

READINGandBEYOND

Annual Report 2016-2017





Executive Director



Looking back over the 18 years that Reading and Beyond has been around, I couldn't be more grateful for what we have accomplished thus far. In this annual report, you will read about the results and the impact we have made on our participants during the 2016-2017 fiscal year. However, I would like to highlight the impact of our largest program – the Fresno Bridge Academy (FBA), which came about when we realized children cannot succeed in school if their parents are struggling financially, too.

Around 2010, we concluded a large number of parents of children we served were unemployed or underemployed. In both situations, they were not making enough to provide for their families. As we were considering how to address the issue we learned about a model developed by Peter Weber, a local retired corporate executive. The model focused on helping adults find A job, get a Better job and then attain a Career job, often referred to as the ABC method. It was a dual generational approach. Not only did it address the employment situation of the parents but also looked at the education statuses of their children and any issues that could or would prevent the parents or children from success. Lastly, the method focused on measurable outcomes. Seven years later, we have successfully served hundreds, and we currently have more than 2,000 clients enrolled at nine sites throughout Fresno County, including three in rural areas.

Fresno Bridge Academy's successful model, which continues to be championed by Weber, has reached a new level. As the model has expanded to other counties, the FBA is now just one of a growing number of Bridge Academies under a new name called California Bridge Academies. We are currently implementing the model in San Joaquin County, Napa County, San Bernardino County and Madera County. Our ambitious goal is to have the Bridge Academy model implemented in 20 counties by the year 2020. It is too early to say we will have the same positive results we have had in Fresno. However, we don't expect anything less than what we have accomplished with the Fresno Bridge Academy during these past seven years.

Reading and Beyond would not be where it is today without the leadership and support of our Board of Directors as well as past and present staff team members. They believe in the mission and vision of the organization and have worked hard to deliver on those goals. Without our partners, volunteers and donors, too, we would have been limited in what we could do it. To all of you, once again, THANK YOU for your partnership.

Blessings,

Luis Santana





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March 2017
Gala Dinner & Auction
hosted by Principal Financial Group
Event photos taken by Howard Watkins



Building lasting foundations for children and families for success

Highlights from 2016-2017



2017 Pete Weber Scholarship
Winners at the Beyond Awards
for Fresno Bridge Academy
participants



Literacy hour during the 2016
Summer Academy



Preschool celebrated Chinese
New Year with a dragon parade



Family Success Zone
recognized parents who finished
the parenting program Abriendo
Puertas/Opening Doors



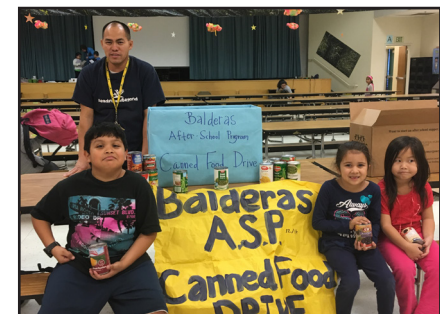
Preschool celebrated Dr. Seuss'
birthday



Outdoor fun with Family
Success Zone kids at Yokomi
Elementary School



Fresno Bridge Academy
participants attend GED tutoring
class



After-School Program students
at Balderas Elementary School
collected canned goods during
the 2016 holidays

School Readiness

To prepare young children to be academically, socially and developmentally ready to begin school

Reading and Beyond Preschool

Reading and Beyond Preschool has had an exciting year as it continues to serve children between 3 and 5 years old and get them ready for kindergarten. Rated four stars from the Fresno County Office of Education's Early Stars program, the Reading and Beyond Preschool was at full capacity during the year, serving 45 students in two classrooms. All of the children attend all-day preschool.

Our preschool staff members, which include a site supervisor, two lead teachers and six part-time teachers, have been trained to assist and assess children for kindergarten readiness. Two assessments, the Desired Results Developmental Profile Assessment (DRDP) and the Ages and Stages Questionnaires (ASQ), were administered throughout the year to see how students were developing. The most-recent scores for our students averaged 90%, indicating they succeeded in all domains of learning (self-regulation & development in self/social, language, literacy, physical, health, history-social science, and English language.) In June, 98% of the students graduating from Reading and Beyond Preschool were ready for kindergarten.

With the growing need of quality preschools in Fresno, Reading and Beyond Preschool has been working hard to open a second site. The new location in northeast Fresno is slated to open in August 2017.





Josiah with Preschool Teacher Cristina Ortiz.

Josiah's Story

"Reading and Beyond Preschool took in my grandson, Josiah, on Nov. 15, 2016. It was an urgent need for us to have quality, all-day care for him, both for his wellbeing and education, and because I work full-time. He had no experience in a structured preschool setting and is autistic. The staff saw how intelligent he is and worked extraordinarily hard to build up the social and speech skills he needs to support his academic work throughout his school career. The progress he has made in just a few months is nothing short of remarkable, and the supportiveness, persistence and caring of the staff has been more valuable than I can explain."

He began attending a Fresno Unified School District's specialized autism program earlier this year, and Reading and Beyond's staff worked collaboratively with his new teacher to ensure continuity for him no matter where he was. As great as that teacher is, Josiah always wants to go to Reading and Beyond instead. In his words, that's where his 'best friends' are and his 'Princess' (teacher Cristina). Reading and Beyond has been so much more than a quality preschool to our family. The staff has been an extension of Josiah's family and strong partners in making sure he has everything he needs to succeed in school."

~ Brandy Swisher, Josiah's grandmother



School Success

To help students achieve academically through literacy tutoring, afterschool and summer programming, school-day reading intervention and recreational activities

Literacy Programs

Reading and Beyond operates a variety of literacy programs throughout Fresno and surrounding cities, partnering with organizations such as Fresno Unified School District, the Boys and Girls Clubs of Fresno County and the Fresno Housing Authority, to reach as many students as possible. The goal of Reading and Beyond's literacy programs is to provide students the support and tutoring they need to improve their reading levels while learning the skills to succeed academically.

Total number of students: **950**

Summer Academy

The Summer Reading Academy is designed to prevent summer learning loss by offering students an opportunity to maintain, if not improve, their academic knowledge. In addition to maintaining their reading skills over the summer, students at the Summer Academy also are given the opportunity to engage in a variety of fun activities.

Total number of students: **190**

Overall Results

Total number of students: **1,140**

Students whose reading improved: **90%**

Students who improved by one grade level: **68%**



Sites

After School Education & Safety (ASES) Elementary Schools: Heaton, Lowell, Storey and Balderas Elementary Schools

Day-School Elementary Schools: Balderas, Aynesworth, Gibson, Yokomi, Storey, Jackson and West Park

Fresno Housing Authority Locations: Firebaugh, Sequoia Courts, Reading and Beyond at Van Ness, and two in Orange Cove

Boys & Girls Club Sites: Del Rey, Mendota and Huron

Community Sites: Mosqueda Community Center, Hope Lutheran Church and Wesley Methodist Church



Malayah's Story

Malayah Rodriguez is currently a student at Reading and Beyond's school-day literacy intervention program at West Park Elementary School in Fresno. Malayah, who completed 2nd grade in June 2017, has been in the program for two years, and her grandmother Alice Ramirez has seen the positive changes and impact the program has had on her during that time.



Ramirez recalled how Malayah struggled in class before joining the literacy program and did not like going to school. However, that all changed after she started attending the literacy program, Ramirez said. Malayah's attitude toward school began to shift as she started to actively engage with her instructors. Her reading skills and overall school work started to reflect her greater interest in school and showed improvement.

Malayah is performing well in school now. Ramirez attributes this success to the Reading and Beyond's literacy intervention program.

Riverdale High School Workshops



The Riverdale High School Parent & Family Literacy Workshops are monthly educational workshops for students and parents.

Workshop topics: Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), A-G requirements, higher education options, the importance of parent involvement and financial literacy.

Attendance: Parents and students are required to attend 8 out of 10 sessions to be eligible for fieldtrips.

College tours: 45 parents and students were selected to visit California State University at Stanislaus and University of California at Davis.

All 10 seniors who participated in the program have been accepted into college.

Career Readiness

Empowering adults to achieve greater self-reliance and career success through individualized case management by Career & Family Navigators, increased access to education, development of interview skills and “soft skills”, employment retention support, and effective navigation of community resources

Bridge Academy

The Model

The Bridge Academy is an 18-month, outcomes-based Employment and Training (E&T) program focused on providing services to help participants and their families build foundations for success through holistically-engaging case managers called Career and Family Navigators (CFNs). CFNs work closely with participants to create individualized plans to achieve employment, training and personal goals while also supporting them in overcoming any barriers. They also help participants in developing the habits and skills that will benefit them professionally and personally in the long term. The Bridge Academy has the nation’s only E&T services return on investment (ROI) calculator to monitor the cost efficiency of its services. Every \$1 put into a Bridge Academy participant generates a return of more than \$22, \$5.50 of which goes directly back to taxpayers.



The History

The Fresno Bridge Academy, launched in 2010 as a demonstration project in two sites, has been Fresno County’s Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) E&T services provider since 2012. In 2016, the USDA Food and Nutrition Service selected a pilot proposal, which was based on the Fresno Bridge Academy model, by the Fresno County’s Department of Social Services to reach more CalFresh participants and inform public policy regarding SNAP E&T services. In addition to those families that received services as part of the previous four cohorts, the Fresno Bridge Academy currently has more than 2,000 families receiving services.



The Fresno Bridge Academy has grown from one location to nine sites throughout Fresno County, including three in rural areas. The number of families that will be served per cohort is 2,300 families (plus previous cohorts 1-4).

The Expansion

Following the success of the Fresno Bridge Academy, Bridge Academy E&T models have been implemented by a number of counties throughout California, with more slated to begin next year. With the assistance and support of the James Irvine Foundation, Reading and Beyond has been providing technical assistance—free of cost—to counties hoping to adopt a Bridge Academy model in their area. Our goal is to be helping families in 20 counties by 2020.

Madera Bridge Academy

of Families that will be served (per cohort): 100
Provider: Reading and Beyond

San Joaquin Bridge Academy

of Families that will be served (per cohort): 400
Provider: Community Partnership for Families of San Joaquin (CPFSJ)

Napa Bridge Academy

of Families that will be served (per cohort): 120
Provider: Napa County Department of Health and Human Services

Misael's Story



At the beginning of 2017, Misael Bravo came in needing assistance with finding employment. When Misael enrolled in the Fresno Bridge Academy (FBA), he was unemployed and looked dejected about his future.

Several weeks after enrolling, Misael felt like giving up, but Career & Family Navigator Brenetta Sadakov encouraged him to stay in the FBA program. He did, and it has paid off. On May 15, 2017, Misael graduated from the Valley Apprenticeship Connections Program and received several work certificates.

Today, Misael looks like almost a different person than the one who first joined the program. He is "a lot more confident and seems to have a sense of purpose," Sadakov said.

Misael is working full time as a cement mason. He is looking forward to putting his certificates and new skills to use.

Fresno Bridge Academy Client Successes

Results Thus Far*

Number of enrolled clients: **1,970**

75% were unemployed at enrollment

104 enrolled in GED tutoring classes

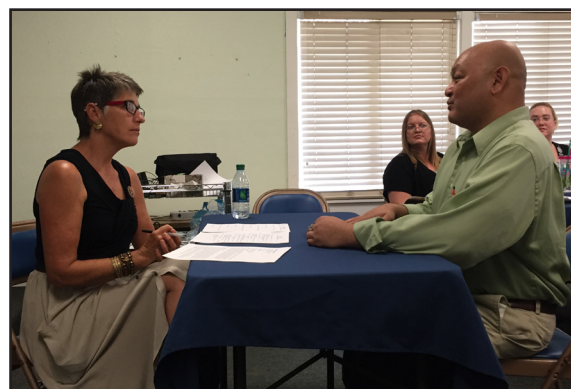
189 enrolled in a training program

394 found employment

*Program completes in December 2018



Two clients celebrated earning their GEDs with Bridge Academy staff.



A client answered questions during a mock job interview.



Clients went online to search for job leads.



A client learned how to tie a tie from a CFN before a job interview.



Client Chris Neal started his own ice cream truck, Tastefully Twisted, with Bridge Academy's support. 11

Family Strengthening

To help children and families in the 93701 zip code reach their potential academically and economically.

Family Success Zone (FSZ)

Reading and Beyond launched the Family Success Zone in the fall of 2015. Designed to serve families in the 93701 zip code, the program provides comprehensive intervention for children below grade level and support for the whole family. Students initially being targeted are those who attend Yokomi, Lowell and Jefferson elementary schools.

Families are supported by case managers called Family Navigators (FN) who work closely with families to identify individual and family goals and ways to achieve them. FNs connect families with community resources, offer educational assistance and financial workshops, and provide literacy intervention to children and GED classes to parents.

175 families served through Fresno Unified School District partnership

41 families served through First 5 Fresno County grant



A participant and her daughter with their Family Navigator.

Literacy Intervention

In a partnership with the Fresno Unified School District, Reading and Beyond worked with 293 students who were referred by the school district, principals and teachers. Of those students, 123 students were identified by the school district who were below grade level and chronically absent. 85% of students improved academically and 74% of students improved in attendance by the end of the 2016-2017 school year.

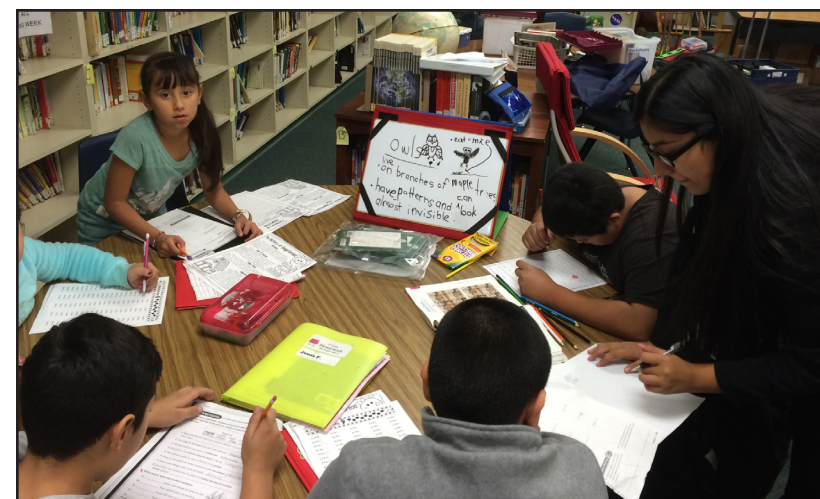
293 school-aged children (K-6) served

41 young children (0-5 years old) served

19 children enrolled in Head Start preschool programs



A Family Navigator looked over paperwork with a participant during a home visit.



Students at Jefferson Elementary School received small-group reading support with the Literacy Intervention program.



Yolanda's Story

Yolanda Madrigal is a single mother with two boys, who finished the 2017 school year in 4th and 1st grades. She works part-time as a restaurant cook. When Madrigal joined the Family Success Zone in November 2015, her children were struggling academically in school, particularly her older son. She did not know how to help him.

With the support of her Family Navigator, she learned about Individual Education Plans (IEP) and how IEPs might help her son improve in school. Her Family Navigator (FN) referred her to the Exceptional Parents Unlimited Children's Center for more information and parent workshops on IEPs. She also worked with her Family Navigator to discuss questions and gather the materials needed to get her son assessed for an IEP.

"By having her understand the process of an IEP, she was able to support her child by coaching him it is okay to get tested for a learning disability," said Imara Infante, Madrigal's Family Navigator. "She was able to empower herself and her child to begin the process."

In the meantime, both her sons attended Reading and Beyond's Literacy Intervention Program at Yokomi Elementary School. Today, she feels more confident in herself on how she can support her children's education.

"Overall, I enjoy the program because my children enjoy it, and it helps me find information, like the IEP exam, taxes, GED and other things," Madrigal said.

Other Program Services

Financial Literacy Workshops

Supported by a grant from CitiBank, Financial Literacy Workshops were designed to help Family Success Zone clients learn to make good financial decisions for themselves and their families. Workshops have included topics on establishing credit, identity theft, money management, budgeting, and paying for college.

GED Classes

Supported by a grant from Wells Fargo, GED classes are available twice a week in English and Spanish to Family Success Zone clients. Fifteen clients were enrolled.



Supervised Children Rooms

In a partnership with the County of Fresno, Reading and Beyond continues to manage two Supervised Children Rooms. Both locations provide services for about a total of 350-450 children a month.

The Supervised Children Rooms are a safe, enriching environment for children 12 years old and younger while their parents or guardians are conducting business with the County of Fresno Department of Social Services and County of Fresno Department of Behavioral Health.

Staff



Administrative & Support Staff



Reading and Beyond Preschool



Family Success Zone



Bridge Academy



K-12



Volunteers

Thank You, Volunteers!

Without the dedication and hard work of our volunteers, Reading and Beyond would not be able to provide our programs to the hundreds of children, adults and families who need our support and services.

Jessica D., Terri L., Carolyn L., Joshua N., GeWarren O., Bev P., Emmanuel R., Russell S., Bella C., Tania V. P., Lorena R., Michelle G., Jonathon M., Alyce T., Olga Q., Rich T., Julie R., Maya C., Dominique F., Deborah J., Christina M., Nathaniel C., and Panou V.



Reading and Beyond at Fresno State

The Reading and Beyond (RaB) at Fresno State project began in 2013. This collaboration between RaB and California State University, Fresno (CSUF), grew out of years of partnership with the Jan and Bud Richter Center for Community Engagement and Service-Learning's Fresno READS program. Fresno READS places CSUF work-study students at school sites to provide essential literacy services. Through Reading and Beyond at Fresno State, CSUF students continue to provide academic support and literacy tutoring. During the 2016-17 school year, 56 college students provided almost 15,000 hours of services as tutors to 834 elementary school students. Thank you!



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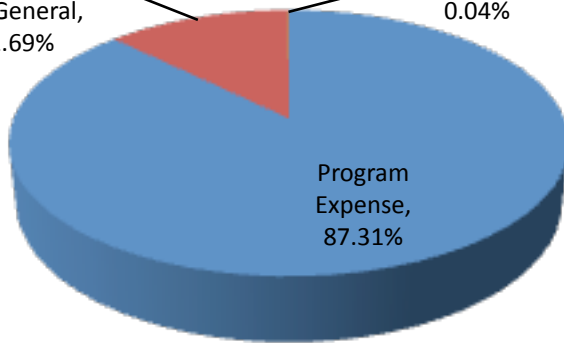


Financial Summary

Management and General, 12.69%

Fundraising, 0.04%

Program Expense, 87.31%



Expenses

Wages	3,588,117
Other Employee Benefits	430,319
Payroll Taxes	346,491
Subcontractor Expense	60,123
Supplies	26,677
Utilities	17,966
Depreciation	34,090
Travel/Conference	65,986
Consulting	70,705
Legal & Accounting	23,000
Special Program Expenses	632,924
Insurance	22,768
Rent & Janitorial	128,991
Printing & Copying	30,621
Payroll Processing & Bank Fees	16,334
Telephone & Internet	63,185
Contracted Instructors	5,970
Marketing and Public Relations	20,685
Licenses & Fees	10,372
Special Events Expense	19,421
Dues & Subscriptions	8,354
Fingerprinting	7,831
Outreach/Volunteer Retention	2,865
Miscellaneous	475
In-Kind Expenses	463,652

Financial Summary as of June 30, 2017

Assets	\$5,581,393
Liabilities	\$1,094,883
Net Assets	\$4,486,510.67

Revenue

Contributions	33,230
Grants & Contracts	
Foundations & Others	682,180
Government	5,269,685
Inkind Service and Goods	463,652
Fundraising	67,431
Investment Income	70,480
Miscellaneous	5,083

Total Revenue **\$6,591,741**

Total Expenses **\$6,098,368**





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