



Start The Adventure In Reading
ANNAPOLIS



ANNUAL REPORT

July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

*Laura Iversen, Executive Director
STAIR-Annapolis*



Dear STAIR Community,

We've had much to celebrate this fiscal year!

We increased student enrollment and the number of STAIR sites, mobilized training to offer greater flexibility and convenience to our volunteers, hosted virtual interest sessions that recruited five new site co-coordinators for the 2020-2021 school year, and purchased a new constituent database that, along with revolutionized communications, has enabled us to stay connected to our entire STAIR network through these uncertain times. We also sustained our commitment to family engagement and community partnership, welcoming families to observe STAIR in action throughout the year and co-hosting a volunteer workshop on growth mindset and unconscious bias.

In January, STAIR was recognized by The State of Maryland Governor's Office on Service and Volunteerism, and was featured in the June issue of What's Up? Annapolis Magazine.

Best of all, STAIR students improved nearly two full reading levels in just the first 10 weeks of the program, and their self-confidence skyrocketed by spring!

When COVID-19 forced the suspension of in-person programming in mid-March of 2020, STAIR staff and board of directors quickly turned our focus to continuity planning. Working closely with our partners at the AACPS Integrated Literacy & Elementary Reading team, Anne Arundel County Public Libraries, and local nonprofits serving youth in education, we've continued to serve at-risk second-grade readers and retain our valued volunteers through direct mailings to students and expanded community outreach.

It's been a challenging year, but I'm very proud of the way our organization has been able to adapt responsively and responsibly. Our hard-working students, dedicated volunteers, board of directors, community partners, and generous financial supporters have my sincerest thanks for their unwavering commitment to our program.

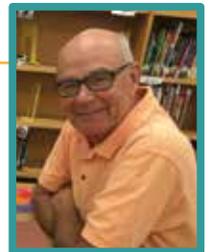
We're excited to begin a new year of STAIR, sharing the joy of reading with even more children!

With gratitude,

Laura

FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

*Doug Smith, President
STAIR Board of Directors*



The FY20 school year has been a challenge for our students and everyone on the STAIR team.

When COVID-19 interrupted our in-person tutoring in March, Laura, Malena, and Erin were able to quickly assemble an excellent direct-mail program, sending all of our STAIR students their own package with new books, literacy activities, and a letter to families in English and Spanish. Over the summer, we've sent out STAIR Summer Reading packages to students each month, and we've made this outreach a cornerstone of our fall plans. We certainly miss seeing our students, but the direct-mail program has been really well-received. The kids love getting their own special mail!

Cooperation with Anne Arundel County Public Schools continues to be excellent, and we are committed to looking for more ways to support AACPS teachers and reading specialists as we head into a new school year.

Financial support from local foundations and generous contributions from individual donors has enabled us to stay in touch with students over the summer, giving kids critical access to books when they need them the most.

I also want to personally thank all of our volunteers, tutors, and site coordinators. Volunteers are the heart of the STAIR program, and as we shift to virtual programming, our volunteers will again play a key role in delivering literacy skills to second graders.



OUR MISSION

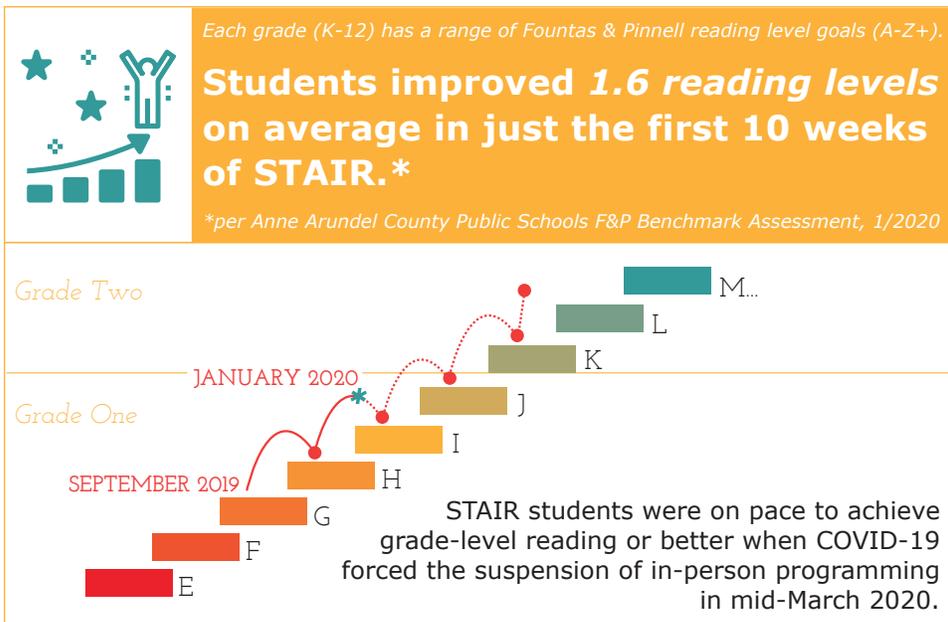
To increase the reading level of second graders reading below grade level, to increase students' sense of self-esteem and self-confidence, and to provide a caring environment where reading is fun!



2019-2020 STAIR-Annapolis YEAR AT A GLANCE

					
12 SITES at schools and community centers throughout Anne Arundel County.	102 STUDENTS graduated, with improved reading skills and better academic readiness.	240+ VOLUNTEERS 18 Site Coordinators, 173 tutors, and 53 subs committed to young readers.	6826 HOURS* of literacy tutoring given to students by our dedicated volunteers.	3000+ BOOKS READ* together, student and tutor.	2500+ BOOKS GIFTED* to help build students' home libraries.

**Impacted by COVID-19 program suspension*



OUR RESPONSE TO COVID-19

- Immediate shift to direct mail, sending students new books to build home libraries
- Debut of STAIR Summer Reading, mailing personalized monthly book packages to all 100+ STAIR students
- Expanded community outreach, like restocking Little Free Libraries in STAIR neighborhoods and partnership with Reading Camp Maryland
- Exploring ways to adapt STAIR **responsively and responsibly** for 2020-2021 school year

Adapted from © Fountas, Irene C. & Pinnell, Gay Su and Heinemann, Portsmouth NH, 2012.

FY20 INCOME: \$429,730

● IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS

\$219,806

● GRANTS (FOUNDATIONS AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS)

\$109,266

● INDIVIDUAL AND MEMORIAL DONATIONS

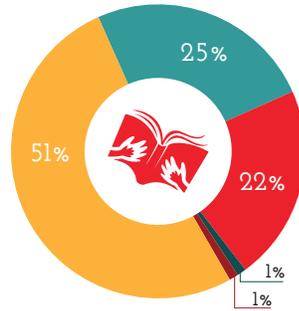
\$95,769

● CORPORATE SPONSORSHIPS

\$1,802

● FUNDRAISING EVENTS

\$3,086



The *time* given to STAIR by our *dedicated volunteers* is by far our program's *most valuable resource*.

We're building a *strong foundation* for *future growth* to *serve more* striving second-grade readers:

- Program expansion
- Summer programming
- Community partnerships
- Staff support

FY20 EXPENSES: \$362,041

● PROGRAM SUPPORT

\$310,190

● GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS

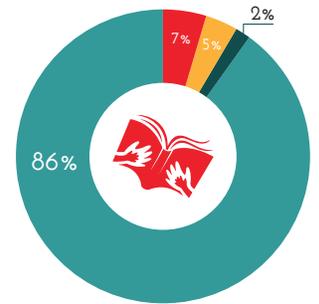
\$25,597

● FUNDRAISING EXPENSES

\$20,242

● BUSINESS OPERATIONS

\$6,013



STAIR is incredibly grateful for the countless individual, memorial, and digitally crowdsourced gifts that help sustain our program, in addition to the generosity of the following Program Sponsor-Level donors:

Annapolis Rotary Club
Anne Arundel Women Giving Together
Arundel Community Development Services/
Local Development Council
Baltimore Presbytery
BB&T Lighthouse Project
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Solid Rock Foundation
St. Anne's Episcopal Church
St. Margaret's Episcopal Church
Trish and Greg Strott
Sweetser Foundation
Wakefield Family Fund



As we continue our efforts to elevate all students and eliminate all gaps, we focus on every second grader reading at or above grade level by the end of the school year.

STAIR volunteers are caring partners who are committed to growing readers beyond classroom walls...a driving value of our Strategic Plan.

Dr. George Arlotto

Superintendent

Anne Arundel County Public Schools



The STAIR program has been a godsend for my son and our family! We were all struggling as Chase was having a hard time learning to read and, while he was making progress, we could see the toll it took on his self-esteem. Through STAIR he worked with an amazing volunteer, Miss Kathy. She was patient and kind and helped our son find confidence...Without Miss Kathy and STAIR, our son might not be enjoying the adventure of reading and all the other joys it brings. We are so grateful that he had this opportunity and support!

Jessica Ryan

Mom of Chase, STAIR Student



Your efforts in our schools have helped students increase their reading levels and be better prepared to have success not only in that subject, but in others as they have continued through elementary school and moved into middle school and high school. We are most fortunate to have a partner such as STAIR.

Bob Mosier

Chief Communications Officer

Anne Arundel County Public Schools



There is nothing but pure joy being a STAIR volunteer when I see the smiles and enthusiasm beaming from the students when they realize they CAN learn to read! The relationships that build between the tutors and students is so endearing and rewarding, especially when you see the proud parents listening to their child read when they visit. STAIR is a wonderful organization which I love being a part of.

Marci Vitale

STAIR Site Coordinator



We are so inspired by our STAIR program. It is so exciting watching the students turn from striving readers into independent, confident readers. The weekly commitment from the volunteers is so impressive. We know our students are empowered by their tutor. Thank you for helping our students achieve in reading!

Amanda Finnis

Literacy Teacher

Edgewater Elementary School



This is my fourth year as a tutor, and I think I have learned just as much from the children as they have learned from me! I have always loved the adventure of reading, and want to be able to share that gift with others.

The best part, of course, is the kids! Interacting and watching them progress into readers is what it is all about.

Carol Tabak

STAIR Tutor



Start The Adventure In Reading
A N N A P O L I S

EMPOWERING YOUNG READERS IN ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY SINCE 2006



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Start The Adventure In Reading (STAIR)-Annapolis, Inc. is a registered 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.