



READING **and** BEYOND

BUILDING FOUNDATIONS FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES



ANNUAL REPORT
2021-2022

From our Founder



I will already be retired when you read this message. This is my last message as the Executive Director of Reading and Beyond, a role I have held since the inception of the organization.

I arrived in Fresno in 1991 from Brazil with the desire to learn English and get a master's degree in social work then go back to Brazil to develop an "organization" to help those less fortunate to become self-sufficient. What I didn't know at that time was that I would do what my heart desired here in Fresno for the next 20 plus years.

Reading and Beyond was established in 1999 and was known as Fresno Covenant Foundation during its first decade. The original name was to honor the First Covenant Church as without their initial support, Reading and Beyond wouldn't exist. Since its establishment, the mission of Reading and Beyond has been to empower children and families to achieve productive self-reliant lives. Part of the success of Reading and Beyond has to do with our dedicated board members and committed staff and volunteers, and part has to do with the way we have chosen to operate the organization. I have relied on four unwritten points of reference which have governed the organization's actions and focus.

- 1) Long term approach. We know that the populations we serve have longer term needs.
A short term approach doesn't help them.
- 2) Research and evidence based programs. We need to know if what we are doing is producing significant results, and if not, make the changes necessary to produce results.
- 3) The child will always be the focus of what we do but we also work with the parents.
The dual generation approach is central to what we do.
- 4) Holistic approach. We believe that a wrap around approach is not only necessary to work with the population we serve but indispensable.

My faith has also played significant role in how I choose to live my life. It has inspired me to be a better person. Although, many times I feel I am falling short from the marks I have set for myself. Like previous years, Reading and Beyond had another blessed year by continuing to help the community to recuperate from the impacts of COVID-19 and pursuing our goal to help children and families to achieve productive self-reliant lives.

My plan to retire isn't a last a minute decision, it has been planned for the last three years in coordination with the board who has appointed my successor - Sandra Flores who I had the opportunity to spend a couple of months with, helping her with the transition. I know the future of Reading and Beyond is bright. Although I am the Founding Executive Director, I never believed that this organization belonged to me. It was started to help the community and it belongs to the community which should raise its expectation for what RaB does at the same time support it.

Regarding my future, I don't know. Brazilians have an expression that makes a lot of sense to me "o futuro pertence a Deus" - the Future belongs to God. On Him I put my trust. For those who want to keep in touch, I would love to hear from you. Please reach me on my personal email.

Blessings and thank you for your support and friendship throughout the years,

-Luis
1991luissantana@gmail.com

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About Us

Reading and Beyond is actively serving thousands of families and individuals throughout the Central Valley, providing an array of services from cradle to career. We are working diligently to keep our work sustainable, effective, and relevant to the needs of the communities we serve so we can continue to serve families for decades to come.

Our Mission

To empower children and families to achieve productive, self-reliant lives.

Recent Highlights

2019: Reading and Beyond celebrated its 20th anniversary of lifting neighborhoods out of poverty one family at a time. We were also the first non-profit Preschool program in the Central Valley to have received a 5-star rating from Fresno County Office of Education's Early Stars Program.

2021: Reading and Beyond conducted a survey focused on Southeast Fresno (a huge achievement for the organization) by knocking on thousands of doors and collecting over 1,000 unique surveys. The survey enabled us to gather valuable insight from the community and service gaps. The findings were then presented to civic leaders, including the Mayor and City Council. The survey provided an opportunity for the community's voice to be heard and considered by those in leadership positions.

2022: Reading and Beyond, in partnership with our Cultural Community Wellness Coalition, hosted our first Cultural Wellness Fair at the Mosqueda Center. Over 500 community members attended the health fair.



Reading and Beyond leadership team along with City Council Member Luis Chavez and City of Fresno Mayor Jerry Dyer.

Key to Success: Dual Generation Model

Our philosophy is centered on two-generation programming. Dual-generation approaches focus on creating opportunities for and addressing the needs of both children and the adults in their lives together.

A growing body of evidence illustrates that dual-generation strategies -- which integrate education, employment, parenting and peer supports for parents alongside developmental, academic and social supports for children -- are most successful at improving economic mobility for families and education outcomes for children.



Financials:

Assets \$6,979,986
Liabilities \$2,236,929
Net Assets \$4,743,057

Total Revenue
\$7,448,212
Total Expenses
\$7,589,723

12%

management and general expense

88%

program expense

Meet Our Board of Directors



Harinder "Randy" Dhindsa
Chairperson

Regional V.P., Farm Credit West



Francine Farber
Vice-Chairperson

Vice-President,
League of Women Voters



Katie Dill
Secretary

Wellness and Health Coach



Flavia Flores
Treasurer

Business Owner
Sales Representative



Antonio Avalos
Member

Valley Economics Associates
CSUF Professor



Daniel Castro
Member

Attorney, Partner
Loza & Loza LLP





Robert (Bob) Gunning
Member

Financial Advisor
Capital Financial & Insurance



Anita Hernandez
Member

Academic Counselor
Parent University FUSD



Catherine Huerta
Member

Former Director of Fresno
County DSS



Robert Pimentel
Member

President
State Center
Community College



Jodie Rolih
Member

Senior Manager
Sensiba San Filippo



Vivian Sojo
Member

CEO/Owner
Keystone Kitchen and Bath



William Winchester
Member

Chief Operations Officer
Berg Mill Supply CO.,

**“Working Together to Bring
Success to Our Families.”**



School Readiness: Preschool

Reading and Beyond Preschool Program provides families a comprehensive full day State Preschool Program. Preschool services cater to low-income families who are employed, seeking employment, pursuing education and/or training programs. To meet the ongoing demand for quality early childhood education, Reading and Beyond operates two locations serving children aged 3 to 5 years.

95 Students Served

The Mosqueda Community Center in Southeast Fresno has two full-day classrooms serving 45 children and Northeast Fresno campus has two full-day classrooms serving 48 students.



Our preschool program celebrated the graduation of 30 children, marking an important milestone in their educational journey. During this memorable event, we heard children express their dreams of becoming doctors, police officers, princesses, and even ninja turtles! Their imaginative and ambitious career choices remind us that these children are the future leaders of our community.



School Success: Afterschool Program

Reading and Beyond After School Literacy Program provides innovative, research-based, and effective learning solutions to children grades K-6 who are struggling with literacy and being able to read at grade level or higher. The program places emphasis on three fundamental areas: literacy, homework assistance, and enrichment activities.

Volunteers and local college work-study students from Fresno State work closely with the children in small groups to enhance their literacy and language skills. This collaborative approach enables us to operate cost-effectively with a high impact return. Our tutors and instructors are trained to provide the most effective strategies to improve the reading skills of the students. A key component of the program is to enhance the reading grade level of all students by one grade.



85
Students
Served



College and Career Readiness: California Bridge Academies

The California Bridge Academies is a system of programs designed to offer individualized case management and navigation services around educational and employment goals. The goal is to provide on-ramps to economic mobility for the most vulnerable and underserved communities. Through engagement with Career and Family Navigators, our participants are connected to programs and services that place them on pathways towards stabilization and self-sufficiency.

The California Bridge Academies offered four programs in three different counties (Fresno, Madera and Kings) and served a total of 1042 families. (676 enrolled with case-management programs, 366 in coaching/barrier removal services)

1042
Families
Served

676

Enrolled in case
management programs

179

Obtained
permanent
employment



Other California Bridge Academies program components include supporting college students to enroll and complete vocational, accredited certificates or degrees at partnered State Center Community College District. In addition, other key areas of focus are supporting low-income students who previously had attended post-secondary education but withdrew before completing their degree, ensuring their return to college is successful.

Family Success: GLOW! Group Prenatal Care

The Glow! Group Prenatal Care and Support Program is an innovative and comprehensive model that incorporates wrap-around services with enhanced prenatal care. This program is rooted in a deep sense of community where women can feel supported and learn from one another while learning from their provider and receiving respectful prenatal care. In September 2019, Reading and Beyond was selected to join the Glow! Contractor Network with two other agencies, Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission (Fresno EOC) and West Fresno Family Resource Center. Each agency has been funded by First 5 Fresno County to serve as Glow! facilitators and support the implementation of the program. Glow! is implemented exclusively under the EMBRACE (Engaging Mothers and Babies; Reimagining Antenatal Care for Everyone) Study. This study aims to compare 1,300 women receiving individual prenatal care (Comprehensive Perinatal Services Program - CPSP) with 1,300 women receiving Glow! Group Prenatal Care. The hope is that the results of the study will help future patients decide which approach is best for them and help providers and policy makers decide which program is best suited to address high rates of prematurity, depression and anxiety, and disrespectful care.



Claudia is now the mother of 2 girls and a 2-time Glow! Participant! Claudia credits Glow! for the information, encouragement and support that got her through it. She recommends Glow! because it is informative and a safe place to express oneself and talk to other pregnant women. “I am healthy and my babies are in good health. I had a wonderful experience with Glow! I will gladly recommend Glow! to any pregnant mother!”

Although we faced many obstacles due to COVID, we were able to successfully complete a cohort, where all participants successfully gave birth.

Technology Enrichment

The Technology Enrichment program, funded by First 5 Madera County, was a one year pilot project designed to empower parents and caregivers with the skills and confidence to effectively utilize technology to support their child's educational journey. This program specifically focused on parents and caregivers residing in Madera County who have children between the ages of 0 and 5.

By establishing a solid foundation, the program equipped parents and caregivers with the necessary knowledge and skills to navigate technology, including tele-school options, accessing age appropriate content and internet safety. These skills ultimately enabled them to play a more active role in their child's education and help them realize their full potential.

100% of the families reported feeling confident in creating a safe learning environment at home.

92% felt more comfortable accessing online educational resources for their child's education.

121

Families Served

600

Hours of Digital Literacy Training

Success Story

Holly, who recently relocated to Madera County, found herself lacking in available resources and support. Recognizing the need to enhance her child's education at home, Holly enrolled in our program. Through our program, Holly acquired essential skills, including creating a secure learning environment for her child and evaluating online educational tools to ensure safe and effective technology usage.

Upon completing the program, ongoing discussions with Holly led the staff facilitator to connect her with our Madera CBA program. This additional support aimed to assist Holly in securing full-time employment. Presently, Holly is actively engaged with the Madera CBA team, focusing on improving her soft skills and enhancing her job search capabilities.

Holly's journey exemplifies the transformative impact of our program, providing not only technological knowledge but also a pathway to broader personal and professional development.



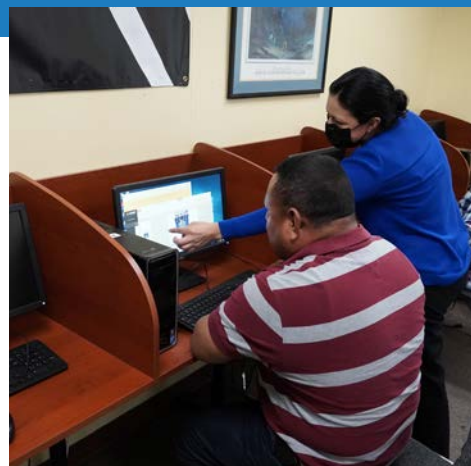
Digital Literacy

The Digital Literacy Program provided free computer education to community members interested in learning basic computer skills. Individuals received eight hours of training in a one-on-one setting or in small group sessions. During the sessions they were introduced to basic computer terminology and functions. They had the opportunity to learn how to use Microsoft Office, Google Suite, and internet safety tools for kids. Participants also learned how to navigate the internet and create and manage email accounts. The project also provided a safe space for people to access the internet to do a job search, homework and other training.

1010

Participants provided with broadband access

300 hours of digital literacy training completed



Emergency Rental Assistance Program

The City of Fresno (City) received nearly \$54 million in funding from federal and state government to provide emergency rental assistance to improve housing stability. The City, along with six community-based organizations (Reading and Beyond, The Fresno Center, Centro La Familia, Education & Leadership Foundation, Jakara Movement, and West Fresno Family Resource Center) provided rent and utility relief to both landlords and tenants through the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP). Qualified applicants who experienced hardship due to COVID-19 and were unable to pay any portion of rent and utilities were eligible to receive financial assistance.

842

ERAP tenants were approved and funded.

\$3,568,663.80

was spent on rental assistance for tenants who were been financially impacted by COVID-19 and has a past due unpaid rent balance

Success Story

After the City of Fresno's Eviction Moratorium ended on June 10, 2022 a tenant was served a 30 days' notice prior to June 30th stating that tenant had to relocate and move out of the apartment due to remodeling of the unit and unpaid rent. The tenant contacted us on June 28, 2022, two days prior to the eviction day. Recognizing the urgency, the assigned Housing Navigator, with the support of the supervisor, promptly referred her to the Eviction Protection Program (EPP) and connected her with Central Legal Services (CLS) for legal assistance. To address the situation, we engaged the property manager to discuss extension and ERAP payment plan for the tenant. Through several conversations with the property manager and West Care Foundation (whom the tenant was also associated with for relocation support), a resolution was achieved. The property manager agreed to extend the tenant's stay until the end of August 2022, granting her sufficient time to secure a new residence and our program to provide rental assistance to cover 100% of the tenant outstanding past due balance. The tenant expressed heartfelt gratitude for the support and guidance received during a challenging and uncertain experience.



Health: Advancing Health Literacy

The City of Fresno partnered with Reading and Beyond, West Fresno Family Resource Center, Centro La Familia, Jakara Movement, Fresno Interdenominational Refugee Ministries, Central Valley Health Policy Institute and the County of Fresno Department of Public Health to address the ongoing health disparities, and more specifically, the health disparities amplified by Covid-19 pandemic. Community Health Workers' (CHWs) provided support leveraged this project to target minority groups who were not participating in vaccination and testing opportunities at the same rate as other groups. According to data collected by the Fresno County Department of Health in 2021 these specific zip codes: 93701, 93702, 93703, 93705, 93706, 93722, 93726 lagged behind others in vaccination participation.

AHL Program Data:

AHL Program Reach

Type of Event	Number of Events	Number of People Reached
Direct	135	12,123
Indirect	42	9,167

Quarter 2 Total Reach: 21,290

Program Total Reach (Q1 + Q2): 46,546

FRE

General Population Surveys

General Population Surveys collected in Quarter 2:

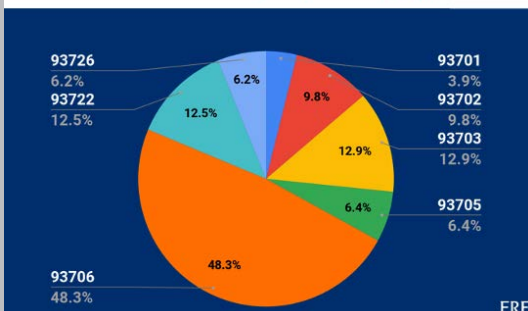
845

Total General Population Surveys collected in Q1 and Q2:

1,213

FRE

General Population Surveys - Breakdown by Zip Code (Q2)



FRE

Performance Measure #3 - Event Tracking Data

The demographic characteristics of the total population reached...	From DIS	Y1
Black/African American	1,040	1,500
American Indian/Alaska Native	122	100
Asian	3,916	2,500
White (Non-Hispanic)	646	500
Hispanic or Latino	2,866	5,000
Other, Decline to State	12,684	400
Denominator (Total number of individuals reached)	21,274	10,000

AHL partners have reached and reported all race/ethnicities aligned with our Disparities Impact Statement goals for Grant Year 1, except among Black/African American and Hispanic/Latinos.

They may have already been reached, but data was not collected with the previous version of the AHL Event Tracking sheet.

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Covid Equity Project

The COVID-19 Equity Project (CEP) provided support to underserved and hard-to-reach communities, focusing on Covid-19 educational support, the distribution of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and vaccines. The CEP was a collaboration among six community-based organizations (CBOs) collectively known as the Immigrant Refugee Coalition (IRC). The IRC included Reading and Beyond, Fresno Building Healthy Communities, Jakara Movement, Cultiva La Salud, Fresno Interdenominational Refugee Ministries (FIRM), and Fresno State Central Health Policy Institute (CVHPI).

123

Health Education
Outreach Events

1086

Covid-19 tests
administered at the Mosqueda
Community Center

\$131,659

Isolation/Quarantine
Support
benefiting 124
families with a
member who
tested positive for
COVID-19.

4451

Vaccines administered through
medical providers



Advocacy: Family Advocacy Program

The Family Advocacy Program is a partnership between Fresno County Department of Behavioral Health and Reading and Beyond. The services provided are driven by the needs of the family and individual and focus on wellness, education, advocacy, and support. Family Advocate Navigators (FAN) invest establishing rapport and fostering trust to create a safe place for families.

Located in an underserved neighborhood within a community center, RaB regularly receives inquiries from individuals seeking resources through walk-in visits. In response to these needs, our dedicated Family Advocates offer mental health education and provide families with valuable resources, empowering them to access the services they require.

1219
total
contacts

540
unique
customers

2938
services
provided



Annual
Survey
Results

98%

of the families and individuals who completed the survey felt empowered, supported, and cared for by program staff.

100%

of respondents would recommend the Family Advocacy Services Program to their family and friends.

95%

increase in knowledge of the mental health system and community resources reported by respondents.

Special Thanks to Our Community Partners:

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Miles Basurto
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Kao & Mai Saetern
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The Dayton Foundation
The Wonderful Company Foundation Inc.
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Vivian Sojo
Warren B. and Ruthe Armstrong
William & Carol Winchester
Zinpro Corporation

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AT&T
Blue Anthem
Building Healthy Communities
Child and Adult Care Food Program
California Department of Education City Of Fresno
Comcast
County of Fresno DBH
First 5 Fresno County
Fresno County Office of Education Fresno
Fresno Unified School District
Fresno County DSS
Golden 1
James Irvine Foundation
Kaiser Permanente
Kings County Department of Social Services
Madera County Department of Social Services
Public Utilities Commission
United Way Fresno and Madera Counties

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Cameron Brito
Carolina Lee
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Dimitri A. Hernandez
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Nina Chairez
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GET IN TOUCH



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