Your Support at Genevieve Melody Elementary School Brings a Team of Advocates to West Garfield Park’s Youngest Residents!

In the communities we serve, classroom size is growing while resources are not. Your gift provides these schools with professional development for teachers, an on-site coaching team, and an engaging curriculum for every student.

In 2016, reviews from colleagues and the Reading In Motion team’s passion convinced Melody Principal, Tiffany Tillman, to bring Reading In Motion to her kindergarten classrooms. The following year, thanks to your continued support, her 1st grade classrooms joined in. “Reading In Motion brought a great opportunity not only for the students,” Ms. Tillman says, “but for myself to increase our school’s learning capacity.” She wanted to better understand the unique literacy needs of younger learners. To date, more than 150 Melody students have become better readers through the Reading In Motion program. Now in Melody’s third year with Reading In Motion, and serving another 100 students, Ms. Tillman says her “primary teachers love the program.” Why? Specifically, it’s the extra support, resources, and coach collaboration. Thanks to your generosity, every child has a team of experts focused on their success. Together, Ms. Tillman, the teachers, and Reading In Motion coaches create action plans focused on increasing each student’s reading scores. When asked what keeps her returning to Reading In Motion each year, Ms. Tillman pointed to Melody’s designated Reading In Motion team, Mr. Little and Ms. Kate. That’s where you come in—it’s your support that allows us to join forces with Melody’s educators. And when we work together, change happens. Thank you for being part of the team.
How Your Gift Cultivates the Joy of Reading in Ms. Kaim’s Classroom

Carol Kaim is a Kindergarten teacher at Gallistel Elementary Language Academy in Chicago’s East Side neighborhood. “I became a teacher for a few reasons,” Ms. Kaim shares. “Trying new ideas has allowed me to find the best ways for students to learn concepts.” When Reading In Motion came to her school, she was open to trying something new. “It was very easy to incorporate Reading In Motion into my existing practices,” Ms. Kaim claims. One of her favorite aspects of the program is the small group instruction. With 20 young children to teach across a range of skill levels, small groups allow each student to focus on the tasks necessary to advance their individual literacy skills. “I enjoy watching the light bulb go on when a student finally does make the connection and has begun to master a concept ... teaching the primary grades is never boring,” Ms. Kaim says, fondly. “I never know what the students are going to say or think of next. It keeps me on my toes and allows me to stay creative.” And with the Reading In Motion program, Ms. Kaim says: “the students are engaged while learning. The program works.”

One of Ms. Kaim’s goals is to encourage a love of reading in her students. As a Reading In Motion donor, we know you believe in the value of reading too. Using the resources your support provides, Ms. Kaim not only helps students build their reading skills, but she is able to reward them with more reading time. “Last year,” Ms. Kaim shares, “I decided to clean out my extensive library. I decided that the books I was removing would go to my students. I piled them up on the table and let the students know they could each take three books. The students shouted Yeaaahhhh! Their jubilation made me feel that I was successful in building a love for reading.”

Thank you for supporting Ms. Kaim as she turns another class full of kindergarteners into book lovers this school year!
More than 300 donors and educators attended our 35th Anniversary Gala in June. It was a magical night inspired by Dr. Seuss’ “Oh, the Places You’ll Go.” More than $325,000 was committed by sponsors and guests and is providing teacher training, equipment for our coaches, and materials for thousands of students. We are truly amazed at the kindness you’ve shown Chicago’s educators for the past 35 years. Because of your commitment and generosity, the road ahead for thousands of young students is broader and more promising than ever!

A special shout out to the Gala’s major sponsors and to Gala Chairperson, Jenny Dakoske, and huge thanks to all of our donors. Your compassion is changing the literacy landscape in Chicago and beyond.

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Jennifer Steans & Jim Kastenholz
Jenny Dakoske, Reading In Motion Board member, and 35th Gala Event Chair, welcomes over 300 guests. Thank you for making the night one to remember!
K-1st Graders are Winning in Las Vegas!

You might call it a kid advantage or a kindergarten edge, but your investment in Las Vegas classrooms has paid off for more than 450 kindergartners. Reading In Motion expanded its program from Chicago to Las Vegas last school year, supporting 18 kindergarten classrooms in four Pinecrest Academy schools. Reading results among their youngest students needed improvement and they placed their bet on Reading In Motion. The results? By the end of the school year, 98% of participating students met or exceeded their grade-level reading benchmark! That’s compared to 64% prior to our intervention. But what can we say? Donors like you and a program like Reading In Motion—it’s a winning combination. For the 2018-2019 school year, your support will help us serve more than 1,200 students at Pinecrest Academy and Elaine Wynn Elementary in Las Vegas’ Clark County School District. Special thanks to the Andrew Family Foundation and Windsong Trust for underwriting the Reading In Motion program for Las Vegas students.

Back to School! How Your Gift is Helping Students and Teachers This Fall

Your donations have brought our program to 38 schools and 4,475 students in Chicago and Las Vegas so far this school year. We look forward to sharing the success stories with you over the coming months. Thank you for making literacy possible for all children, but especially those who come from challenging environments or circumstances.