



State of the Campaign Event Brings Literacy to the Big Screen

The Winchester Campaign for Grade-Level Reading welcomed partners and community members to the “State of the Campaign” event at the Alamo Drafthouse on January 31st to share Campaign updates and shed light on the impact of illiteracy in children and adults.

Since its launch in October of 2021, the Winchester CGLR has seen progress in multiple areas of focus, including a reduction in chronic absenteeism and increased out-of-school time participation. Over thirty partners are working together to support families by providing programs such as the Dolly Parton Imagination Library, ParentPowered, parent education classes, home visitation services, quality preschool and afterschool programs, and more.

Continued on next page

WHAT’S INSIDE

- State of the Campaign
- Our Mission and Goals
- Storytime Celebrates One Year
- Imagination Library Spotlight
- Budding Scholars
- Our Needs Looking Ahead
- Up Next: Project Preview
- Coalition Partners
- Upcoming CGLR Events

In recognition of these successes, a representative from the national Campaign for Grade-Level Reading, Joy Thomas Moore, presented the 2023 Pacesetter Honors Award to the Winchester Campaign.

“To witness your remarkable growth over the past few years was truly inspiring,” Moore said. “In our decade-long work with the CGLR Network, we have found that the most successful communities are the ones that create the biggest tent for maximum community involvement.

That you are achieving that

through your efforts is evident. While we provide backbone support nationally, the work you are doing locally is what will make the difference for more hopeful futures for children.”

State of the Campaign guests then had a unique opportunity to view the unreleased documentary, SENTENCED, and hear from the film’s Executive Producer, Tony Kriz. SENTENCED is an immersive and vulnerable exploration of the epidemic of childhood illiteracy through a series of braided character driven stories. Filmed from the point of view of ethnically diverse adults and children who have never learned to read, SENTENCED is a forceful yet tender tale of how literacy can free children from the cycles of generational poverty.

Thanks to event sponsors CNB Bank, The George Washington Hotel, and the Alamo Drafthouse for supporting the State of the Campaign event.



Our Mission and Goals

Grade-Level Proficiency

Winchester's overarching vision is to increase the percentage of 3rd graders reading at or above the proficient level **to at least 75%** by 2032 based on the Virginia Standards of Learning (SOL) ELA assessment. We will achieve this mission by setting goals focusing on:

- **School Readiness**

- Increase the number of children ready for kindergarten **to at least 80%** based on their performance on the PALS-K. Focus will be on further developing high-quality preschool and daycare programs and offering families out-of-school options to further learning and growth.

- **School Attendance**

- Reduce chronic absenteeism **to rates at or below 10%** among K-4th graders at all four elementary schools by 2025.

- **Summer and Afterschool Learning**

- **Increase by 100%** the number of K-4th grade students who have access to summer and afterschool opportunities that focus on literacy-related learning and enrichment.

Storytime at the Airport Celebrates One Year

Storytime at the Airport celebrated its one-year anniversary in January with stories, airplanes, and birthday cake! The monthly event is a partnership between the Handley Regional Library System and the Winchester Regional Airport. Throughout the last year, hundreds of families visited the airport to enjoy a story with Mr. Ben and see planes up close. Storytime at the Airport takes place at 11:00 am every second Friday of the month.



Spotlight On:



Over 2,700 Children Enrolled in Dolly Parton Imagination Library Program

Dolly Parton Imagination Library enrollment continues to grow in the City of Winchester (450 children), Clarke County (203 children), and Frederick County (1,588 children). Over 500 children have graduated from the program since its start in 2021. The program provides free, age-appropriate books to children ages birth to five. Once enrolled, a child receives a book in the mail once a month until their fifth birthday. If you're interested in supporting this program, please contact Andy Gail at agail@lvwa.org.

Budding Scholars Program Launches at WPS Elementary Schools

Budding Scholars is a new reading tutoring program developed in partnership with Winchester Public Schools. Students who are struggling to read on grade-level are paired with a community volunteer to read together in weekly sessions. This spring, the program launched with sixteen students at Virginia Avenue Charlotte DeHart and Garland R. Quarles Elementary Schools.

Winchester CGLR partner Anita Jenkins, who is coordinating the program's volunteers, said Budding Scholars is off to a great start.

"We are very excited about our partnership with Winchester Public Schools and our dedicated community volunteers," Jenkins said. "This program will involve students in many forms of active reading, and we know that we will have many positive results."

If interested in volunteering as a reading tutor with Budding Scholars, please contact Allie Mondell at amondell@lvwa.org.



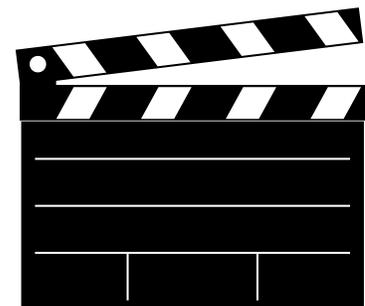
Residents at Westminster Canterbury attend a Budding Scholars volunteer training session

Our Needs Looking Ahead

Can you help? The Campaign is seeking a business sponsor to support the development of a Campaign for Grade-Level Reading promotional video.

What We Need: Sponsorship of \$3,500 will support a promo video branded with the sponsor's logo. The video will highlight Winchester CGLR's resources and educate parents and community members about the Campaign's mission.

If you would like to support this CGLR project, contact Andy Gail at agail@lvwa.org for more information.





Up Next: A Preview of CGLR Projects

Family Place Library

Handley Regional Library System is undergoing the accreditation process to become a Family Place Library. Family Place Libraries transforms libraries into community centers for early literacy, parent education, and family support. The Family Place Library network includes more than 500 sites in 32 states. More information coming soon!



**HANDLEY REGIONAL
LIBRARY SYSTEM**
WINCHESTER • FREDERICK CO. • CLARKE CO.

Leyendo Juntos

Leyendo Juntos, which means “Reading Together” in Spanish, is an initiative to educate, empower, and support our community’s Spanish-speaking families. A newly established advisory committee is in the process of developing partnerships and outreach strategies. Look for the Winchester CGLR at the Shenandoah Apple Blossom Festival’s Fiesta Latina on April 28th!



Summer Programming

Did you know students lose about one month of academic progress during the summer months? Winchester CGLR partners like the Kids Club, HIVE, Shenandoah Valley Discovery Museum, and Handley Regional Library System are preparing 2024 summer programs to combat summer learning loss. The Campaign is actively sharing summer camp opportunities with families so more children have access to quality summer programming.

Coalition Partners

- Anita Jenkins
- Bright Futures
- Community Foundation of Northern Shenandoah Valley
- CNB Bank
- Espresso Bar & Cafe
- Girls on the Run Shenandoah Valley
- Handley Regional Library System
- Healthy Families of the Northern Shenandoah Valley
- H. N. Funkhouser
- Infant Toddler Connection
- Jay Foreman
- John & Janice Wyatt Foundation
- La Leche League of the NSV
- Laurel Ridge Community College
- Literacy Volunteers Winchester Area
- Moms in Motion
- Opportunity Scholars
- Pediatric Associates of Winchester
- Peter Bullough Foundation
- Shenandoah Valley Discovery Museum
- STARBASE Academy
- Summit Events Co.
- The Kids Club of Northern Shenandoah Valley
- Thrive Under Five
- Top of Virginia Regional Chamber
- United Way of the Northern Shenandoah Valley
- Valley Health
- Virginia Ed Strategies
- Winchester Book Gallery
- Winchester Department of Social Services
- Winchester Education Foundation
- Winchester Parks and Recreation
- Winchester Public Schools
- Worlds Away Escape
- Youth Development Center



Upcoming CGLR Events

MARCH



Laurel Ridge
COMMUNITY COLLEGE



HANDLEY REGIONAL
LIBRARY SYSTEM
WINCHESTER • FREDERICK • CLARKE CO.

PARENT LITERACY WORKSHOP

HANDLEY REGIONAL LIBRARY, 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM

FOR CAREGIVERS WITH KIDS 5 AND UNDER

APRIL



Healthy Families
Northern Shenandoah Valley

PARENT EDUCATION & CHAT

HANDLEY REGIONAL LIBRARY, 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM

FOR CAREGIVERS WITH KIDS 5 AND UNDER

APRIL



HANDLEY REGIONAL
LIBRARY SYSTEM
WINCHESTER • FREDERICK • CLARKE CO.

STORY TIME AT THE AIRPORT

WINCHESTER REGIONAL AIRPORT, 11:00 AM

FOR CAREGIVERS WITH KIDS 6 AND UNDER