

Books make a difference



This spring Page Ahead and our school partners came together to ensure children in need whose schools had suddenly gone remote had their own home libraries. It was a big job to completely rebuild our flagship program, Book Up Summer, with just a couple months' notice, but Page Ahead was able to distribute **147,361 books** to **12,223 children** across Washington this spring. Those home libraries will be invaluable for these young readers this summer—and beyond, especially as so many districts plan a remote-only return to school in the fall.

"This program has had a significant impact on our students. They are more engaged and eager to read in the classroom. The program has also empowered students to be independent as readers. They have the confidence to choose books that interest them and therefore developing their love for reading. . . . For many of our families, receiving their books felt like Christmas! The children and parents were so excited to pick up their books. And during this unprecedented time, this program was a valuable resource for our families. The parents were so grateful to have books for their children."

—Educator, Cascade View Elementary, Tukwila, Washington



Help our Story Leaders preschoolers learn remotely!

NEEDED: As our Story Leaders preschool program goes virtual, we're in search of video equipment. We need:

- digital video camera
- lighting
- microphone
- ficus plant (real or fake)

We want to own the above at a donated or deeply discounted rate. If you know of a good source, please contact Stacey at slane@pageahead.org.



Marcia Rutan, Page Ahead supporter and Facebook

When you can't get together in person, celebrate together online

We are always so honored when someone creates a [Facebook fundraiser](#) to benefit Page Ahead. Marcia Rutan, a longtime supporter, decided to celebrate her 70th birthday with a Facebook fundraiser and ended up raising more than \$1,400 from dozens of friends—**that's enough to give 396 books to 33 kids!** We just had to find out how she did it, and she graciously let us pick her brain.

fundraiser extraordinaire.

Q: Why did you decide to do a fundraising event to celebrate your birthday?

A: I planned a big party this year to celebrate my 70th, but that tanked due to COVID. Since I connect with many friends and family on Facebook, I trusted they would want to help celebrate my birthday this way. Fundraising on Facebook is quite painless compared to setting up events and usually successful. People can give any amount and stay anonymous or go public. I love books, care deeply for the well-being of children, and am committed to breaking the cycle of racism and its impacts in our country. Page Ahead supports all of these priorities so was my top pick this year!

Q: How did you spread the word and encourage people to donate? Any tips for someone else who might want to do something similar to celebrate a special event in their own life?

A: Facebook makes it easy; a lot of not-for-profits, including Page Ahead, are already on their list which makes it a simple select and go. Facebook provides an automatic blurb for the fundraising page, which many people use. I like to customize it with my own enthusiastic comments. Once the page is up, I track daily who is donating and thank each donor personally on Facebook. Facebook continually shows the cumulative donations on your fundraising page, and this makes it exciting as you watch the amount rise, hit target, and even surpass the amount you set as your goal. I make sure also to donate to other people's fundraisers, even small amounts. It's a great way to keep money circulating for good and to celebrate people's birthdays, instead of, or in addition to, traditional gifts.

Thank you, Marcia—and happy birthday!

In memoriam: Ginny Ferguson

It is with sad hearts that we say goodbye to one of Page Ahead's esteemed volunteers, Virginia "Ginny" Ferguson. Ginny joined the Page Ahead Board of Directors in September 2007 and would go on to serve as a director until August 2013. She continued her volunteer support on the Page Ahead program committee and as a table captain for several more years.

A retired teacher, Ginny loved children and cared deeply about Page Ahead's mission. As the years went by, there was hardly a soul in her life that didn't get roped in to something to help Page Ahead. With her quiet and gentle way, it was hard to say no to Ginny!

She was admired and beloved by the Page Ahead staff and her fellow board members she served with. Our hearts go out to her wonderful husband, John, and to her family. We will miss you, Ginny!



Page Ahead Turns 30: Three Decades of Building Home Libraries



30th Anniversary Spotlight

This month we'd like to celebrate our partnerships with the 1,097 early learning and elementary school sites we've partnered with over the past thirty years. We are so proud to work with the talented educators on the front lines of closing achievement gaps across the state!

Some of our longest-running partnerships include:

- o Bailey Gatzert Elementary School, Seattle, first served in 1994
- o Bemiss Elementary School, Spokane, first served in 1999
- o Concord International School, Seattle, first served in 1990
- o Jennie Reed Elementary School, Tacoma, first served in 1990
- o Garfield Elementary School, Yakima, first served in 1994



Photo from Van Asselt Elementary (now Rising Star Academy), Seattle, for Page Ahead's two millionth book giveaway in 2010.

Our Contact Information

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Support Page Ahead: [Give Books!](#)