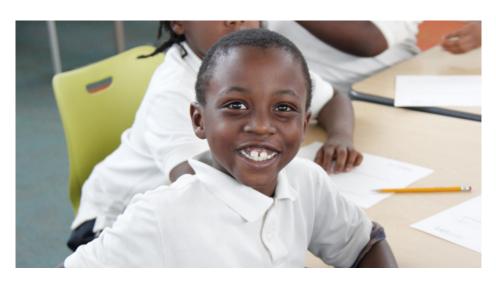
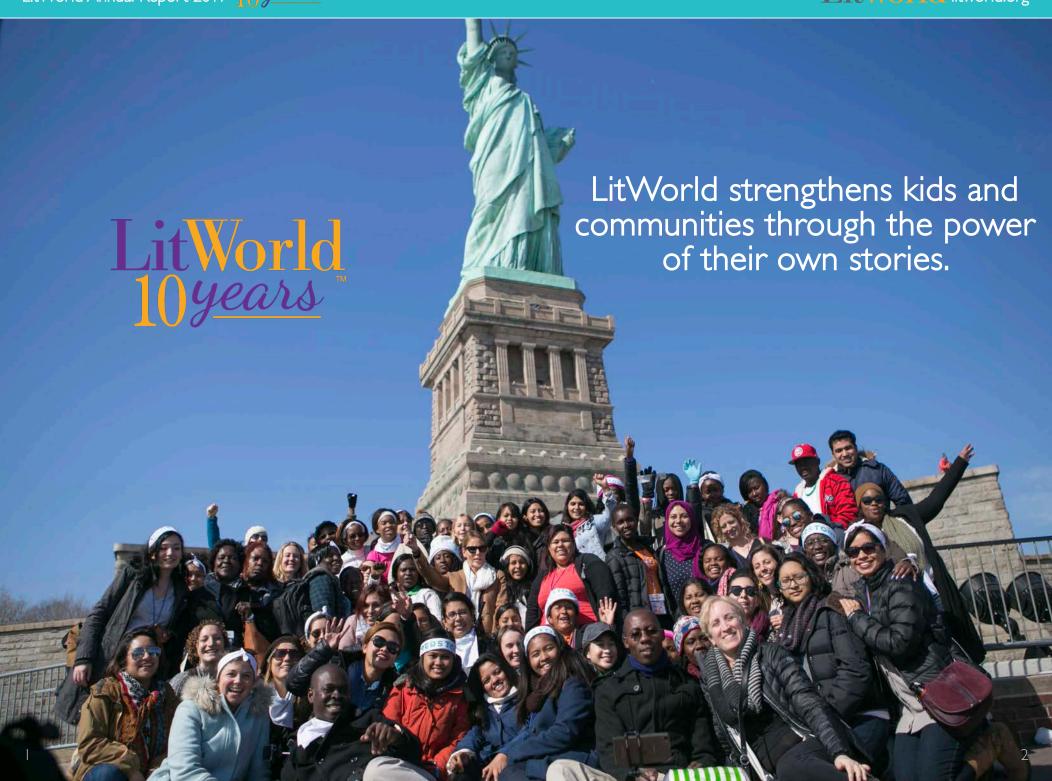
LitWorld 10years Annual Report 2017





Be the Story.



About LitWorld

LitWorld is a 501 (c)3 nonprofit organization strengthening kids and communities through the power of their own stories. For ten years, our child-centered programs and campaigns have leveraged literacy to develop the 7 Strengths: Belonging, Friendship, Kindness, Curiosity, Confidence, Courage, and Hope. We partner with grassroots organizations in 27 countries, including the U.S., to run our programs and build connections, understanding and resilience in underserved communities, and advocate for literacy as a foundational human right.





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Letter from the Executive Director & the Chair of the Board

Dear Friends,

LitWorld's work is revolutionary. Sometimes it is quiet, sometimes it is slow to unfurl, (and sometimes it is loud and fast!) but it is always driven by a unique and hopeful way of looking at what the world needs and what the world can be.

Every time we connect with our kids and our local leaders, we see how essential joy and hope are for building successful lives and communities. Everyone deserves joy. It is a human right. We believe that transformational literacy is the key to getting us there. LitWorld forms connections and fills gaps so that children do not fall through the cracks in our world's broken education systems. And in 2017, our tenth anniversary year, we more than doubled our reach.

We brought our LitClub program to thousands of children in over 20 countries, including our new partnerships in Zambia and Brazil. Over one hundred thousand children participated in our LitCamp program across the US, and, because of its past success, the New York City Board of Education expanded LitCamp as the summer literacy curriculum for all children attending summer school in second through eighth grade. We brought together mentors and coordinators for professional development and network-building, hosting all of our Latin American leaders at our inaugural Partnership Coordinator Conference in Roldanillo, Colombia. And LitClub girls and mentors from 10 countries shared their stories with UN audiences and forged cross-continental friendships at our second Global HerStory Summit in New York City as part of our HerStory Campaign.

When people share their stories and truly listen to one another, they engage emotionally, their confidence grows, they understand and value diverse experiences and perspectives, and they are stimulated by what is universal and what is unique. Story is the gateway: children lead us there and through to the other side, with their openness and their visions for the future. We know you are listening to these stories too.

Thank you for being the story with us as we enter our second decade.

Porothy + Ellen

Why?

Illiteracy is deeply tied to poverty. The inability to read and write fluently along with lack of material and cultural capital together form an entrenched legacy of inequity—generation after generation. For communities that have been systematically oppressed and kept down, we provide a platform for voices to be heard, stories to be shared, and resilience to shine through.

We engage children in deep literacy exploration that helps them value their own stories—the stories of their lives, their communities and cultures, their hopes and dreams, and the stories from their imaginations. The power of story makes each of us human, bonds our communities, and connects the world.

How?

In our programs and campaigns, we engage children with rich, authentic literature to develop their literacy skills and create a pathway to confidence, self-expression, and change-making. Working across the U.S. and around the world, LitWorld engages in partnerships with local organizations, school districts, and corporations, providing a combination of access to resources with training and support. LitWorld's programs help kids cultivate self-understanding and the confidence to work collaboratively and empathetically with others. When children are free to explore their identities and share their stories, they find the power to create lasting change in their lives, their communities, and beyond.

What are LitWorld's Results?

- A dramatic increase in children's sense of personal value, reading and writing capacities, future outlook, and civic engagement
- LitWorld currently reaches over 7,000 children, teens, and adults through year-round LitClubs and HerStory programs with our onthe-ground partners where every child has access to a supportive network of mentors and peers
- LitCamp replaced summer school in 2017 for over 135,000 LitKids in at least 9,000 classrooms across the U.S., making year-round learning more established and permanent within communities
- In 2017, 90 million people across 120 countries engaged in our annual World Read Aloud Day campaign, fostering a value for storytelling within communities and advocating for literacy as a human right

LitWorld's Core Programs



LitClubs and LitCamps give children and families a safe place to share stories, build trust, and experience mentoring from supportive adults while strengthening their reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills. LitClubs are year-round after school programs—managed through our partnerships with over 50 grassroots and mission-driven organizations around the world—that encourage kids to own and author their stories, developing self-empowerment and creating social change through literacy. LitCamps are run during school breaks to bring joy, community, and academic development to students and teachers, while working to combat the summer slide. We work with Scholastic to bring LitCamps to classrooms across the US.

The HerStory Campaign, co-founded with our partner Global G.L.O.W., uniquely addresses the needs of women and girls through LitClubs, HerStory Summits, and other innovative girl-focused programming, amplifying and championing the voices of girls through storytelling, mentorship, and self-advocacy.

World Read Aloud Day is our major advocacy day, celebrated by millions of children, teens, and adults in more than 120 countries, bringing attention to the power of shared stories and creating a global community of readers who show the world that the right to literacy belongs to us all.



LitClub Highlights

This year, we saw LitKids everywhere take initiative to give back to their communities in a powerful way. Through LitClubs, 7,000 young people in 27 countries felt empowered to take action for positive change. Here are some of our favorite LitClub stories from the year:

Our partnership with Springboard to Opportunities based in Jackson, Mississippi has expanded and grown. LitClub members there have been leaders in their communities, hosting back-to-school book fairs, raising money to provide every child with bookbags and school supplies, and engaging in innovative storytelling projects to capture the narratives of community elders. We've expanded with Springboard as they've grown across state boundaries, starting new LitClub programs with them in Maryland and Alabama this year as well.

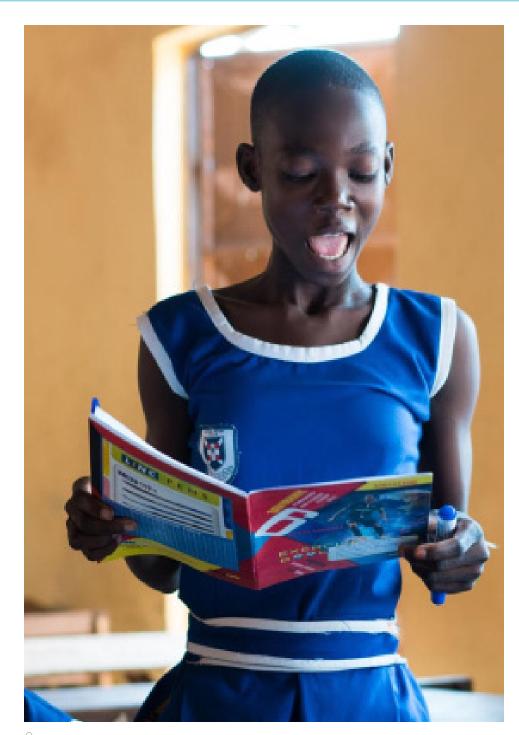
LitWorld's programming in Nicaragua has grown exponentially since we partnered with Fabretto Foundation in 2016. Starting with fewer than 50 LitClub members, we reached 150 children in 2017. Fabretto Foundation reported that LitClub members have significantly improved communication with their families, and that they perform better in school and are recognized as leaders in their schools and in their community.

When LitClubs in Cameroon focused on the theme of Hope, children were guided by mentors to create artistic representations of hope—writing dramas and poems and participating in read alouds. By presenting their own dreams in a creative manner, the mentors have committed themselves to help children express and realize their dreams, too.

LitCamp Highlights

The LitCamp experience redefines the whole notion of summer school, bringing joy, community, and academic accomplishment to all students. Every summer, children from every walk of life—particularly those from homes and neighborhoods burdened with a literacy deficit—fall behind in crucial reading and writing skills. Thanks to our partnership with Scholastic, LitCamp engaged 135,000 kids in 39 states and 355 cities in the U.S., more than doubling our 2016 reach. From Los Angeles to Austin, Detroit to New York City, we are making it possible for all children, no matter their zip code, to grow, thrive, and strive as readers.

Through LitClub and LitCamp, every child can experience the joy and the power of a strong literacy community all year long.



The HerStory Campaign

The HerStory Campaign, co-led with our California-based partner Global G.L.O.W., listens to, amplifies, and champions the voices of girls through innovative after-school LitClubs focused on storytelling, mentorship, and self-advocacy. We work alongside key stakeholders such as UN Women, girls' rights NGOs, universities, and local, grassroots partners to join, support, and encourage girls to share their stories, advocate for themselves, and create positive change in their communities.

We hosted our second annual Global HerStory Summit in New York City in March during the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women's annual two-week session. The campaign brought together HerStory Youth Ambassadors—members and leaders of Girls LitClubs and related programs—to share the power of girls' stories. Our ambassadors from ten countries presented projects for taking action in their local communities that would have a real, immediate impact.

In October, we hosted an International Day of the Girl event in New York City. LitWorld program alumni were invited to UN headquarters to meet with inspiring staff members at UN Women to network, receive career advice, and engage in discussions on a number of critical issues, including peacebuilding, environmental policy, and violence against women.

We also piloted a new Teen Club curriculum in southern California. This innovative program builds on the preexisting 7 Strengths-based curriculum and focuses on girls ages 14-16. This program encourages honest, powerful discussions in every session through open conversations facilitated by mentors around subjects chosen by members each week.

Our HerStory Campaign brings gender equity and quality education to young women. Breaking down barriers for women and girls affects all areas of development, including widespread economic growth and positive social outcomes.





Community & Family Program Highlights

In 2017, our Moms LitClubs expanded to 364 moms across eight countries. This program positively impacts mother-child relationships—the power of story has made it possible for both mothers and children to connect with one another like never before.

In New York City, LitCorps made its debut as LitWorld engaged young people through a series of summer trainings, empowering them as literacy leaders in middle and elementary school LitCamp classrooms. Ten collegeaged interns worked for eight weeks at DOE sites across the city, and ten high school-aged interns joined the team for a week-long program at the LitWorld office, preparing them to be leaders in their communities.

2017 also marked our inaugural Partnership Coordinator Conference in Roldanillo, Colombia, bringing together all of our Latin American partnership leaders to participate in intensive professional development workshops and enhanced training seminars. It doubled as an opportunity for our Latin American leaders to connect with each other as local community experts and members of a global consortium of leaders who put children first and believe in the power of story to change lives and the world.

World Read Aloud Day Highlights

LitWorld's annual celebration has grown steadily into a global literacy movement that promotes reading aloud as a year-round routine with profound benefits for children and adults. We leveraged our partnerships with communities and organizations around the world to advocate for every child's right to literacy during World Read Aloud Day 2017.

Through engagement with our World Read Aloud Day Advocates (WRADvocates)—individuals, organizations and companies who help spread the movement—we have exponentially expanded the reach of our core ideas in over 120 countries. With our sponsor, Scholastic, and our partners—ranging from Penguin Publishers to the New York City Department of Education and schools in all 50 states, to Microsoft Education's Skype in the Classroom, we rallied tens of thousands of individuals to participate in community events and social advocacy online. #WorldReadAloudDay held ground in the top-five trending hashtags on Twitter, engaging an estimated 90 million people globally.

A New Chapter of The LitWorld Story

10 Year Anniversary

In 2007, when LitWorld was founded, we took our first trip abroad to share our ideas and approaches with a handful of educators and children in Kibera, Kenya. Today, our year-round programs impact over 2,000 children in Kenya alone.

LitWorld has grown exponentially, reaching more and more children and their communities. We have continued to deepen our partnerships, sharing ideas and building the capacities of our on-the-ground team as LitWorld moved into new phases of life, scale, and impact. In collaboration with publishers, our amazing donors, and other nonprofit organizations, our work now reaches people in virtually every corner of the globe.

This is an incredible time for LitWorld—we have never been stronger or more hopeful.

With the confidence that comes from these powerful past ten years of growth and experimentation, building relationships, and pushing the work forward fearlessly, we are ready to lead the change our world needs.

New Leadership

Dorothy Lee, formerly Creative Director, became LitWorld's Executive Director in September 2017. Dorothy's remarkable history with LitWorld, her extraordinary gifts of vision, clarity, humanity, intelligence, and love of the creative work of LitWorld make her eminently suited to lead us in our next chapter.

Pam Allyn, LitWorld's founding Executive Director, has taken on a new Founder role, serving as lead advocate for LitWorld even more broadly, bringing our mission to new audiences and championing our movement.

Dorothy and Pam will continue to work together to grow the LitWorld vision and take care of our partners, supporters, and new friends. They will work to bring the dynamic innovation of serious joy and the power of story to children and young people around the world.



LitWorld 10 years



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We work together with the following partners so that we can operate locally to create change globally.



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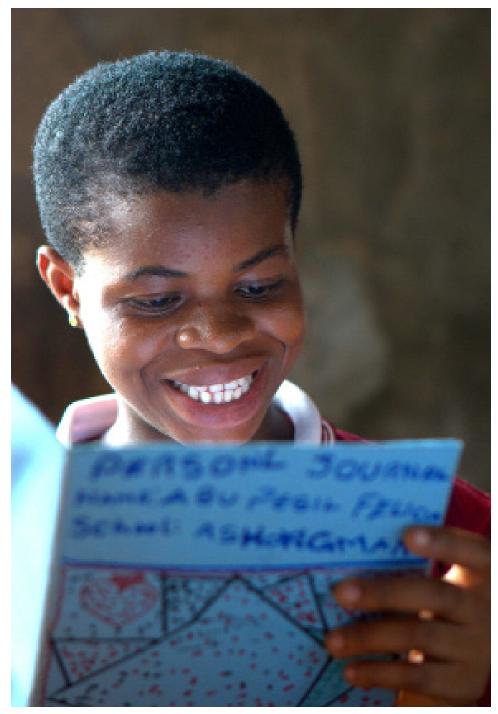
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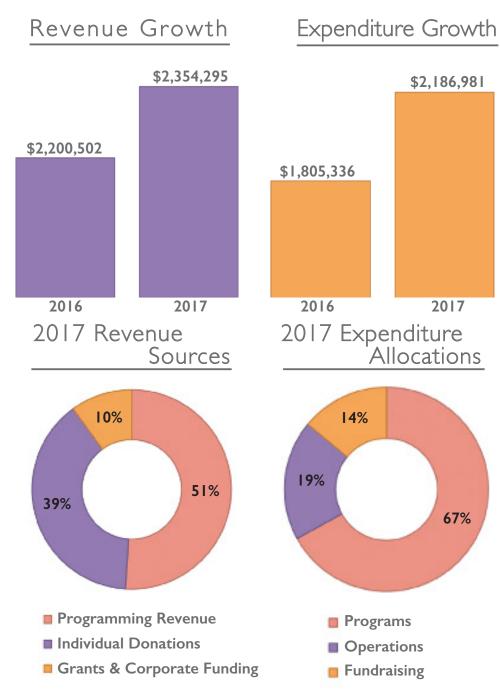
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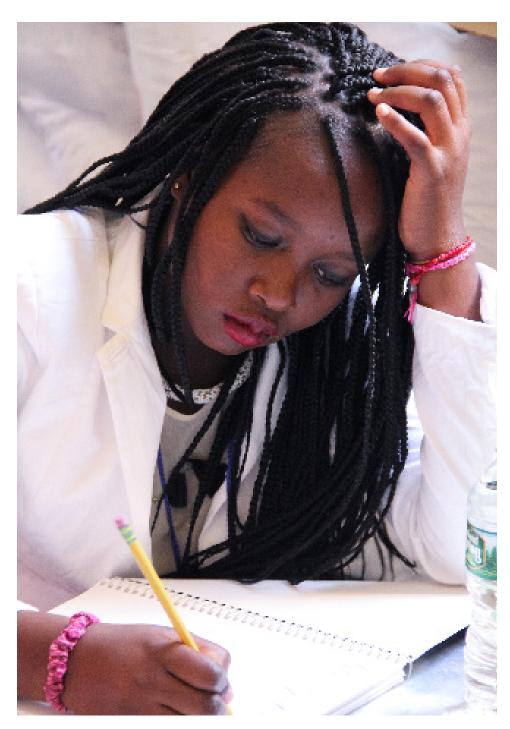
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