

# 2019-2020 IMPACT REPORT

## OUR ANNUAL REACH



**1,500,000**  
Students



**200,000**  
Educators



**18,500**  
Schools

## A WORD FROM OUR CEO

Dear friends,

I am excited to share with you highlights from what has been an exceptional effort in terms of the advancement of transformational solutions and programs. These programs have been instrumental in helping us accelerate literacy and student achievement for all learners, including at risk and underserved populations, people of color, students from lower socioeconomic backgrounds and students with learning disabilities.

While this is a great start, there is so much more for us to do. We go into 2021 determined to make greater strides to serve our students and the educators that support them. Together we can continue to make a difference. Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

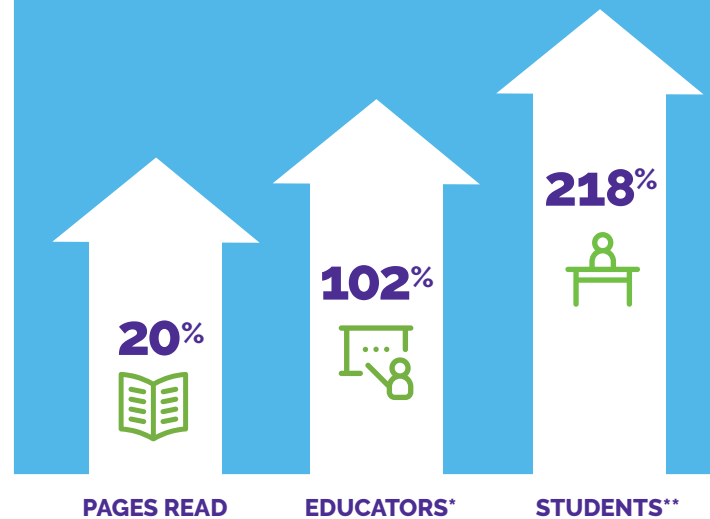


Andrew Friedman, **President & CEO**



## SEE OUR GROWTH

### 2019-2020 Annual Increase



\*Educators with access to LAABS and in our professional learning community.

\*\*Students with access to LAABS and instructed by teachers in our professional learning community.

# Our Results

- ✓ Over **161 million pages read**
- ✓ Served **22,562 BVI students**
- ✓ Produced **1,391 new audiobook titles**
- ✓ Provided **\$1.8 million** in financial aid
- ✓ 1,044 volunteers donated **over 72,000 hours of service**



## The Need

**MORE THAN 90%** of elementary students with specific learning disabilities scored below proficient on the 2013 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP).

**1 in 5** readers struggle with learning differences.

**2.5 MILLION** K-12 students have been formally diagnosed with a reading-based learning disability.

**ONLY 8%** of the blind or visually impaired (BVI) community are fluent Braille readers.

**2x** Children with a reading based learning difference are **twice as likely** to be suspended and **three times as likely** to drop out of high school than their peers.

**LESS THAN 5%** of books published worldwide each year are made available in accessible formats.

# Our Programs



## COVID-19 Relief

During the pandemic, Learning Ally developed a comprehensive program to offer our services for free to assist educators to execute in a remote environment and to provide our audiobooks free of charge to schools and households across the country. As of August 1, we were able to offer 130,000 students complimentary access to the program.



## Early Literacy

The early years are critical in order to prevent and alleviate future learning issues. In October 2019 Learning Ally partnered with Square Panda, the creator of an award-winning multisensory educational technology literacy platform aimed at pre-readers and early readers. Square Panda's system offers a proven, phonics based, multi-sensory, adaptive, learning system that addresses decoding and utilizes differentiated instruction to accelerate early literacy skills.



## College Success

Learning Ally offers a robust series of free, self-led and on-demand courses to help students adjust to and succeed in college. Last year nearly 1,000 students benefited from the courses. Timothy Jones, a BVI graduate student at Georgia State University and a 2020 National Achievement Award winner, was a beneficiary of this program.



## Professional Learning

With the goal of supporting educators to be literacy leaders, we are building a new "Spotlight on Learning Series". Our Spotlight on Dyslexia event delivered sixteen experts in dyslexia, literacy and neuroscience to share the latest research, best practices and advice. Over 9,000 educators participated in the 2020 virtual event and this December we will introduce our Spotlight on Early Literacy event.



## Reading Programs

We offer a variety of reading programs, including *Summer Reading Together* and *Great Reading Games*, which provide reading lists, simple lesson plans and tracking lists to increase engagement, reading frequency and mitigate learning loss. Between the programs we had over 50,000 students reading nearly 20 million pages. This year the programs had 25% more students participating than last year.



## National Achievement Awards

Each year Learning Ally recognizes exceptional students with print and learning disabilities with the *Mary P. Oenslager Scholastic Achievement Award* and *Marion Huber Learning Through Listening Award*, and teachers who have helped struggling readers reach their potential with the *Winslow Coyne Reitnouer Excellence in Teaching Award*. In 2019-2020, we were proud to acknowledge five students, four teachers, and a school district for their outstanding achievements.

# Success Stories



*"I would not be where I am today if Learning Ally had not been there for me from elementary school through high school, college and now into graduate school. **You have opened doors for me unlike any other resource in my life. Thank you!**"*

Timothy Jones, Georgia State University graduate student who is blind



*"Learning Ally above everything else has been the greatest gift in our journey. **In this time of COVID, my son has been non-stop reading. Thanks!**"*

Stacey, mother and high school teacher



*"Learning Ally has been instrumental in allowing students at our school who were reading far below grade level to access texts at their cognitive levels. They're able to use the books that they've always wanted to use in a way that they couldn't before and it makes them feel better about themselves."*

Maria Arcodia, 1st grade teacher, Brooklyn Arbor Public School, New York



*"During this time of distance learning, Learning Ally has helped my students change their identities as readers and connect to what is happening in the classroom. **It is one of the only tools that allows them to feel a deep sense of success right now and I can't recommend it highly enough.**"*

Marlene Moyer, 6th grade teacher, South Tahoe Middle School, California.

**LEARNING ALLY** is a leading nonprofit education solutions organization dedicated to equipping educators with proven solutions that help struggling learners reach their potential. Our range of literacy-focused offerings for students Pre-K to 12th grade and catalog of professional learning allow us to support more than 200,000 educators across the US. The Learning Ally Audiobook Solution is our cornerstone award-winning reading accommodation used in more than 18,500 schools to help students with reading deficits succeed. Composed of high quality, human-read audiobooks and a suite of teacher resources to monitor and support student progress, it is designed to turn struggling readers into engaged learners.