

THE LITERACY COOPERATIVE PRESENTS

READ ACROSS AMERICA CELEBRATION

MAY 25, 2022 | DOORS OPEN AT 5:00 PM

MUSIC BOX SUPPER CLUB

1148 MAIN AVE, CLEVELAND, OH 44113

the **literacy**
cooperative

THE LITERACY COOPERATIVE ADDRESSES LOW LITERACY IN GREATER CLEVELAND BY BRIDGING CURRENT GAPS IN THE EDUCATION CONTINUUM; ENSURING CHILDREN AND ADULTS IN GREATER CLEVELAND REACH THEIR HIGHEST LITERACY POTENTIAL FOR EMPLOYMENT, SELF-SUFFICIENCY, AND LIFELONG LEARNING.

2-GEN APPROACH

Two-generation delivery models focus on creating opportunities for and addressing needs of both children and the adults in their lives together. This approach recognizes that families come in all different shapes, sizes, and generations. Led by The Literacy Cooperative, a dedicated working committee of professionals, representing human service, workforce development, early childhood, and adult educational organizations, are executing a plan to demonstrate and promote 2Gen policy, practices, and programs in Cuyahoga County. Save the date for our 5th annual 2Gen Summit – Wednesday, July 20, 2022 from 9 am until noon. There will be both in-person and virtual options to attend.



**RSVP FOR THE
2GEN SUMMIT ON
JULY 20, 2022**

DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY (DPIL)

The Literacy Cooperative is the lead affiliate for DPIL in Cuyahoga County. This wonderful book gifting initiative mails high-quality, brand new, age-appropriate books to enrolled children every month from birth until five years of age. Survey results indicate that since DPIL enrollment, children want to read more often and parents are reading more frequently with their children. An analysis conducted by CWRU showed a positive relationship between DPIL participation and kindergarten readiness with 59.8% of children who participated in DPIL scoring as “On-Track” Language & Literacy versus 45.8% of those not enrolled in DPIL. **Since 2014, DPIL has gifted more than 900,000 books to over 48,000 children in Cuyahoga County.**

PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE

The Literacy Cooperative offers a diverse menu of free trainings for literacy practitioners, volunteer tutors, and other cross-sector professionals. The three focus areas of early literacy, two-generation delivery, and career pathways are reflected in training offerings that cover best practices and relevant issues in a hands-on, participatory approach. Training sessions provide an important opportunity for dialogue, networking, and exposure to new ideas and strategies from experts in the field. The Literacy Cooperative is committed to ongoing availability of high-quality, literacy-centered professional development for practitioners and administrators.

CAREER PATHWAY ENGAGEMENT

The Literacy Cooperative convenes adult educators, workforce development professionals, employers, literacy funders, and adult learners to understand the literacy issues present in our community. Through our convening we bring consensus and solutions to address their needs as well as develop and evaluate shared measures. We provide continuous communications among partners regarding promising practices and evidence-based curricula, and reinforce and advocate for policy and system change to advance literacy levels in our community.

WANT TO VOLUNTEER?

Jill's Literacy League is our volunteer corps named in memory of Jill Barr, an extraordinary University Heights mother with a passion for literacy and a consummate volunteer. If you are interested in volunteering, please visit our website or contact Joan Spoerl at jspoerl@literacycooperative.org or 216-776-6186.

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

I am so grateful to be together for this year's Read Across America Celebration. As I think about this event and why we celebrate, I am reminded of an orchestra. Appropriate, as this year's venue is Music Box Supper Club. An orchestra is a beautiful culmination of talent, each musician essential for the success of the score, led by the conductor. I use this metaphor to describe The Literacy Cooperative's work. We serve as the conductor of the orchestra, and our partners are the musicians. This important work only advances with both the conductor and the musicians working together in unison.

The Kurt Karakul Literacy Award was established to honor an essential musician, a partner that is doing outstanding work around literacy. Tonight, we celebrate Read Across America Day, Kurt Karakul, and all of the work of The Literacy Cooperative and our partners.

Congratulations to Seeds of Literacy, the inaugural recipient of The Kurt Karakul Literacy Award. Seeds is a beacon of hope for those adults seeking to improve their literacy and obtain a high-school credential.

Tonight's celebration could not have been possible without the help and contribution of so many colleagues, friends, and partners. A special thank you to the following whose time, thoughts, treasures and talents helped make this event memorable: Kurt Karakul, Mayor Justin Bibb, Erin Deimling, Dr. John Hutton, Emily Campbell, Marc Stefanski, Eric Gordon, Patti Choby, Margaret Bernstein, Roslyn Bucy Kaleal, Andrea Hogben, Dan Keenan, Kevin Martin, Randy McShepard, Dr. Jim Merlino, Victor Ruiz, Chris Thompson, Hudock Creative, Act3Creative, Scott Zimmer, Elyse Mulligan, Jim Foster, Vallery Gaines, Clare Woidke, Ryan Stargell, Moss Stanley, Music Box Supper Club, and The Literacy Cooperative Board of Trustees. A very special thank you to the staff of The Literacy Cooperative.

So tonight, enjoy the music.

Sincerely,

Bob Paponetti

JOIN THE FUN ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

TAKE ANY PICTURES? POST THEM ON SOCIAL MEDIA USING
#LITFORCLE AND TAG US **@LITERACYCOOP**

LITERACY FACTS

- Tweet these important facts during our event to spread awareness!
Use **#LitForCLE** and tag us **@literacycoop**
 - 42% of all Cuyahoga County children enrolling in kindergarten are not adequately prepared.
 - The number of books in a home has a greater influence on a child's educational attainment than a parent's income.
 - Children without basic literacy skills are four times more likely to drop out of school.
 - 54% of Cuyahoga County adults are not at a proficient level of literacy.
 - 24% of adults in the US are operating at the lowest level of digital skills.

THANK YOU TO TONIGHT'S EVENT SPONSORS!

PNC Bank

Cleveland Browns Foundation

Nordson Corporation Foundation

Fowler Family Foundation

Bob and Mary Beth Paponetti

Cleveland Public Library

Community West Foundation

Cuyahoga County Public Library

Heights Family Foundation

Medical Mutual

Paul & Jill Clark

Seeds of Literacy

The Cleveland Foundation

The Cuyahoga County 2Gen
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Every day, you
bring us one
step closer to
where we want
to be.



The Literacy Cooperative is proof that today can make a world of difference when committing to change. We're proud to be a part of what you do.





NORDSON CORPORATION IS PROUD TO HONOR

Kurt Karakul

and his commitment to literacy

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Connecting you to...



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and more!

Visit cpl.org



**Cuyahoga County
Public Library**



**"The more you read,
the more you know;
and the more you know,
the smarter you'll grow."**

Jim Trelease,
author and educator

cuyahogalibrary.org

CREATING *pathways* TO OPPORTUNITY

The Cleveland Foundation is proud to have given more than \$3.5 million in support of The Literacy Cooperative since 2008.



Building Stronger Communities

We are proud to support The Literacy Cooperative in their commitment to serving the communities we love.

MedMutual.com/Support



Strong Families Build Strong Communities

We are a proud Partner of The Literacy Cooperative!

Family Connections provides:

- Early Literacy
- Parenting Support
- School Readiness



Visit our website at
www.familyconnections1.org
for more information!



COMMUNITY WEST
FOUNDATION

Proud to support
The Literacy Cooperative
Read Across America
Celebration

Illuminating Hope

Thank You for Naming Us the
KURT KARAKUL
LITERACY AWARD WINNER



SEEDSOFLITERACY.ORG

Thank you, Kurt, for all
you've done to
advance literacy in our
community.



You are an inspiration.

BOB & MARY BETH PAPONETTI



KEEP LEARNING, EVERY DAY

**CLEVELAND
BROWN'S**
FOUNDATION

Ohio | Department
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**PROVING
GROUND**

**CHESAPEAKE
FOUNDATION**

Stay in the Game Network is a statewide initiative designed to raise awareness about the importance of school attendance and put an end to chronic absenteeism, with the goal of improving student success and graduation rates in Ohio.

LEARN MORE AT STAYINTHEGAME.ORG

DR. JOHN S. HUTTON, MD, MS

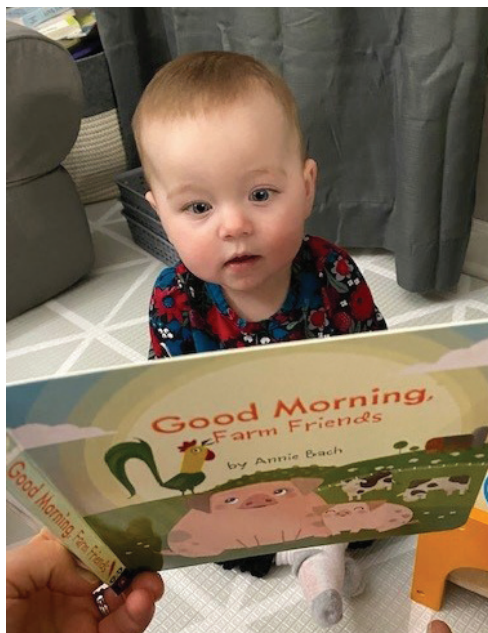


Keynote speaker, Dr. John S. Hutton, MD, MS, is a pediatrician and clinical researcher at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center and "SpokesDoctor" for Read Aloud 15 Minutes. He has published 29 children's books, many with health-promoting themes, including screen time reduction, dialogic reading, reading to babies, infant calming, safe sleep, breastfeeding, ADHD, and how the heart works. His books have been adopted in statewide public health campaigns and distributed to millions of families with proceeds benefiting non-profit advocacy groups. His research covers all facets of pediatric general and health literacy and applies cutting edge tools such as MRI to explore how a home reading environment and interventions promoting reading aloud during early childhood help build critical brain networks. Many of the books he's authored were inspired by his experience as a father of three, fueling deep passion for reading aloud and an "analog" childhood — the kind with limited screen time and lots of human engagement and free play.

READ ACROSS AMERICA DAY RECAP

The National Education Association created Read Across America Day as a way of motivating children and teens to read through events, partnerships, and providing reading resources with a unique theme each year. 2022's theme was diversity and inclusion.

On March 2nd, The Literacy Cooperative and 21 partners showcased local diverse authors through virtual story times and author spotlights. Our partners hosted events and we led a photo campaign on social media using **#CLEReads2022** and **#ReadAcrossAmerica** hashtags. The 2022 campaign was a great success with more than 5,000 impressions on Twitter and 800 on Facebook and YouTube.



THE KURT KARAKUL LITERACY AWARD

With a gift from The Third Federal Foundation, The Literacy Cooperative created The Kurt Karakul Literacy Award to annually recognize an organization doing exemplary work to advance literacy in the community. Beginning this year, The Literacy Cooperative will annually award \$20,000 to a non-profit or public service organization in Cuyahoga County that embodies Kurt’s passion for literacy and his conviction to make a difference in others’ lives.



For decades, Kurt Karakul has been a leading voice for literacy in our community and his achievements have been profound. As President and Executive Director of the Third Federal Foundation, Mr. Karakul was instrumental in helping design a cradle-to-career program called the Slavic Village P-16. This initiative increased the number of quality pre-K seats tenfold and raised the percentage of third graders passing the standardized reading test from 50% to 92%.

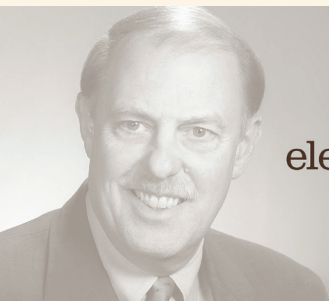
To know Kurt Karakul is to know a man of empathy and good will. A man who understands the benefits and opportunities that literacy gives us. A man who has made the cause of literacy his cause. This award, which rightfully bears his name, was established to recognize and support the next generation of “Kurts” in our community.

2022 KURT KARAKUL LITERACY AWARD WINNER

The Literacy Cooperative is pleased to announce that Seeds of Literacy (Seeds) was selected as the inaugural recipient of The Kurt Karakul Literacy Award and its \$20,000 cash prize. Seeds was chosen for their exemplary work in advancing adult literacy. According to the Program for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC), 54% of adults in Cuyahoga County are less than proficient in literacy. The work of Seeds emulates the values for which this award was established.

“This Kurt Karakul Literacy Award is designed to encourage the next generation of literacy advocates while at the same time honoring a man who has made such a profound impact on our children and our community,” says Robert Paponetti, President and CEO of The Literacy Cooperative.

Seeds has a long history of success educating Greater Clevelanders. This year, the organization is celebrating its 25th anniversary! Seeds provides individualized tutoring to adult students. The majority of students are working towards a GED, others simply want to learn how to read. A team of nearly 300 tutors and 24 staff members educate more than 1,000 students every year, at two Cleveland locations and a Virtual Classroom. While the majority of students are single mothers of color, Seeds serves a diverse group of individuals. Seeds students come from all different backgrounds and experiences but share a singular goal: to improve their education. Seeds has developed many community partnerships to enhance the impact of its program. Working with local colleges, workforce programs, and training providers, Seeds helps its students plan for their future and take the next step after earning their GED.



“Reading is such a crucial
element to bringing out your talents
and being productive.”

—KURT KARAKUL

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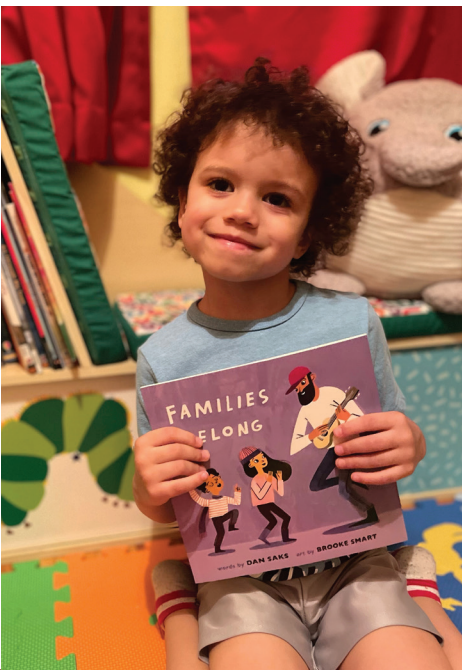
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DONATE IN HONOR OF READ ACROSS AMERICA



You can help ensure that children will continue to receive books, adults will find a career pathway leading to economic stability, and partner organizations will be better connected to maximize impact when you make a donation in honor of tonight's Read Across America Celebration. You can make a gift today that will transform lives by scanning the QR code or visiting <https://www.literacycooperative.org/donateraa>. We are grateful for all your support.

TESTIMONIALS

Imagination Library Parent: "Books have always been important in our family. It's difficult to always be able to afford new books, and Dolly Parton's Imagination Library supplies us with a free book every month for our two-year-old. We now have a three-shelf bookshelf that is designated to only his books. Asher gets really excited to check the mail because he knows he gets a book. Thank you so much for helping us keep the love of books alive and thriving with supplying us with new books for our son!"

Teri, Proud Mom

Partner: "The Literacy Cooperative is vital to our community overall, they have been a thought leader on key issues of importance particularly thinking about early learning and adult learners. They advocate and raise the profile of literacy in key spaces so that individuals know how important it is for us to focus on literacy if we are really thinking seriously about career pathways."

Bishara Addison, The Fund For Our Economic Future



the literacy cooperative

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