



LET'S WORK TOGETHER TO
BUILD FUTURE LEADERS AND
AVID READERS IN DOMINICA



INTEGRITY | EQUITY | COLLABORATION

THELEADERSREADERSNETWORK.ORG

FOUNDED 2012



Dear Julie Ruiz and Altrusa International of Temple, Texas,

I hope you're doing well. I'm reaching out about a continued partnership with The Leaders Readers Network (TLRN), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to literacy for all kids. Thank you for your past support. Like Altrusa, TLRN believes everyone can make a positive difference.

Since our mission began 13 years ago, we've remained committed to "Inspiring Dreams for Children in Dominica." Inspired by the community in Dominica's Kalinago Territory during our time there in 2011-2012, my team and I founded Give More HUGS in 2012 to provide books and educational supplies to underserved communities. In 2020, we rebranded as The Leaders Readers Network, expanding literacy projects across the U.S., and beyond, but our heart still remains in Dominica.

While we have made great strides, we still face challenges. This is where support from organizations like Altrusa are vital. By supporting The Leaders Readers Network, you can directly contribute to long-term solutions through our literacy programs which include our Literacy Fellowship, classroom libraries, and working with youth through our Student Ambassador and Reading Buddy Project. Enclosed in this packet is more information about each project.

On behalf of our board and staff, we invite you to join us in this critical work through financial support or signing up to volunteer with our team to serve and read with kids in Dominica in August 2025. Together, we can provide essential literacy resources to ensure Dominica students become future leaders and avid readers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Chris McGilvery'.

Chris McGilvery

Founder and Executive Director

INTEGRITY | EQUITY | COLLABORATION

THELEADERSREADERSNETWORK.ORG

FOUNDED 2012



INTRODUCTION

At The Leaders Readers Network (TLRN), we believe that every child, regardless of background, deserves access to comprehensive literacy resources. Our network of dedicated leaders and educators are passionate about bridging the literacy gap in underfunded schools and underserved communities. Our work goes beyond just supplying books; our diverse and culturally relevant collections are curated to resonate with the unique experiences of every child, and our literacy programming develops student mentors and educators to engage every child and get them excited about reading. By intertwining literacy and leadership, The Leaders Readers Network catalyzes long-lasting and meaningful change. We invite you to join us in opening worlds of possibilities, one book and one child at a time.

Mission

Cultivate a national network of leaders who provide books, supplies, and projects to support early literacy in underfunded schools.

Vision

Empower teachers and students to be lifelong advocates for creating equal access to educational opportunity for all children.

Core Values

INTEGRITY

EQUITY

COLLABORATION

WHAT GROUNDS THIS WORK IN DOMINICA?

For years, children in Dominica have faced significant disruptions to their education due to devastating hurricanes, the COVID-19 pandemic, and ongoing rebuilding efforts. These challenges have led to prolonged school closures, contributing to historically low literacy rates. Recognizing this urgent need, we remain committed to Inspiring Dreams for Children in Dominica by providing books, supplies, and mentorship.

To create lasting change, The Leaders Readers Network has built strong partnerships with school leaders, volunteers, local businesses, and shipping companies to ensure books and supplies reach students in need. Support from organizations like Altrusa International will help sustain these efforts, ensuring future generations in Dominica have the resources to thrive.

INTEGRITY | EQUITY | COLLABORATION

THELEADERSREADERSNETWORK.ORG

FOUNDED 2012

OUR PROGRAMS

LITERACY FELLOWSHIP

The Literacy Fellowship provides teachers and librarians with free professional development, a diverse classroom library, literacy enrichment activities, and brand new books for students to support equitable education and prioritize literacy efforts in the classroom. As teachers and librarians inspire a love of reading, a new generation of leaders emerges, with their students supporting younger children in their literacy journey.

Through the Literacy Fellowship, teachers and principals:

- Receive books, supplies, and curriculum that enable literacy efforts in the classroom
- Opportunities to bring volunteers local volunteers, as well as from the United States
- Inspire students to be future leaders and avid readers

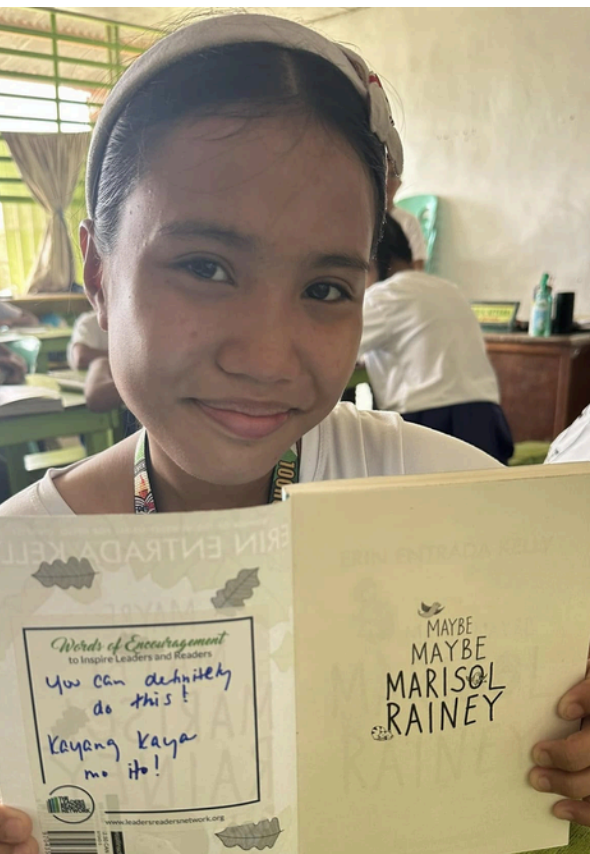


STUDENT AMBASSADORS

The Student Ambassador Project empowers students (ages 13 - 24) to harness their leadership skills and take an active role in addressing the systemic inequities in education faced by traditionally marginalized communities. Student ambassadors educate others about the unequal access to and opportunity in education, while learning how to collaborate with community members to address these inequities and improve literacy outcomes. Student ambassadors organize service projects, provide underfunded schools with books and school supplies, and become valuable advocates for education equity in their communities.

Through the Student Ambassador Project, students:

- Learn to identify community resources that reach underserved communities
- Adopt a classroom, grade level or school with books twice a year to improve the literacy gaps witnessed in Dominica
- Develop leadership skills through project development and execution



INTEGRITY | EQUITY | COLLABORATION

THELEADERSREADERSNETWORK.ORG

FOUNDED 2012



OUR PROGRAMS

CLASSROOM LIBRARY PROJECT

The Classroom Library Project provides teachers from underfunded schools the opportunity to diversify the books available in their classrooms. Teachers apply to receive books representing the culture and diversity of their students, enabling students to better relate to the characters and envision themselves in the stories. The Classroom Libraries Project supports teachers in empowering students to develop a love for reading.

Impact of The Classroom Library Project:

- Provides teachers there own selection of classroom library with lessons to engage in whole class read alouds and independent reading
- Supports teachers in the goal of helping to develop a love for reading among students
- Empowers children to read with a diverse selection of books

READING BUDDY PROJECT

The Reading Buddy Project is a character development initiative where older students mentor younger students by reading books that emphasize important character traits. Throughout the school year, students in grades 3-5 lead service projects and participate in activities that develop their own character while teaching younger students about respect, empathy, kindness, and more. Educators in our network guide these older students as they learn leadership skills through texts and hands-on activities, passing on valuable lessons to younger grades.

Impact of The Reading Buddy Project:

- Provides older students (grades 3-5) with opportunities to build leadership and character traits
- Empowers students to mentor younger peers through reading and service projects
- Teaches important character development skills, such as respect, empathy, teamwork, and resilience
- Fosters a sense of responsibility and integrity in both older and younger students



INTEGRITY | EQUITY | COLLABORATION

THELEADERSREADERSNETWORK.ORG

FOUNDED 2012

OVERALL IMPACT OVER THE YEARS



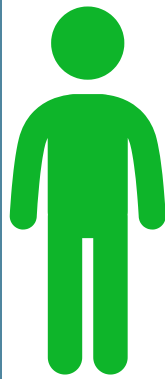
OVER

408,301 Books

have been provided to students.

7,331

Middle School, High School,
and College students have
been trained and mentored.



7,181

Educators implemented
literacy and service
projects in their
classrooms and schools.



WE HAVE ECLIPSED

477,844

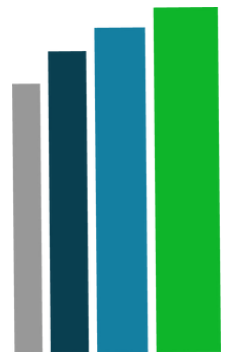
volunteer hours.



WE HAVE COLLABORATED WITH...

1507

ORGANIZATIONS AND PARTNERS TO BOOST
LITERACY AT SCHOOLS ACROSS TEXAS AND
IN THE UNITED STATES.



INTEGRITY | EQUITY | COLLABORATION

THELEADERSREADERSNETWORK.ORG

FOUNDED 2012

OUR PARTNERSHIP

The Leaders Readers Network has proven successful over the years and remains committed to supporting educators and students in Dominica. Your partnership, whether it is a financial commitment or signing up to volunteer during our next Dominica Service Trip in August 2025. More information will be available by Mid-March on specific dates for volunteers to sign up.

With your help, we can provide high quality literacy resources Dominica children need to succeed in school and life, which will have a lasting impact. A financial partnership with The Leaders Readers Network will allow us to expand our projects. With ongoing support, we can ensure children in Dominica have bright futures.



NIA BELLE, STUDENT AMBASSADOR, FROM THE KALINAGO TERRITORY

"Literacy plays a major role in a student's success. It is important we encourage students to develop a love a reading from a very young age. Books help improve vocabulary, comprehension and writing skills. A good book sparks imagination and a love for reading. I encourage students and teachers in Dominica and the US to get involved in this initiative," explained Nia.

INTEGRITY | EQUITY | COLLABORATION

THELEADERSREADERSNETWORK.ORG

FOUNDED 2012

VOLUNTEER WITH US



CALL TO ACTION

Be part of something bigger. Sign up for our volunteer email list and experience the joy of giving back as you help shape the future of children in your community through reading and mentorship.



WAYS TO VOLUNTEER:

- ✓ Read Aloud Opportunities
- ✓ Community Book Giveaways
- ✓ Words of Encouragement Service Project
- ✓ Mentor Student Leaders

SIGN-UP TODAY



Scan QR Code
For information

INTEGRITY | EQUITY | COLLABORATION

THELEADERSREADERSNETWORK.ORG

FOUNDED 2012

KEEP IN TOUCH







**LET'S WORK TOGETHER
TO BUILD FUTURE LEADERS + AVID READERS**



Chris McGilvery

FOUNDER & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR


-  PO BOX 1313, Canyon, Texas 79015
-  (806) 759-5401
-  Chris@leadersreadersnetwork.org
-  <https://theleadersreadersnetwork.org>

REGIONAL CONTACTS



Patrick Miller



REGIONAL DIRECTOR, PANHANDLE

-  (806)420-7100
-  Patrick@leadersreadersnetwork.org



Therese Shields

REGIONAL DIRECTOR, SAN ANTONIO

-  (210) 883-4026
-  Therese@leadersreadersnetwork.org