

Nashville Book Connection



General Information

**Nonprofit
Address
Phone
Web Site
Facebook**

Nashville Book Connection
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**Twitter
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Mission & Impact

Statements

Mission

Nashville Book Connection (NBC) connects kids with books they love to nurture their identities as readers--at home and in the classroom. NBC nurtures reader identities as students uncover a sense of pride, passion, and excitement around reading, book ownership, and shared experiences. Our intentionally-curated books offer windows and mirrors for our K-5th graders to feel seen and see others. Through our partnerships with local elementary schools in under-served communities, NBC targets individual student literacy needs by growing home libraries full of meaningful, intentionally chosen, diverse books in under-served communities.

Background

Our approach is personalized, collaborative, student-centered and data-driven. We value student agency, access to new, meaningful books and understanding student interest and needs as cornerstones for developing readers. When our team helps students voice their reading interests and needs, we see growth and positive connections in how they see themselves as readers.

Impact

1. This year we SERVED MORE STUDENTS THAN EVER BEFORE - In 2024, we partnered with 2 schools, served 700 students, and matched twice as many students with books that spoke to their interests/needs. Since the Fall 2019, NBC has sent nearly 9,100 new, diverse, intentionally-chosen books home with over 1,100 K-5th grade students. Superhero books. Feelings books. Books on identity and families. Books about friendship. Biographies. Nonfiction books about space and animals. Funny books. Early readers. Graphic novels. Picture books. Chapter books. Books that speak to our students' interests and needs, books that excite them, books that allow them to feel seen and represented. 2. We have made strides in GROWING STUDENTS' READER IDENTITIES - The research is clear. When students have agency and are interested in what they read, their motivation to read increases. When children see themselves in books, they gain confidence and self-esteem - significant indicators for long-term success. Finding oneself in books, knowing one's voice matters, feeling successful as a learner/reader, finding genuine joy in reading - these social-emotional markers are necessary components in literacy gains. At NBC, we know the critical juncture where reading skills, reading interests and reading confidence all converge. We are

proud to have the impact we've had. Because of our work, we have seen: -An increase in the number of students reporting that they now had books with characters who looked or felt like them. -Positive growth in the number of students who called themselves "readers". -An increase in the number of students who had books they were excited to read. -A positive change in the number of students who claimed to enjoy reading. 3. We have EXPANDED & DEEPENED OUR REACH - This Fall we were able to hire a contract employee to support our Book Cart program at a new partner school, Tom Joy Elementary, for the Fall 2025 semester. Tom Joy serves 420+ students in K-5, a population nearly twice as large as any school community we've served previously. Similarly, we were able to address more teachers' needs, supporting their capacity to maximize students' growth as confident, engaged readers. 4. We CODIFIED OUR PRACTICES & IMPROVED HOW WE MEASURE SUCCESS - We continued to improve work in: -measuring the effectiveness of our NBC programs. We were able to more successfully and efficiently survey students before and after the Book Cart Program experience. -documenting our processes/operations. Because of a stronger administrative team, we have been able to better streamline our processes and operations. GOALS FOR THE UPCOMING YEAR 1. NBC is growing its capacity to serve more students and schools. As we EXPAND AND DEEPEN OUR REACH this year, NBC plans to serve at least: -700 K-5th graders. -30 teachers' classrooms. -2 elementary schools in MNPS. 2. Additionally, we will ENHANCE OUR OPERATIONAL GROWTH AND SUSTAINABILITY. We will continue to: -Grow our revenue. -Hire staff. -Grow the number of community partners. 3. We will continue to CODIFY OUR PRACTICES AND IMPROVE HOW WE MEASURE SUCCESS. Building upon our current qualitative data collection, we will: -Measure the effectiveness of our program through stronger quantitative tools. -Document our processes and operations. -Share our methodology and results.

Needs

After working to meet the diverse literacy needs of nearly 1400 of Nashville's youngest students, we've learned just how deep our impact has been. We're eager to expand our work and grow our reach to more schools, more teachers and more students. NEED #1: Funding for Part-Time Employee (\$9,000) As we work toward our goals (EXPANDING AND DEEPENING OUR REACH and ENHANCING OUR OPERATIONAL GROWTH AND SUSTAINABILITY), we need to grow our team. NBC has been 100% volunteer-based since 2019, and while this model has allowed us to prove the important depth of our work, it has limited NBC's reach. In order to move forward and serve more students, NBC must have paid personnel. NBC's part-time position responsibilities include: -Serving as school-site coordinator on NBC Days; -Leading volunteer training sessions; -Fulfilling student and teacher book requests; NEED #2: Funding for Additional School Partnership (\$10,950) Since 2019, NBC's budget has supported a single school partnership per year. Past partnerships include Carter Lawrence Elementary, Warner Arts Elementary & Fall-Hamilton. Now that NBC has demonstrated its unique approach to impacting literacy in Nashville, it's time to serve more students. This funding request will support NBC's expansion to an additional partner school.

Statement from CEO/Executive Director

Statement from Board Chair

In the time I have served as Board Chair of Nashville Book Connection, I can honestly say that every single interaction in this organization has been filled with inspiration and optimism. Be it zoom calls internally or being face to face with the smile of a first grader holding the exact right book, there is a feeling of excitement, of promise. From the very beginning, the spark of an idea about improving this world through evidence-based interactions and book ownership gained traction. The very existence of NBC is itself a success, as the germ of an idea quickly grew into a functional model, a working program, and a highly motivated board of directors, our struggle through normal non-profit start up pains was immediately hampered by the Covid pandemic. I am incredibly proud of how our small organization was able to pivot and adapt while remaining true to our mission of connecting kids with books they love, providing consistency and connection in a time when they were most needed. A strong sign of our current success is our intentionality in seeking out and forming community partnerships (local schools and businesses as well as the children's literacy community at the city, state, and national level). We have had several cycles of our program in elementary schools and the feedback from administration, teachers, and

especially students has been excellent. We are gaining traction as an established and credible organization and are seeing individual donors and grant funding continue to increase. Our biggest challenge is maybe having hearts bigger than our bank account, frustration that our desire to connect more children to the world of reading is hampered by limitations of time, funding, and humanpower. This frustration is fueling the board to strategically plan and attack the coming years to maximize capacity and ultimately the number of children who are interested and motivated to read. My personal reading journey began before I have memories, as my parents prioritized reading aloud, making books accessible, encouraging and modeling reading as important and entertaining. I do recall staying up with a flashlight under covers, sneaking in a few more chapters. Reading features prominently in my adult life and as my children came on the scene, it was an utmost priority to equip the nursery with books, go to the library, and connect with books. Some of my fondest moments of their childhoods have been reading together and sharing stories. As a pediatric health provider, I know the impact that language and literacy have on growing brains, and as a parent I see the benefits of expanding your world through reading. It is my profound belief that every child should have the opportunity to learn, discover, grow, and connect to humanity through books. Nashville Book Connection is committed to making this happen.

Service Categories

Primary Category
Secondary Category
Tertiary Category

Education - Libraries
Education - Educational Services
Arts, Culture & Humanities - Arts & Culture

Areas Served

TN - Davidson

Programs

NBC BOOK CART & BOOK REQUEST PROGRAM

Description

The NBC BOOK CART program grows home libraries full of new, diverse and meaningful books for young readers. It allows K-5th graders opportunities to choose books they want to read. This 6-week program offers weekly book choice from our fully-stocked mobile Book Carts. With each visit, students get individualized one-on-one time with NBC team members and volunteers as they find the "right" books that match their interests and needs. By the end of the program, all K-5th grade students in NBC partner schools will have 6 new, meaningful books that are theirs to take home and keep.

The BOOK REQUEST PROGRAM is the "Part 2" to the Book Carts. It relies on NBC-created content to:

- Introduce students to NBC books & reader identity concepts,
- Allow students to request books from NBC,
- Continue one-on-one relationship building through personalized letters to students from NBC volunteers.

This program fosters student growth as independent and confident readers.

Budget \$41,290.00

Population Served Families
Economically disadvantaged people
K-12 (5-19 years)

NBC CLASSROOM PROGRAM

Description

The NBC CLASSROOM PROGRAM is a resource for our educator partners.

Through this program, NBC team members work with teachers to build their own classroom libraries full of new books that support their teaching and learning needs. NBC team members offer additional support through read alouds, reading circles, and other supporting materials such as the NBC Look Book and Reader Identity Cards.

Budget \$20,000.00

Population Served Families
Economically disadvantaged people
Children and Youth (0 - 19 years)

Governance

Board Chair	Dru Bredesen
Company Affiliation	Nurses for Newborns
Term	May 2022 to May 2025
Email	drubredesen@gmail.com

Board of Directors

Name	Affiliation	Status
Lara Apgar MA	Community Volunteer	Voting
Montgomery Barreto CPA	KYZEN Corporation	Voting
Dru Bredesen		Voting
Clare Clarke Ed.D.	Nashville Book Connection, Executive Director	NonVoting
Katie Elam M.Ed.	Governor's Early Literacy Foundation	Voting
Adrienne Kimble		Voting
Emily Ladyman	Ladyman Consulting	Voting
Lauren Melancon	DanceEast	Voting

Board Demographics - Ethnicity

African American/Black	1
Asian American/Pacific Islander	0
Caucasian	7
Hispanic/Latino	0
Native American/American Indian	0
Other	0

Board Demographics - Gender

Male	0
Female	8
Unspecified	0

Governance

Board Term Lengths	3.00
Board Term Limits	
Board Meeting Attendance	100%
Does the Organization have written Board Selection Criteria?	Yes
Does the Organization have a Written Conflict of Interest Policy?	Yes
Percentage Making Monetary Contributions	100%
Percentage Of Board Members Making In Kind Contributions	100%
Does the Board include Client	No

Representation?
Number of Full Board Meetings Annually 4

Management

Executive Director Dr. Clare Clarke
Email clare@nashvillebookconnection.org
Term Start
Clare's Experience:

Staff

Number of Full Time Staff 0
Number of Part Time Staff 0
Volunteers 100
Contractors 1
Staff Retention Rate 0%

Plans & Policies

Fundraising Plan? Under Development
Strategic Plan? Under Development
Years Strategic Plan Considers When Strategic Plan Adopted? 3
Management Succession Plan? Under Development
Policy and Procedures Plan? Under Development
Nondiscrimination Policy? Under Development
Whistle Blower Policy? Yes
Document Destruction Policy? Yes

Formal Evaluations

Is there a formal evaluation for...	Frequency
CEO/Executive Director	
Senior Management	
Non-Management	

CEO/Executive Director/Board Comments

While Nashville Book Connection (NBC) is a growing organization, we are still in the start-up phase. Our organization plans to develop many of these policies in this coming year.

Additionally, the organization is 100% volunteer-based at this stage of the game. Therefore, the "0" staff retention is such simply because there are no paid staff members to retain. The hope is that this coming year will allow for paid employees.

Financials

Financials

Fiscal Year Start
 07/01/2024
Fiscal Year End
 06/30/2025

Projected Revenue

\$91,000.00

Projected Expenses

\$95,142.00

Detailed Financials

Revenue and Expenses

Fiscal Year	2024	2023	2022
Total Revenue	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Revenue Less Expense	(\$-0.00)	(\$-0.00)	(\$-0.00)

Revenue Sources

Fiscal Year	2024	2023	2022
Foundation and Corporation Contributions	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Government - Federal	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Government - State	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Government - Local	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Government - Unspecified	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Individual Contributions	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Indirect Public Support	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Earned Revenue	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Investment Income, Net of Losses	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Membership Dues	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Special Events	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Revenue In-Kind	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Other	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

Expense Allocation

Fiscal Year	2024	2023	2022
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Program Expense	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Administrative Expense	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Fundraising Expense	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Revenue/Total Expenses			
Program Expense/Total Expenses			
Fundraising Expense/Contributed Revenue			

Top Funding Sources

Fiscal Year	2024	2023	2022
Top Funding Source & Dollar Amount	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Second Highest Funding Source & Dollar Amount	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Third Highest Funding Source & Dollar Amount	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

Assets and Liabilities

Fiscal Year	2024	2023	2022
Total Assets	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Current Assets	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Long-Term Liabilities	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Current Liabilities	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Net Assets	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

Endowment Info

Do you have an endowment?

No

Capital Campaign Info

Currently in a Capital Campaign?

No

Solicitation Permit Info

**State Charitable Solicitations
Permit**

Yes