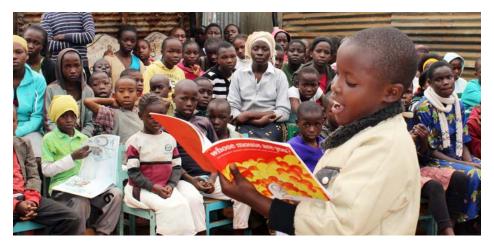
# LitWorld Annual Report 2013







LitWorld empowers children to author lives of independence, hope, and joy.

The best thing LitWorld ever gave me was the chance to tell my story."

-Daija, LitClub Member

### About LitWorld

LitWorld is a 501 (c)3 non-profit organization engaging children and families around the globe by creating opportunities for them to explore and learn from their own narratives and voices. LitWorld works side by side with local communities to create programs for literacy empowerment that help the world's most marginalized children build resilience and skills through access to knowledge and the power of self-advocacy.



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### Letter from the Executive Director & the Chair of the Board

#### Dear Friends,

The LitWorld movement is thriving. We plant strong roots in the communities we serve, for we recognize that social transformation is within the reach of all communities when people themselves are valued as the most treasured resource. By supporting, training and cultivating on-the-ground leaders of all ages, we are co-creating cultures for reading, writing, and storytelling that meet the needs, hopes and dreams of the most vulnerable communities in the world. Our work has at its center the power of every child's story. It is a simple idea but it is a big idea.

Our model works because we begin with inquiry and discovery at the community level and then match our program resources to the community's goals for literacy empowerment. Our foundational question is this one: what will literacy mean to you? We construct our work around that essential question.

For our locally based partners, literacy means access to joy and hope; but it also means building new lives in slum areas, the chance for economic independence, and true emancipation from poverty. Every community has abundance of stories created by people themselves. Literacy grows best when these stories are highly valued.

By changing attitudes about the value of education for all children, and girls especially, we are seeding the next generation of literacy leaders. Already there are LitClub graduates who are taking roles as lifelong learning leaders in their communities. This is why we refer to LitWorld not only as an "organization" but as a "movement."

We go forward into 2014 with tremendous momentum. We promise to use this momentum to reach as many as one million children in the year 2014. Together, we can make knowledge and joy possible and accessible for the world's most at-risk children, so that environment does not shape a person's outcome: the power of their own stories do.

With our gratitude for your support and interest in LitWorld,

Pam+Ellen



### Why?

57 million primary school-aged children are out of school and 250 million more children are in school but are not learning. Providing all children with quality basic education could boost annual economic growth by at least two percent in low-income countries.

LitWorld is taking urgent action to address the global learning crisis by creating practical, innovative solutions to help children and young adults grow in ways that are fresh and new, building resilience and capacities for lifelong learning.

### How?

Our programs are centered around the child's own story, the power of a supportive community, and advocacy for literacy as a human right. LitWorld believes that everyone has stories that can change the world.

LitWorld's model of social emotional learning is designed around the LitWorld 7 Strengths – Belonging, Curiosity, Kindness, Friendship, Confidence, Courage, and Hope – key ideas for building resilience.

## LitWorld's Core Programs

LitClubs & LitCamps fill critical out-of-school time with joyful learning, creative play, and social interaction. Trained mentors support children as they learn to value their own and others' stories and use their reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills to work towards their dreams.

LitWorld's high-need Innovation Hub regions center our resources in physical headquarters where our on-the-ground team members run LitWorld programs including lending libraries, technology labs, and family LitClubs to cultivate sustainable community growth through the power of story.

Our advocacy-based programs, including World Read Aloud Day, Stand Up for Girls, and LitFests, engage hundreds of thousands of communities in over 75 countries, creating a worldwide network of champions for equal access to quality learning experiences.



### What are LitWorld's Results?

- A positive change in overall literacy levels and reading and writing habits of all community members
- Deeply developed mentor relationships and strong support networks
- A dramatic increase in children's reading and writing capacities, civic engagement, future outlook, and sense of personal value.



## Select 2013 Accomplishments

2013 was an exhilarating year. We increased the depth of our existing programs and brought our work to many new communities, reaching millions of people around the world. Since our founding we have placed deliberate focus on taking time to build models that will be sustainable and transformational for participants. We have created structures and tools to make our models scalable and easily replicable in a variety of contexts. In 2013 many of these tools took flight from concept development to pilot phases.

Our success was possible because of the leaders who oversee and run our programs through our on-the-ground partner organizations. In 2013 we put robust structures for communication and collaboration in place to maintain a holistic understanding of our day-to-day operations happening around the world. Through weekly video chat check-ins and written reports, setting and working towards professional learning goals, and increasing networking opportunities among our leaders themselves, we watched all of our team members take on new challenges and exercise and extend their leadership.

To provide this same training and level of professional development on a wider scale, we created the LitPower Platform, which went live in 2013. This online portal provides access to our LitClub curriculum, training program, and supplementary resources and uses visual, video, and social networking components so LitWorld's leaders can access our tools to maximize the effectiveness of their programs. We piloted the first edition of the platform and collected feedback from the field to help us calibrate the content and rollout and to inform our work for the continuation of the LitClub curriculum.

In 2013 we designed and piloted a reproducible monitoring and evaluation tool for collecting data and measuring the impact and effectiveness of the LitClub program with a focus on tracking participants' sense of self, civic engagement, future outlook, and academic engagement. This will allow us to accurately represent our effectiveness and progress, ensuring that LitClubs continue to meet our communities' needs effectively. The ability to share and explain the impact and results of our work in this deeper and more quantitative way will help us raise funding for further program expansion and increase our presence in global education conversation.

#### LitWorld litworld.org



### LitClub & LitCamp Highlights

LitWorld's revolutionary LitClubs and LitCamps cultivate social-emotional development, using out-of-school time to build resilience and academic engagement together. Guided by LitWorld's ''7 Strengths'' – Belonging, Curiosity, Kindness, Friendship, Confidence, Courage, and Hope – trained mentors create supportive communities where children learn to value their own and others' stories, become powerful readers, and use literature as a guide as they learn to navigate their lives and tell their own stories.

In 2013 133 LitClubs and LitCamps ran in 12 countries on 5 continents giving more than 3,200 children and families a safe, praise-centric environment to understand and share who they are and who they want to become. Our on-the-ground leaders ran these programs in Ghana, India, Haiti, Kenya, Kosovo, Nepal, Pakistan, Peru, the Philippines, Rwanda, Uganda, and the United States.

In 2013 we began to write and pilot a second year of the LitClub curriculum and several variations on our LitCamp curriculum to tap more fully into the power of mentorship, and to address effectively the needs of new partner communities. The dual-powered combination of mentorship from trusted adults and community-building with peers ensures that LitClub and LitCamp members receive the support they need to cultivate a positive sense of self, remain engaged in learning opportunities, feel confident in their futures, and strive to improve the world around them.

The girls of our longest running LitClubs in Harlem and Kibera crossed exciting milestones this year. Our Kibera LitClub girls graduated from middle school and we began to hold "think tank" sessions with them to discover how LitClub mentorship could best accompany them during a time of transition. Simultaneously, the members of our Harlem teen LitClub entered their senior year of high school. We ran special college preparation sessions to work through the application process and to write plans outlining each girls personal goals, goals for her community, and her plans for the future: educational, emotional and economic.

LitCamps were a major news story in 2013, featured on NBC New York and Bloomberg TV, and in an Associated Press article that circulated through newspapers and online magazines across the United States, showing LitWorld's work as a model of much-needed transformational programs to provide children with joyful learning opportunities year-round.



#### Innovation Hub Highlights

Our Innovation Hub program, launched in 2012, continues to facilitate new ways of training, communicating, collecting data, and engaging all generations in the creation of a vibrant, dynamic and sustainable culture of reading and writing. This year we focused on deepening our work at each Hub location by offering extended programs and services for all community members. We more than doubled our number of community participants, reaching at least 2,600 children, teens, and adults across our four Innovation Hub locations in Harlem, NYC, USA, Kibera, Kenya, Bulacan, Philippines, and Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

Each Innovation Hub space houses a LitWorld library, stocked with books and technology for program and community use. In addition to providing space for LitClubs and LitCamps, these libraries also allow us to run programs for children who are not yet old enough to be in LitClubs, creating leadership opportunities for older LitClub members and LitClub graduates to serve as junior mentors and librarians.

We run regular LitFest celebrations at our Innovation Hub spaces to cultivate relationships with families and community members, sharing books and resources to boost local literacy culture.

In 2013 we used our Innovation Hub program to run new variations of the LitClub and LitCamp models. Our Moms LitClub program reached over 150 women in our Innovation Hub locations, as well as in Rwinkwavu, Rwanda, combining literacy empowerment and social support with life skills development, including technology training, sewing lessons, and food and nutrition workshops. Our intergenerational LitClub at the Hebrew Home for the Aged in Riverdale, New York continued to bring young men in foster care from the Children's Village and the elders of the Hebrew Home together to share their stories and life experiences.

In Harlem, New York, we began piloting Story21, a family LitClub program that provides tablet technology, mentorship, and guidance to families as they embark on the path to 21st century literacy. Story21 integrates the power of story and personal narrative with technology to engage families in literacy growth. We launched this initiative in the fall of 2013 with 17 families in partnership with Broadway Housing Communities.



Who do you Stand Up for? tan I Stand Up for... Friend LitWorld litworld.org 10.11.13

# World Read Aloud Day & Stand Up for Girls Highlights

Over 750 million people around the world cannot read or write. The urgency of this number demands action from girls, boys, women, and men everywhere. LitWorld's advocacy programs unite the global community to stand up for every child's right to access learning opportunities and literary stories that will open a world of possibility and illuminate a hopeful path for their futures.

In 2013 our network of "WRADvocates," a group of reading advocates, community leaders and supporters, helped us reach and engage exponentially more people in 2013 by spreading the LitWorld movement online. This year we gained 5,100 fans and followers on Facebook and Twitter and the content we shared online reached over 15 million people through likes, shares and retweets. Our online community rallies together during our major advocacy moments and also engages in our social movement year-round, promoting LitWorld accomplishments, sharing LitWorld innovations as they relate to current events, and coming together to fund LitCamp for 500 children during our first Giving Tuesday campaign in December.

Our fourth annual World Read Aloud Day was celebrated on March 6th, 2013 in over 65 countries with more than one million people coming together to read and raise awareness about the power of reading aloud to boost literacy levels and outcomes for children. In New York LitWorld's inspirational events held at two public schools and a beloved community bookstore brought 500 children, teens, teachers, families, and notable authors together. World Read Aloud Day 2013 was a featured story in the New York Daily News, Publisher's Weekly, and School Library Journal, among other news outlets.

In the fall of 2013 we ran our third annual Stand Up for Girls program in honor of the UN sanctioned International Day of the Girl on October 11th. The leaders at our LitClubs and Innovation Hubs planned and led events in their communities, motivating over 4,000 people of all ages and genders to take action for every girl's right to tell her story and lead a self-determined future through equal learning opportunities. LitWorld's signature Stand Up for Girls event in New York City brought 200 teenagers and community members together to use their own stories to speak out for literacy as a human right.

### Partners

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

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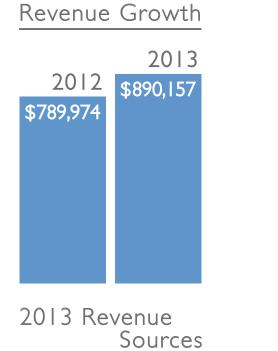
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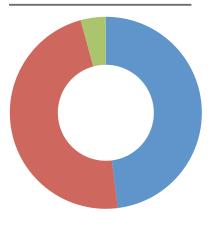
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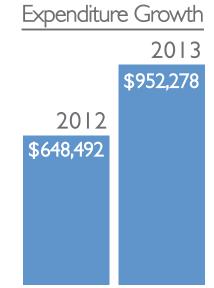
# 2013 Financial Highlights



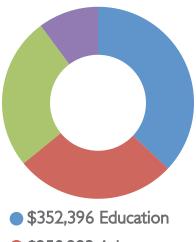


• \$427,424 Individual Donations

 \$425,054 Grants & Corporate Funding
\$37,680 Programming Revenue



2013 Expenditure Allocations



- \$258,293 Advocacy
- \$244,726 Operations
- \$96,863 Innovation 20

2013 LitCircle



## LitCircle

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