECC
- "The students have a really good time on the Storymobile. It provides additional songs that we end up singing in the classroom. They also enjoy picking a book for the classroom. They take pride in the books they pick." - Teacher, Training Wheels
- "We use [the storytime kits] in our classrooms during group learning activities and have a 'library' that parents can choose to 'rent' out and take them home for as long as they would like. We usually offer 7-8 at a time and choose ones that correspond with our weekly themes. They usually keep them for about a week and then bring them back. Everyone loves the story kits!" - Teacher, Therapeutic Early Autism Program (TEAP)

File Attachment Summary

Applicant File Uploads

No files were uploaded