



# 2019-2020 GRATITUDE REPORT

## OUR MISSION:

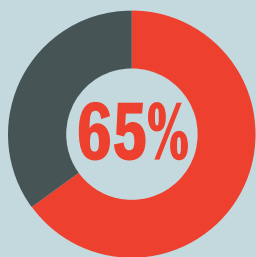
### Recognizing, Educating, and Advocating for Dyslexic Students

Park City READS's mission is grounded in the need to ensure that all students receive effective reading instruction to elevate literacy skills.

## OUR VISION:

The vision of PC READS is to improve literacy rates by providing the support and resources necessary to empower struggling readers, including dyslexic students, to reach their full potential.

Recent scores on *The Nation's Report Card* indicate that **65%** of 4th grade students' reading skills are considered below proficient.



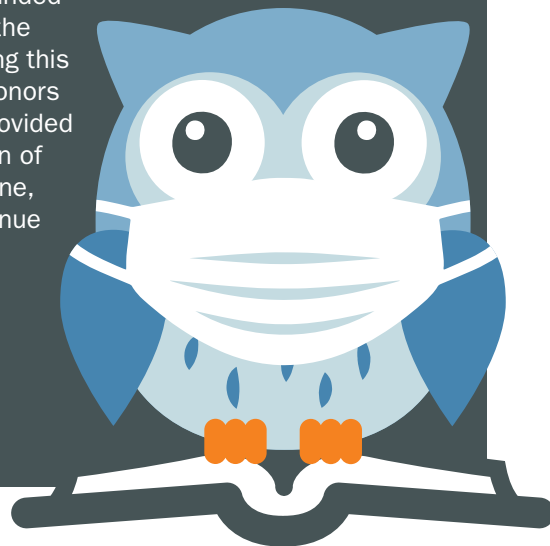
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# THANK YOU!

I invite you to join PC READS in celebrating our continued accomplishments. It is your support that enables us to continue the important work of elevating literacy in our community. Like many other nonprofits, we canceled our spring fundraiser, Gin & Phonics, and pivoted our programming efforts to support students learning from home. Remote learning is a challenge for all students but can be especially challenging for students with learning differences. To help minimize the extended summer slide, we created a new Summer Reading Program to motivate families to keep reading in fun new ways. The effects of a disrupted school year and the impacts it will have on struggling readers is hard to measure, but PC READS was founded on passion and will keep working to meet the current challenges our students face. During this difficult year we are grateful to individual donors and grants from local organizations who provided the backing needed to continue our mission of improving literacy rates. Our work is not done, but your support and our devotion will continue to drive our success.

Emily Fisher, *Board President*



# ELEVATING LITERACY PROGRAM

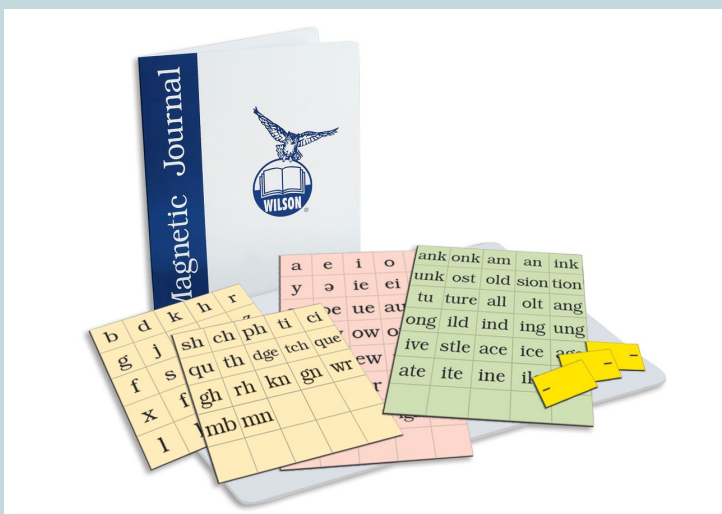
Your support helps ensure that effective reading instruction is provided to all students by educating and supporting parents, students, and teachers. The impact of our Elevating Literacy Program is widespread. Each teacher we reach has the ability to change hundreds, if not thousands, of students' lives through improved reading instruction.



**2020 Elevating Literacy Award Recipient:** Kara Cook, PCSD 1st Grade Teacher at Parley's Park Elementary School

"The grant I received from PC READS allowed me to receive much-needed training in how I can best teach all my students to read using strategies that are based in scientific research. They will be better-served because of the opportunity PC READS gave me."

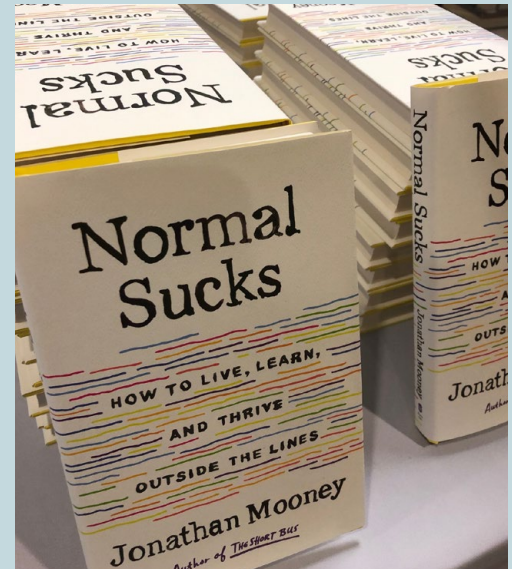
—Jessica Pitcher, Parley's Park Elementary School



In April, PC READS fulfilled a grant request from the Park City School District to purchase Wilson Letter Tiles for remote learning.

## 2019-2020 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS:

- Author & Motivational Speaker, Jonathan Mooney visits Park City
- College Planning for Students with IEPs and 504 Plans
- 12 Professional Development Grant Awards
- 4 Dyslexia Awareness Presentations
- 3 Guest Experts for our Elevating Literacy Speaker Series
- Presentation at IDA's Annual Reading, Literacy & Learning Conference



**Different ≠ Deficient, featuring Jonathan Mooney**  
October 30, 2019

Over 100 community members joined PC READS to hear Jonathan Mooney share his personal and professional experiences as a dyslexic and ADD student in a presentation filled with humor and knowledge.

Thanks to the support of **The Hall Family Fund**, PC READS was able to give 50 attendees a free copy of Jonathan's recently released book, *Normal Sucks: How to Live, Learn, and Thrive Outside the Lines*.



"PC READS is providing many of our PCSD educators with an amazing opportunity to become proficient reading instructors, using a research based & proven intense Wilson Reading Program. Even veteran teachers need up to date training on new methods for teaching struggling students. Thank you!"

—Laura Huggins, Ecker Hill Middle School

# ADVOCATE PROGRAM

With community support, we have continued to grow this meaningful program and offer this unique service at no cost. In addition to families with struggling readers, our advocacy expertise has been sought out by families of students with dysgraphia, ADHD and anxiety. This year, our Certified Advocates worked with over 50 families from the following schools:

- Park City School District
- Weilenmann School of Discovery
- The Winter Sports School
- The Park City Day School
- Silver Summit Academy
- South Summit School District

## A SPECIAL THANK YOU

to the Park City Rotary Club and the Park City Community Foundation for their generous grants to support this unique and important program.

# MIND\* YOUTH PROGRAM

## \*Mentoring, Inspiring & Nurturing Differences

Students love our MIND programs! Unfortunately, we were only able to hold two of our usual four events before the pandemic began (a Self-Advocacy Skills Workshop, below right, and our Winter Social at Promontory's Tubing Hill); however, the 40 students and eight Mentors who participated are eager for event planning to begin again!

MIND welcomes all students in the Park City area with learning differences in grades K-12. Older students become MIND Mentors and help organize and run our events.

"I like MIND because younger kids can learn they are not alone and meet older kids who have been through similar experiences in school and with tutoring."

— Student, Grade 4

"When I was younger, nothing like MIND existed. Being a part of MIND now gives me perspective on how many kids could use a role model and how helpful our program is to them."

— MIND Mentor, Age 16

#elevatingliteracy

## THE DUMBEST KID IN CLASS

The second time my happy, energetic, intelligent, empathetic, wonderful third grade boy told me that that he "didn't want to be in this life" and he was "the dumbest kid" in his class it really caught my attention. Our journey in to the discovery of dyslexia began.

Through a visit to a child psychologist we learned that our son was having a difficult time with and "hated" reading. After a reading evaluation, we were told he likely had dyslexia and we were lucky to be in Park City because of PC READS. We contacted them and quickly received a response, including resources, references, and a course of action for further testing. PC READS kept in close contact through the process, which confirmed the diagnosis. We were assigned an Advocate, providing guidance and support above and beyond anything hoped for. She attended meetings with us and we were able to get the school accommodations my son needed formalized through a 504 Plan.

Since then, we have attended PC READS meetings and our son has met more kids with dyslexia through their youth program. He has found this explanation for his way of learning a relief and even very interesting. He makes no more comments about "not wanting to be here" and instead says reading is one of his favorite activities. He has even noted with wonder a couple of times, "I'm really smart!" Through my tears of joy let me tell you how fortunate we are to have PC READS and their Advocate Program in our community.

— Park City Parent



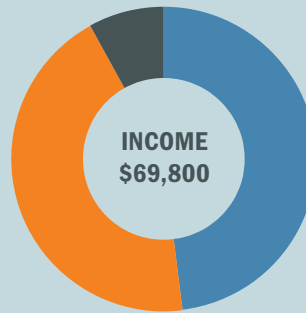
**Self-Advocacy Skills Workshop, September 2019:** Students were organized into small groups with a MIND Mentor and completed a ropes course at Utah Olympic Park. Afterwards, groups discussed self-advocacy skills and students worked to complete an "About Me" worksheet to share with classroom teachers.

## FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

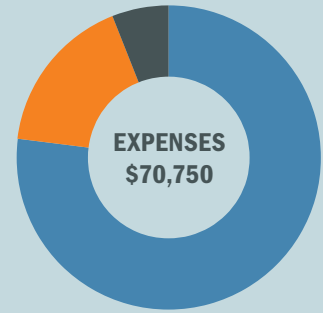
Your generous contributions have helped us continue to grow our programs. We are also thankful to our many volunteers and community partners who help us keep our program costs low and our family advocacy services free.

## SPECIAL THANKS TO

Hall Family Fund	Sotheby's Cares
Beano Solomon	Park City Rotary Club
Park City Community Foundation	Park City Sunrise Rotary Club



**Individual Contributions:** 48%  
**Grants & Private Foundations:** 44%  
**Other:** 8%



**Programs:** 77%  
**Administrative:** 17%  
**Fundraising:** 6%

## LOOKING FORWARD

Planning for the 2020-2021 school year has been challenging for everyone and the effects of school closures, remote learning and quarantine periods remain to be seen. Our Programming Committee is working hard to provide meaningful opportunities through our **Elevating Literacy Program** for parents and teachers to connect and learn during this different year. **MIND Youth Program** events will focus on outdoor activities allowing students to safely gather together.

To honor Dyslexia Awareness Month this October, we'll be kicking off a new resource book program for local educators. In November, we are hosting a virtual Wrightslaw Special Education Law & Advocacy Conference featuring national expert, Peter Wright. Our **Advocate Program** also continues to grow and we welcomed Christine Tiranno into our new Program Manager role this fall.

We are grateful for your generosity and support of PC READS and hope that you will continue to join us in our efforts to elevate literacy for all. Together, we are making a difference in the lives of students, parents and educators.

Sincerely,

Elissa Aten, *Executive Director*

[#elevatingliteracy](#)

## SUPPORT PC READS

Advocating for literacy in Park City since 2014



PARK CITY  
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

**ON NOVEMBER 6, 2020  
DONATE TO PC READS  
THROUGH PARK CITY'S  
ANNUAL DAY OF GIVING!**

Donate at:  
[www.parkcityreads.org](http://www.parkcityreads.org)



**PC READS**

1109 Foxcrest Drive  
Park City, UT 84098

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