

Thank you for partnering with us to transform the lives of children.

The Reading Team helps children in New York's underserved neighborhoods become strong readers and develop the skills and habits that will support their success in school and in life.

All of our programming is made possible by generous supporters like you.

Dear Reading Team Friends,

I hope this newsletter finds you well.

It was with great pride and humility that I stepped into the role of Executive Director of the Reading Team last year, following in the footsteps of the dedicated leaders who have guided us before. For more than two decades, the Reading Team has been a beacon of hope, illuminating the path to brighter futures for countless children in our community.

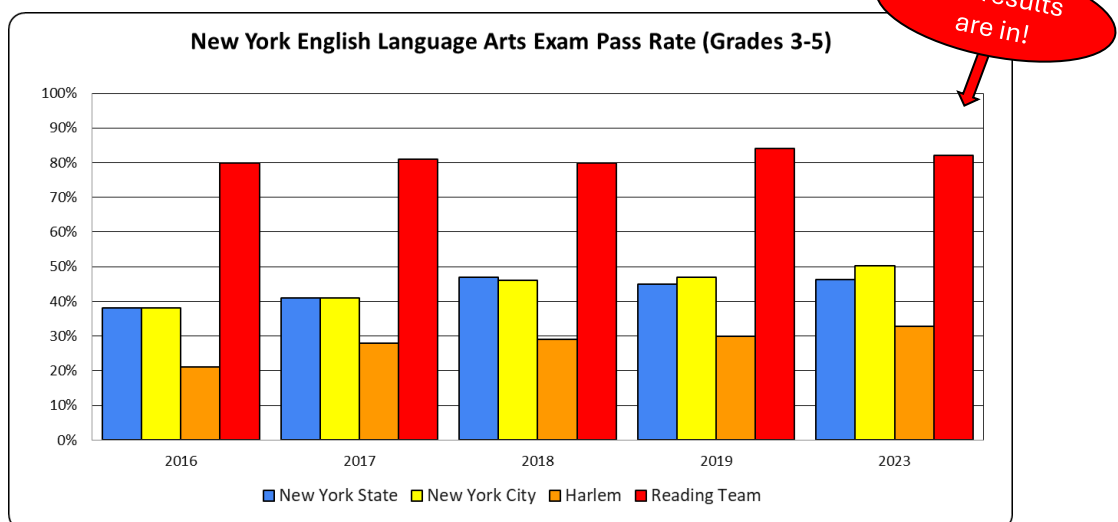
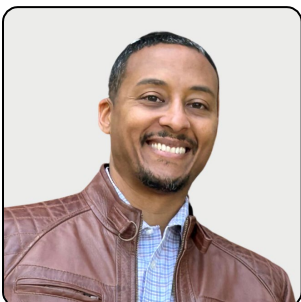
Ensuring the continuation of our impactful work holds profound personal significance for me. Growing up in Harlem during the 1980s, I grappled with a disinterest in reading and struggled to keep academic pace with my peers. Yet, amidst these challenges, my working-class parents instilled in me an unwavering belief in the transformative power of education. They made great financial sacrifices to provide me with opportunities, propelling me through college preparatory schools and ultimately setting the stage for my academic and professional achievements. Reflecting on my journey, I am struck by how the presence of programs like the Reading Team could have eased the burdens my parents and I faced.

Whether you are a steadfast supporter or new to our cause, I want you to be aware of the immense impact of our collective efforts (see our ELA results below). Literacy serves as the cornerstone of a child's academic journey, laying the groundwork for future success. As you delve into the pages of this newsletter, filled with stories of triumph and snapshots of our work in action, I invite you to join us on this life-changing journey. Visit us, witness our instruction firsthand, and lend your support as we continue to build brighter futures, one word at a time.

With unwavering purpose,



Charon Darris





A Safe, Supportive Environment for Muhammad

“Mommy, I already know that,” Muhammad, aged 7, often says. And he usually adds that he learned whatever it was—a word, a concept—at the Reading Team.

It wasn’t always like that. Born in Senegal, Muhammad came to New York as a very sick child. He had accidentally swallowed acid, was unable to eat or drink naturally, and needed medical care. His mother, Mame, brought him here for treatment, and for years, he visited Montefiore Medical Center every week. He enrolled in kindergarten, but was an unenthusiastic learner and sometimes lazy, according to his mother.

Then she heard about the Reading Team from a friend whose daughter attended the after-school program, and when Muhammad began first grade he joined as well. Every weekday, after leaving Future Leaders Institute Charter School, Muhammad began coming to the Reading Team’s brightly colored premises a few blocks away in Harlem.

Muhammad is a changed boy, his mother says. Now he likes to read (he says his favorite book is “How to Surprise a Dad”) and he’s often ahead of others in his classes at school. He knows the answers to questions posed by teachers at his school, and he wants to answer. “He likes learning now,” his mother adds, and his grades are good. Muhammad says that his favorite subject is math. He talks about becoming an engineer, a doctor, or other science-based occupations.

Mame says that being with other children at the Reading Team has also helped him become more social and self-confident. “He’s independent to do his homework and to read,” which he does at least 20 minutes at home each day. “Everything has improved since he went to the Reading Team.”

The Reading Team has changed her life too. “When he was in kindergarten, I couldn’t work,” she said. Now, Muhammad goes directly from FLI to the Reading Team, while she works in the Bronx. She picks him up after she leaves work at 5:30 p.m.

Sometimes she’s a little late picking him up, but someone is always there. “They are all very nice at the Reading Team,” she says. “They all help, and they help us with a smile.”



Recent Visitors



New York City Council Member Yusef Salaam



Manhattan Deputy Borough President Keisha Sutton-James

Answering the call to serve... Welcome to our newest Board Members!



Elizabeth Wilkins Everett

Firm Management Member, Integrum Holdings
Alumna of Dartmouth College and
Harvard Business School



Tyler R. Lewis

CFO/COO, Pinky Promise Films
Alumna of Harvard University and
Harvard Business School

Classes



Pre-K



Kindergarten



Second Grade

Your support is critical to ensure that we can continue to provide transformational opportunities to children. We hope that you will find it in your heart to donate to our cause.

For the easiest and fastest way to make a donation, please visit readingteam.org/donate or scan the QR code.
If mailing a check or credit card information, please complete the information below.

Name (As you want to be listed) _____ or ☐ Anonymous

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Name on card _____ Card # _____ Exp _____

CVV _____ Signature _____ Gift Amount _____



Thank you for making a difference. Your gift is fully tax deductible.