2007-2022

THE

LITWORLD

STORY

CELEBRATING 15 YEARS OF CHANGE
OUR STORY SO FAR

LitWorld strengthens kids and communities through the power of stories. By giving children a safe space to learn and grow, we help them discover their voices and change the world.

In 2022, we are proud to celebrate 15 years of spreading joy, creating change, and transforming lives around the globe. From impact numbers to testimonies from LitKids themselves, here are just a few ways to tell the LitWorld story.

ENJOY!
At LitWorld, we believe that reading should be a positive experience for all children.

Based in LitWorld’s signature 7 Strengths framework, our innovative programs feature a unique blend of literacy, storytelling, and social emotional learning. These practices not only allow kids to discover the joy of stories, but are also directly linked to improved health, well-being, and civic engagement.

LITWORLD’S 7 STRENGTHS

By partnering with local, grassroots organizations that understand the culture and needs of their communities, we can then scale and share our work—helping children everywhere to reach their full potential and create change for generations to come.
LITCLUBS & LITCAMPS

LITCLUB
The most prolific of LitWorld’s programs is the LitClub. These year-round after school programs are a space for joyful learning, creative self-expression, and community building. Over the years, different versions of LitClub have evolved to specifically engage girls, boys, teens, and caregivers. LitClubs take place all around the globe and always reflect the communities and cultures in which they are run, providing young people everywhere safe spaces to share their true voices.

LITCAMP
LitCamp emerged when LitClub participants across the globe called for year-round safe spaces to tell and share stories. Designed to accommodate school breaks in our partner communities, LitCamp is flexible enough to be enjoyed any time, anywhere.

In 2015, LitWorld partnered with Scholastic, the world’s largest publisher and distributor of children’s books, to create a structured version of the program for summer schools. LitCamp now engages over a million kids across the United States and has led to several iterations including LitCamp en Español and LitCamp at Home.
As with most things LitWorld, the idea for LitWorld’s signature annual advocacy day came from a child. After a special read aloud with his class, a student asked, “Why don’t we create a birthday party for the read aloud?”

...And so we did!

Since its founding in 2010, World Read Aloud day has mobilized millions around the globe to celebrate the transformational power of reading aloud and to demand literacy rights for all. From celebrities to students to families, this day is an opportunity to celebrate the power of oral storytelling as a vehicle for amplifying voices and bringing communities together.
Our partners are at the center of our work. Since LitWorld began in 2007, we have worked closely with our wide network of on-the-ground organizations to craft, scale, and deliver our pedagogy and programs. These partners ensure that our work reflects each community’s cultural needs and that those we serve are equal stakeholders in our mission.

Click here to view our full partner network

LitWorld began with a single LitClub in Kibera, Kenya. Today, we are a global organization creating lasting change for hundreds of communities around the world.

For a scope of just how many lives LitWorld has helped transform, check out these jaw-dropping impact numbers from the past 15 years.

- 120,000 kids, teens, and adults in LitClubs
- +1MM kids in summer LitCamps across the U.S.
- +90MM annual participants in World Read Aloud Day
- 160 countries engaged in LitWorld programs
- +100 global partners
LITWORLD ADAPTS

Thanks to our uniquely flexible and adaptive model, LitWorld has kept children safe and engaged in their learning throughout crises like COVID-19 and beyond. From providing critical resources such as food kits and cellphones to creating online programming like Virtual LitClubs and LitCamp at Home, LitWorld remains dedicated to giving every child the opportunity they deserve to learn, grow, and thrive—no matter the circumstances.

LITMOM OUTREACH

LitMoms delivering LitKits at Project PEARLS, Philippines

VIRTUAL LITCLUBS

An episode of LitWorld’s Virtual LitClubs

EMERGENCY RELIEF

Mentors & LitKids distributing food at Seeds of Hope, Pakistan
In 2021, LitWorld piloted two new partnership models: Network Partners and Innovation Partners. Our Network Partners help scale LitClubs and other LitWorld programming, while Innovation Partners help deepen our impact and explore new ways of creating change in communities through ‘Innovation Projects’.

Thanks to these models, LitWorld has been able to help partners find unique solutions tailored to the needs of their community while discovering more ways to enrich young lives in not only the communities we serve, but for children everywhere.
From the very first LitClub to our brand-new Innovation Partnerships, explore the moments that have defined the LitWorld story in our timeline or photo gallery.

“I Am” poems are a signature LitWorld activity that allow us tell the unique stories of who we are. Beginning each line with “I Am...”, these poems can be about anything that has helped shaped you into the person you are today.

Check out this sample “I Am” poem, then craft your own and upload it to our padlet to add your voice to the LitWorld story!

Click here to explore the timeline

Click here to view the photo gallery

Click here to upload your poem
Whether tonight is your first introduction to LitWorld or you have been with us for the past 15 years, we are so grateful to have you as part of our LitWorld family. From LitClubs and LitCamps to World Read Aloud Day and beyond, **all of our work is made possible by you.** Thank you for supporting our mission, our partners, and our LitKids and communities in the U.S. and around the globe. You are an integral part of the LitWorld story—here’s to the next 15 years!
WITH SPECIAL THANKS TO

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