



## 2023 Literacy Champions

### **For More Information:**

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### **Black Artist Collective: Black Zine Project**

Centering visual media and public memory literacy, the project takes shape as a series of “zine-making” workshops that employ personal archives (family photos/documents), poetry/prose, found magazines and text, as well as other visual material, in combination with analog methods of printmaking/small-scale publication techniques to create “zines” that explore Black history, imagination, and futurity situated in Syracuse.

### **Black Girls Don't Get Love: Screenwriting Workshop**

The Black Girls Don't Get Love Screenwriting Workshop is an opportunity for girls of color ages 13-25 to practice writing their own spec scripts based on the published Black Girls Don't Get Love book. Our team of media industry professionals will teach our girls the fundamentals of storytelling, world-building, and character development, and then guide them through the process of writing their own short screenplays in Hollywood-standard format. At the end of the program, participants in the Screenwriting Workshop will have the opportunity to pitch their scripts to a panel of media industry judges. The purpose of the Black Girls Don't Get Love Screenwriting Workshop is to empower girls of color to tell their own stories and provide them with the skills they need to be successful writers by teaching and critiquing them at a Hollywood-standard level, right here in Central New York.

### **Center of Hope International, Inc.: Summer Theatre Reading Camp**

The STRC is a reading format that combines reading practice and performing arts for underserved and underrepresented youth between the ages of 7-15 to improve African-American children's reading skills. It blends the students' desire to perform with their need for oral reading practice. It enhances students' reading skills and confidence by having them practice close reading while improving fluency and comprehension skills.

### **Consortium for Children's Services, Inc.: Read and Rise Family Literacy Workshops**

Teaching families the importance of reading together— and providing them the tools to do so—is the first step in ensuring academic success for all students. The Read and Rise program provides families with hands-on strategies for building literacy at home, reinforces the fact that parents are their child's first and most important teacher, and builds text-rich environments at home by providing take-home books and other parent resources for families who participate in the program.



### **Families for Lead Freedom Now: End Lead Poisoning and Increase Literacy**

Families for Lead Freedom Now provides Lead Free Me children's books in English, Nepali, Spanish, Dari, Burmese, Swahili, and Somali to families affected by childhood lead poisoning or at risk for lead poisoning. The project addresses the community's needs for information, and this project utilizes books to help to address the gap in community awareness and knowledge.

### **Friends of the Rosamond Gifford Zoo: Tadpole Academy**

Tadpole Academy is a series of programs aligned with the NYS Common Core Learning Standards that create real-life connections to the world of reading for children in pre-k through first grade. Activities include reading-aloud, tactile exploration of biofacts, animal encounters, and opportunities to use robotics and coding to improve literacy using Bee Bots. The focus is on increasing children's literacy via sustained experiences with exciting, tangible connections to the world of reading.

### **Keepers Connection, Inc.: Early Steps**

Keepers Connections will hold fun read aloud, sing along, story time with puppet making fun-filled learning sessions with newly arrived Ukrainian and Afghan refugees to help ease their transition in the American school system and readiness to kindergarten. The project will develop cultural adjustment and training for both parents to take responsibility for their child's learning and development.

### **Light A Candle For Literacy: Parade & Festival**

The Light A Candle Parade & Book Festival was created to increase awareness of the importance of literacy, counteract the summer reading loss in children, and help parents understand the importance of reading to their children daily. The annual event features local children's book authors and illustrators, free book giveaways, live performances, and a variety of engaging activities for children of all ages.

### **Lit' for Life Family Literacy Inc.: Lit for Life Grows!**

This project builds Lit' For Life's capacity to promote literacy and reading information and resources via a newly designed, launched and maintained website. The project will also fund the purchase of new cultural and age-appropriate books and resources to be used and distributed to families at Lit' for Life events and independent book giveaways.

### **Partners in Learning, Inc.: Literacy for Dual Language Learning Children**

Partners in Learning, Inc. (PIL) seeks funding to support enhanced literacy programming for emergent bilingual families with children ages 2 - 5 years. PIL will facilitate enhanced literacy programming in tandem with its Summer MANOS Program. PIL will also expand its monthly Intergenerational Learning Circle monthly workshop series to focus on building dual language literacy learning opportunities.



### **Preserve The Black Child: Book Fair**

Preserve The Black Child is hosting a book fair that places diverse books in the hands of diverse children. The children will receive free books and a bookshelf. They will also interact with the diverse authors of the books.

### **Rise Above Poverty: Summer 2023 Reading Clinic**

Rise Above Poverty offers a reading clinic for third to fifth-grade students in the Syracuse City School District with critically low reading proficiencies. Utilizing data, the program targets students from schools with populations that range from 66% to 93% of non-proficient readers.

### **Salina Library: Early Literacy Beyond Storytime**

The Salina Free Library is launching the Blast Off to Kindergarten: a 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program to reach families at home, while adding new computers in the library's Children's Area with headphones for using early literacy software, and regular monthly programs with early childhood performers. Providing these types of programming will increase early literacy skills, provide a safe space for young children to learn, play, and socialize, and bring in new library patrons to become lifelong learners.

### **Skaneateles Library: Parent University**

The reading proficiency rate of 4th and 8th graders in the United States is about 30%, as measured by the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). In other words, about 70% of the population is at basic or below basic proficiency. At the same time, studies show 90% of parents believe their children are performing at grade level. Parent University is designed to close the parent perception gap through a series of 6 classes designed to introduce parents/caregivers to the science of how the brain learns to read, the systemic problems that are a root cause of the literacy crisis in our country, and what they can do to support (or supplement) the instruction being offered in their school district.

### **Syracuse City School Adult Education: Justice Center Family Literacy Program**

When parents become incarcerated, there can be a lost opportunity to support children in the passion and essential skill building of literacy. This chance to build proficiencies and reinforce the importance of literacy does not need to be lost on families when they do have a chance to connect on a regular basis. Instead, incarcerated parents can be taught how to promote reading skills, discussions around text, and take time to connect with children during visits as well as when they transition back home.



### **Syracuse Northeast Community Center: CNY Digital Empowerment**

CNY Digital Empowerment works to engage neighbors with broadband access, grow their digital literacy, and connect them with devices through which to empower themselves and their families. We work with a majority English-as-second-language population and focus on digital literacy. Further, we connect participants with onsite GED and English language education (provided free of charge) to promote overall literacy and empowerment.

### **The Greater Syracuse SouthSide Homeowners Association: Juneteenth Community Project**

The Juneteenth-Freedom Day Community Program is in its third year in the community, and for the community. The day (June 19th) consists of community festivities, such as a live band, live singing, bouncy houses, informational tables, literacy area for families with children and even adults who are interested in reading a book. There is a space where they can even sit and read books about Juneteenth, voting, and books about pride in the community in a very interesting format. There are also historical books about Syracuse and specifically about the 15th ward that are very popular for the long term residents of Syracuse.

### **United Way of CNY: Book Buddies Summer BLAST**

Book Buddies is a collaboration between the United Way of CNY and the Syracuse City School District (SCSD). The Book Buddies program utilizes community volunteers to work one-on-one with students in kindergarten through third grade in the SCSD to increase student reading abilities and fluency. Book Buddies Summer BLAST will offer a four week summer program that will serve 40 students in K-3 at Seymour Dual Language Academy during the school's summer program.