READING AND BEYOND

ANNUAL REPORT 2014 - 2015
The 2014-15 year has been another great one for Reading and Beyond. Since Reading and Beyond’s inception, we have desired to develop approaches that are long-term and evidence-based, but that also aligned with the organization’s philosophy. After five years of determination, we have seen two of our programs reach this status during the year. These successes have given us opportunities to expand some of our main programs, and, perhaps, to create replicable models.

In March 2015, our board members made a major personal pledge. They committed to implement our new Family Success Zone - an initiative modeled after the Harlem Children’s Zone in New York - by fundraising and seeking financial support. This new initiative will focus on children and their families in the 93701 zone to ensure their academic success, and participants will be tracked over the long term. Throughout the coming year, you will hear more about our Family Success Zone as we launch the initiative in the Fall.

Spring also saw the Fresno Bridge Academy receive recognition after five years of successful implementation. The United States Department of Agriculture selected 10 nationwide programs to pilot for 36 months. In partnership with the County of Fresno Department of Social Services, Reading and Beyond’s Fresno Bridge Academy (which utilizes a holistic approach and works with the entire family) was the only one selected in California. The pilot will expand the Fresno Bridge Academy to nine sites throughout Fresno County. If the results we have seen with the Fresno Bridge Academy can be reproduced with this pilot, the Fresno Bridge Academy can potentially become a national workforce program.

With the launch of these two programs, I believe they will define Reading and Beyond’s approach in the next five years, if not beyond. However, the success of what we do also is measured by the engagement and support of our community. If you are not involved yet with Reading and Beyond, I hope you will join us during this coming year.

Blessings,
Luis
Luis Santana
Executive Director
Founder
Reading and Beyond

Harinder (Randy) Dhindsa
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Senior Vice President
Middle Market Division
Rabobank, N.A

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Immediate Past President
League of Women Voters
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Craig School of Business
California State University, Fresno
To Empower Children and Families to
Achieve Productive Self-Reliant Lives
To prepare young children to be academically, socially, and developmentally ready to begin school.
Reading and Beyond Preschool

During this past year, Reading and Beyond Preschool served 62 children aged 3-4 years old. Twice per year, students are administered the Desired Results Developmental Profile Assessment (DRDP), which rates children through observed behavior across a developmental continuum. The June 2015 graduating preschool class mastered 88% of the DRDP domains, including self/social development and language/literacy development. Children who master the DRDP domains have a greater likelihood of exhibiting those behaviors associated with school readiness.

Reading and Beyond Preschool partnered with Fresno JumpStart for the first time to provide additional language and literacy support, which included engaging children in literacy-focused activities twice per week for two-hour sessions. Family Literacy Kits and a Year-End Kit were provided to allow parents opportunities to support their children’s growth and development at home.
School Success

Literacy Programs
Reading and Beyond operates literacy tutorial programs at school and community-based sites throughout Fresno.

Total number of students: 1,500
Total number of sites: 19

After-school Programs: Balderas, Heaton, Storey, Wishon, and Lowell elementary schools
Fresno Housing Authority: Parc Grove Commons, Fairview Heights, Villa Del Mar, and Granada Commons
Boys & Girls Clubs: Zimmerman, East, and West
Community-based sites: Mosqueda, Hope Lutheran Church, and Wesley United Methodist Church
Day-school sites: Wishon, Balderas, Aynesworth, Gibson, and Storey (English Learners only) elementary schools

Supplemental Education Services
The SES program offers in-home, one-on-one reading tutoring for 1st-6th grade students.

Total number of students: 99
Total number of school districts: 10

School districts: Fowler, Central, Clovis, Washington Union, Visalia, Delano, Firebaugh, Orange Center, Westpark and Bakersfield.
To help students achieve academically through literacy tutoring, after-school programming, school-day reading intervention, summer programming, and recreational activities.

**Summer Reading Academy**

The Summer Reading Academy provides academic and enrichment programming to ensure students do not experience summer learning loss.

**Total number of students:** 230

**Sites:** Mosqueda Community Center, Lowell and Wishon elementary schools; Fresno Housing Authority’s Parc Grove Commons; and Zimmerman Boys & Girls Club

**Overall results**

**Total number of students:** 1,829

**Students whose reading improved:** 98%

**Students who improved by one grade level:** 73%

**Part/Full-time staff:** 98

**Community volunteers:** 43

**Reading and Beyond at Fresno State students:** 53
College & Career Readiness

Youth Success

Since Spring 2014, Reading and Beyond has partnered with Focus Forward and Fresno Barrios Unidos to provide youth development services through the Youth Success program, formerly known as the Southeast Youth Success program. The program works with young people, ages 16-24, who have had previous contact with Fresno County’s Juvenile Justice Campus and are in need of guidance and support to stay on track with their educational and career goals. This summer, the program started offering educational classes to clients who will be taking their high school exit exams and to older youth preparing to take their tests for the General Educational Development (GED).

“The program has helped me look forward to what my future will look like if I work at making it good. Jason (a Youth Navigator) has helped me understand a lot of stuff I didn’t know before. I can’t wait to take the test so I can get my GED.”

~ Youth Success participant Eddie Chavez, 19

Students Enrolled: 53
84% of participants aged 14-16 years have returned to school
83% of participants aged 17-24 years have increased their math skills
Youth Empowered for Success (YES)

Since 2007, Reading and Beyond has been providing college preparation programming. In September 2014, we re-vamped our original program design and launched our updated program entitled Youth Empowered for Success (YES). The program targets low-income, high school students who are first in their families to attend college and live in the 93701 zip code area. Students receive case management, academic support, and college advising. Parent involvement also is a major component.

“Martha (a College Prep Navigator) has helped me a lot and taught me a lot. ... She’s helped me educate my mom about college and how to do well in school.”

~ YES participant Rosenda Luna, 15, Roosevelt High School

Students Served: 40
75% have improved their GPA
100% are on track to completing their A-G classes
Pathways to Success

Starting in October 2014, Reading and Beyond’s Pathways to Success program has been providing small-group tutoring for adults working to complete their General Educational Development (GED) and increase their digital literacy skills. Students, in groups of no more than five individuals, work with a dedicated Education Navigator Monday through Friday and receive individualized lessons and assistance while also gaining a sense of community and encouragement with their group.

Alice Fabel of Fresno was working hard to complete her General Educational Development (GED) requirements on her own with the help of friends, but she wasn’t there yet. Then her job specialist with Fresno County recommended her to Reading and Beyond’s Pathways to Success Program, and she began working with Pam Ripley, an Education Navigator.

“Pam at Reading and Beyond taught me the majority of algebra that I needed,” said Fabel, a 27-year-old single mom. “I liked how comprehensive (the class) was. Pam made sure we understood it.”

In early January 2015, Fabel took the last test she needed to earn her GED and passed. She became the first student from the program to earn her GED certificate.

Participants Served: 270
To help adults achieve self-reliance through employment or better employment by increasing computer competency, building on their education levels, and utilizing job resources, workshops, and training

Fresno Bridge Academy
During the 2014-15 year, Fresno Bridge Academy served 515 families. Of those families, 180 of them graduated from the program in March 2015. 80% of the adult participants in those families obtained new employment and/or wage increase, and 85% retained their employment when they completed the program. More than 1 in 4 participants attained self-reliance. The remaining families are still participating in the Fresno Bridge Academy to reach their goals.

On March 20, the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced that the County of Fresno Department of Social Service’s CalFresh Employment and Training pilot proposal, which was based on the Fresno Bridge Academy, was selected to receive $12 million in funding for three years. The pilot program will launch January 2016. In the meantime, Fresno Bridge Academy also renewed its regular contract with the Fresno County DSS for another three year term, beginning October 2014.

When Diana Medina enrolled with the Fresno Bridge Academy (FBA), the mother of four worked part-time, didn’t have health care for her older children and worried about her children’s education. She wanted to refresh her computer skills and find full-time work in an office.

Through FBA, Medina attended intermediate Excel courses at Fresno Adult School and participated in job-related workshops, such as assistance with resumes, job interviews, and job searches. Medina’s Career & Family Navigator helped her apply for health care for her children and assisted her youngest child to receive after-school tutoring.

Today, Medina’s children’s academics have improved, and she is working full-time for a local home rental company.
**Family Navigators**

Family Navigators provide on-going family support by assisting parents in navigating school systems, preventing chronic absences, and helping families access resources to better support each family member. For example, if a school-aged child is struggling academically, the Family Navigator will assist the family in finding tutorial resources. Family Navigators conduct home-visits, provide case management, and assist with the development and tracking of individual and family goals.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Participants:</th>
<th>Of the total participants:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Birth to 5 Years:</td>
<td>161</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>85 enrolled in early education services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kindergarten-3rd Grade:</td>
<td>282</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>109 enrolled in afterschool programs or community sites</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th-6th Grades:</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>48 enrolled in afterschool programs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle-High School Grades:</td>
<td>110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>74 enrolled in school and community programs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parents:</td>
<td>177 families participating</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>314 adults participated in home visitations, educational workshops and events</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Nicolas Vazquez and her family have been participating in Reading and Beyond’s Family Navigators programs since March 2014. Since then, the mother of four children has “blossomed,” said her Family Navigator.

With her Family Navigator’s guidance, Nicolas applied and qualified for low-cost, Internet service from Comcast. From there, she was introduced to the ATLAS system, Fresno Unified School District’s online parent portal to student grades, info, and test scores. Nicolas learned how to communicate with her children’s teachers using emails and began to check on her children’s progress weekly. “This was a surprise for the children ... that their mother was up to date on their grades,” the Family Navigator said.

**Supervised Children Rooms**

Reading and Beyond manages two Supervised Children Rooms, and each sees an average of 200 children per month for a minimum of one hour.

The Supervised Children Rooms provide a safe, enriching environment for children 12 years old and younger while their parents or guardians are conducting business with the County of Fresno Department of Social Services (DSS) and County of Fresno Department of Behavioral Health (DBH).

According to monthly surveys by parents and guardians, 95% indicated they would not have been able to keep their appointments with DSS or DBH without the Supervised Children Rooms.
Family Engagement

Family Engagement is fundamental to improving the academic success of all students, and in particular, our highest needs students who face the greatest barriers. During the past year, Reading and Beyond has been a partner in the Fresno Building Healthy Communities Schools Action team, which is a coalition of advocates, community members, parents, students and local organizations who are working together to ensure all children are prepared for college and career.
To provide parents with information they need to make informed decisions and to advocate for their children's academic success.

**Engagement Results:**

326 parents participated in 17 educational workshops and events, including leadership, resource, and school navigation sessions.

146 parents attended 10 informational workshops to discuss the importance of parent engagement, the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) and the Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP).
HIGHLIGHTS OF

FBA Open House

Reading and Beyond hosted an Open House with the County of Fresno Department of Social Services (Fresno DSS) on April 2 to share Fresno Bridge Academy’s expansion plans, the result of a $12 million pilot grant by the United States Department of Agriculture.

Barnes & Noble Bookfair

Excited children participated in five activity stations throughout the store during the Reading and Beyond Bookfair at Barnes & Noble on April 19. The fundraising event raised $121 from a percentage of purchases made by customers.
Preschool Monterey Trip

Reading and Beyond Preschool students and parents took a trip to Monterey Bay Aquarium on June 19. Riding in a charter bus, the group spent the day exploring the aquarium and the beach nearby.

Volunteer Appreciation Week

During National Volunteer Week in April, Reading and Beyond honored 38 community volunteers who serve at various after-school and community sites.

Workforce Recognition Event

Participants of Reading and Beyond’s Fresno Bridge Academy program were recognized for their dedication and successes during the Beyond Awards event on June 19.

Pathways to Success’ First Graduate

In January 2015, Alice Fabel became the first Pathways to Success student to complete and receive her General Education Development (GED) certificate.
Thank You, Volunteers!

Without the dedication and hard work of our volunteers, Reading and Beyond would not be able to provide the much needed services to the hundreds of children, adults, and families who seek our assistance. Thank you for volunteering!

Reading and Beyond at Fresno State

The Reading and Beyond (RAB) at Fresno State project began in the Fall of 2013. This collaboration between RAB and California State University-Fresno (CSUF) grew out of years of partnership with the Jan and Bud Richter Center for Community Engagement and Service-Learning’s Fresno READS program. Fresno READS placed CSUF work-study students at school sites to provide essential literacy services. Through Reading and Beyond at Fresno State, CSUF students continue to provide academic support and literacy tutoring.

Long-time volunteer Eleanor Bennett passed away on April 21. A former teacher, Eleanor was involved with numerous community activities. She was instrumental in partnering with Reading and Beyond to establish an after-school community site at Wesley United Methodist Church. When the after-school program began in the Spring of 2008, Eleanor was one of the first to sign up as a volunteer. She not only tutored, she also assisted the program by applying for grant funding to support staff and tutoring supplies.

Over the years, Eleanor helped many students reach their grade level in reading. For the last two years, she mentored Melanie Guzman, a 2nd-grader at Wolters Elementary School. “She was my best teacher,” said 7-year-old Melanie. She helped Melanie improve “by making me read hard books so I can learn more.”

Total Volunteers: 168
Total Volunteer Hours: 25,950
### Financial Summary

As of June 30, 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assets</td>
<td>$4,235,954</td>
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<tr>
<td>Liabilities</td>
<td>748,298</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Net Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,487,656</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Revenue

- **Contributions**: 15,646
- **Grants & Contracts**
  - Foundations & Others: 575,118
  - Government: 2,414,403
- **Program Service Fee Revenues**: 38,077
- **Donated Goods & Services**: 506,844
- **Rental Income**: 93,301
- **Fundraising**: 6,256
- **Investment Income**: 13,324
- **Miscellaneous**

**Total Revenue**: 3,662,970

#### Expenses

- **Wages**: 2,069,625
- **Other Employee Benefits**: 215,252
- **Payroll Taxes**: 216,634
- **Subcontractor Expense**: 10,800
- **Supplies**: 7,864
- **Utilities**: 68,042
- **Depreciation**: 53,811
- **Travel/Conference**: 48,449
- **Consulting**: 15,958
- **Legal & Accounting**: 21,000
- **Special Program Expenses**: 247,409
- **Insurance**: 19,339
- **Rent & Janitorial**: 27,764
- **Printing & Copying**: 12,689
- **Payroll Processing & Bank Fees**: 11,315
- **Telephone & Internet**: 9,362
- **Contracted Instructors**: 3,524
- **Licenses & Fees**: 10,060
- **Dues & Subscriptions**: 5,788
- **Fingerprinting**: 6,513
- **Outreach/Volunteer Retention**: 1,474
- **Miscellaneous**: 15,130

- **In-Kind Expenses**
  - Services: 476,990
  - Books & Supplies: 35,860

**Total Expenses**: 3,610,652

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