



# ATC Goes Virtual!

*Alexandria Tutoring Consortium • Annual Report • October, 2020*

## **Pandemic A New Challenge for ATC**

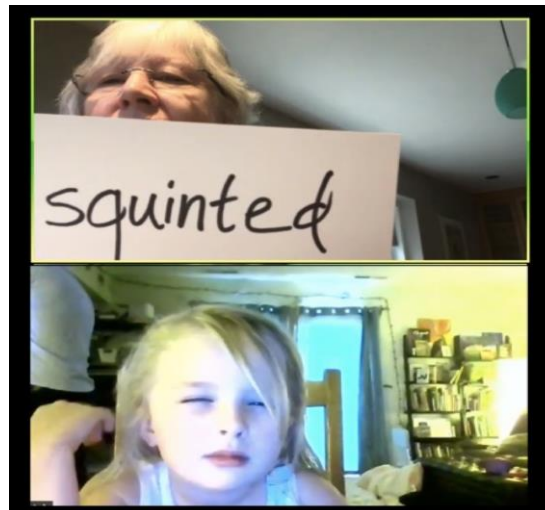
*But Not Insurmountable! 91% of students finish program reading on grade level*

ATC began the 2019-2020 school year as it has for the last 23 years – working with Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) teachers and staff liaisons to identify students who were reading just above or just below grade level in kindergarten, first and second grade and who needed help. Normal, one-on-one tutoring for 169 struggling readers ran from the fall through early spring.

In March, COVID-19 brought an abrupt halt to everything – but not ATC’s determination to help children learn to read. Within a few weeks of the school-wide shutdown, ATC resumed tutoring, albeit differently than any other year. For the first time ever, ATC delivered tutoring “virtually” and then piloted a summer program. Dedication to student success paid off: of the 101 students who received virtual tutoring, 91 percent ended tutoring reading books on grade level. Read on to learn more about this most unusual year.



*ATC trained volunteers tutored 101 students virtually from April through mid-August this year.*



# Dedication and Creativity of our 204 Tutors Highlight Year

ATC has always valued the community members who volunteer their time to get trained for tutoring and then devote an hour or two a week to changing a child's life. Traditionally, they combat traffic, walk miles down hallways, and sometimes arrive at school to discover that it's a field trip/early release/sick kid/fill-in-the-blank day and no tutoring can happen. Then COVID came, and many of these already intrepid souls agreed to join us in essentially creating a virtual tutoring program from scratch. ATC honors every single one of the 204 individuals who generously gave their time and service, both in person and over the phone or videoconference. We are truly in awe of your devotion, creativity, and belief in our city's children.

Allen Anderson	Barbara Fallon	Linda Lawhorne	Susan Royles
Nancy Clayton Ault	Anne Farr	Christine Levesque	Kit Ruland
Kelley Baker	Julia Ferrill	Jean Lewis	Nena Sandhu
Bonnie Barrett	Claudia Fletcher	Anne L'Heureux	Mary Savino
Amy Barron	Glenn Gamber	Amy Lipscomb	Chris Scheper
Catherine Barry	Tom Gannon	Barbara Lipsky	Evelyn Schulman
Paul Bea	Morgan Garner	Betsy Lohmann	Fern Schwartz
MaryAnne Beatty	Douglas Garthoff	Stacy Long	Retha Sherrod
Denise Benoit	Teri Gennarelli	Margaret Lorber	Lynne Simpson
Patsy Bergen	Bobbie Gershman	Jennifer Lyon	Deron Singh
Elfie Biankini	Mercedes Gilliom	Eman Mahmoud	Karen Skinner
Susan Blatt	Rick Glassco	Manorma Malik	Katharine Smeallie
Jessica Blumberg	Sarah Glassco	Yael Mangum	Mary Jo Smet
Linda Botsford	Barbara Glomb	Alan Margolis	David Smith
Debbie Bowman	Donna Gold	Donna Martin	Robert Snyder
Cameron Brenchley	Brittany Gonzalez	Charlotte Martinsson	Connie Southard
Loretta Britten	Judy Grey	Milagros Mateu	Katherine Stanford
Kay Brown	Jenell Grier-Spratley	Alvina McHale	Jean Stave
Marie-France Bunting	Susan Griffith	Sue McIver	Patricia Sugrue
Joan Burrelli	Sherry Grossman	Jean McKean	Molly Sullivan
Willis Bush	Lawrence Grubbs	Robin McKiel	Mary Tanner
Jan Campbell	Toni Gualtieri	Marilyn McMahan	Catherine Theisen
Gillian Carlisle	Ellen Harmon	Jackelyn Medina	Linda Thoms
Laura Carroll	Patricia Harris	Betty Mills	Kathryn Toohy
Abigail Casas	Karen Harris	Christina Mooney	Nicole Tousley
Patricia Casey	Jen Heilig	Richard Morton	Eleanor Trice
Khadija Chaar	Julianna Henley	Julianne Mulhollan	Robyn Trump
Liz Chien	Don Horne	Christine Muth	Sandra Tuccio
Carol Christensen	Meghan Hoyer	Robin Muthig	Elizabeth Turnbull
Dick Christenson	Jessica Hughes	Tasha Newill	Susan Van Way
Jim Clark	Pamela Hunt	Bobbie O'Brien	Eileen G Wallace
Michael Clinkscale	Joyce Husick	Ann O'Hanlon	Karen Waller
Unique Coleman	Jazmen Jackson	Harry Oxford	Karen Ward
Mary Lou Collins	Bill Jacobs	David Pace	Janet Warner
Yvonne Cooper	Rae Ellen James	Jill Page	Mary Anne Warner
Janice Corbett	Hannah James	Monica Parry	Howard Weiss
Susan Cottrol	Diana Jarrett	Bob Pasley	Julie West
Mike Crifasi	Walter Jarrett	Lawrence Patent	Celia Wexler
Anna Davis	Antonio Jenkins	Doug Peterson	Julia Wilcox
Catherine Davis	Eileen Jinks	Laurel Philibin	Claire Wiles
Julie Dillinger	Tom Kemler	Josephine Porterfield	Harrison Williams
Nora Donovan	Con Kenney	Randall Prescott	Linda Witkin
Vicki Doran	Taylor Kiland	Ann Principato	Katherine Wittmer
Troy Drafton	Patrick Killeen	Barbara Quirk	Margaret Wohler
Julie Duke	Vicki Kimble	Lois Rawson	Linda Woodhouse
Laura Dunkel	Joan Kotze	Aswin Rengarajan	Susan Woodruff
Marianna Dunn	Judith Kramer	Brooke Roberts	Valarie Wright
Robert Dunn	Andrea Lacey	Monica Rojas Sanchez	Carly Wright
Courtenay Engelke	Loyd LaMois	Martha Romans	Janice Yeadon
David Erion	Kristin Langlykke	Rhonda Rose	Jill Zacharie
Ann Ewers	Maya LaSida	Nancy Rottenecker	Priscilla Ziegler

## Student Success #1 Priority

The year began as usual with ATC Coordinators training 201 community volunteers in the Book Buddies curriculum and Reading Readiness program so they could tutor 169 students one-on-one in ten elementary school programs. Things were on track for a strong year.

In March, when ACPS closed the schools due to the coronavirus and shifted instruction to virtual delivery, ATC board and staff spent a few weeks determining whether, and how, the organization could continue to help its students. Several tutors had already indicated they were prepared to continue tutoring, even if that meant virtually. The initial goal was to try distance tutoring for 30 to 50 students.

Through hard work, creativity and patience, ATC staff and ACPS teachers exceeded the original goal and connected with 101 of the 128 Book Buddies students to attempt virtual tutoring. The board approved the purchase of leveled readers for tutors to use with students, since all tutoring supplies had been left in the classrooms. As books were delivered to the students' homes, tutoring recommenced. The results were outstanding.

ATC will provide Book Buddies tutoring to students from all ten ATC schools in 2020-2021, all first graders, all virtual. Alexandria's kids need help learning to read, and ATC's trained and dedicated tutors will be there for them, pandemic or not.

### *In Person Tutoring*

- 169 K Reading Readiness and K, 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Book Buddies Students
- 10 Schools
- 201 Tutors
- 5 months of tutoring
- 4555 sessions
- Making typically strong gains

### *Virtual Tutoring*

- 101 K and 1<sup>st</sup> Book Buddies
- 9 Schools
- 113 Tutors
- Up to 4 months of tutoring
- 2305 sessions
- 91% ending On Grade Level

## Reading Readiness Served Students Well

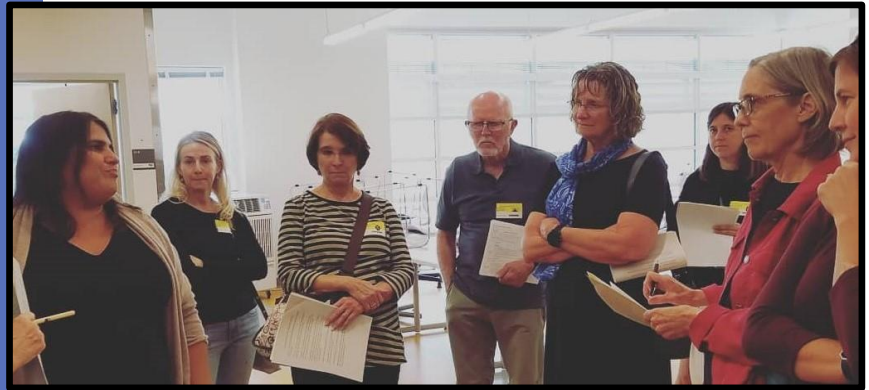


ATC offered its Reading Readiness program to 41 kindergarten students in John Adams and Patrick Henry elementary schools with twice weekly, 30-minute, one-on-one tutoring sessions. Students and tutors were progressing at rates similar to past years (88 percent of students reading on grade level by the end of last year, for example). However, ATC's board and staff decided not to attempt Reading Readiness through virtual tutoring; therefore ATC has no end-of-year program data.

This program was run for years by Pat Lovo and Sissy Walker (at left), two long-time Alexandria educators who volunteered their time. Both have retired from ATC and we salute their and their tutors' service. They will be missed!

# Promoting Literacy Across Alexandria

ATC proudly returned to Jefferson-Houston Elementary School this year. Book Buddies Coordinator Courtney Lombardi (at left in the above photo) led a dedicated team of mostly new tutors who served ten terrific kids, including this happy reader at right.



Prior to school closings, ATC tutors and staff welcomed Rep. Don Beyer to Samuel Tucker Elementary School (at left) to read to Book Buddies students. In March, Mr. Randolph Woodson, Jr. (below) from the Alexandria Fire Department read to Charles Barrett first graders.



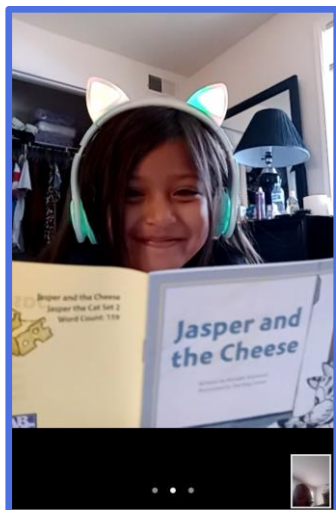
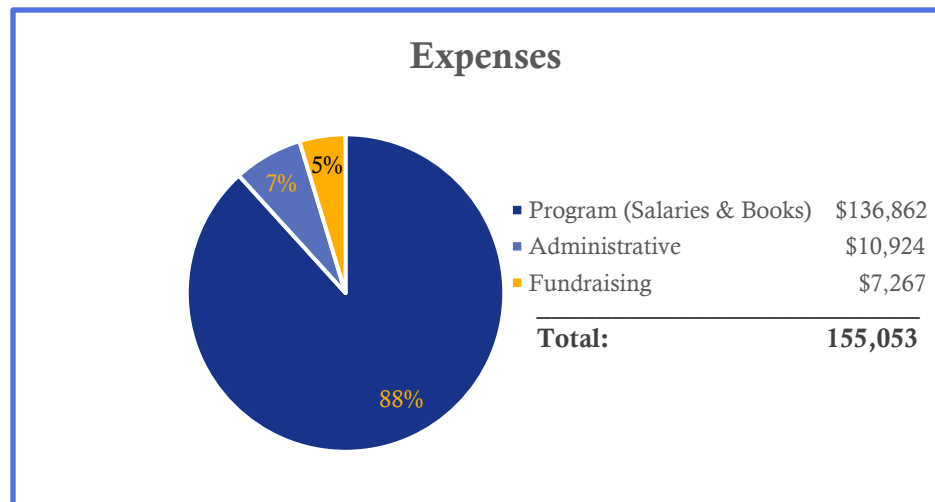
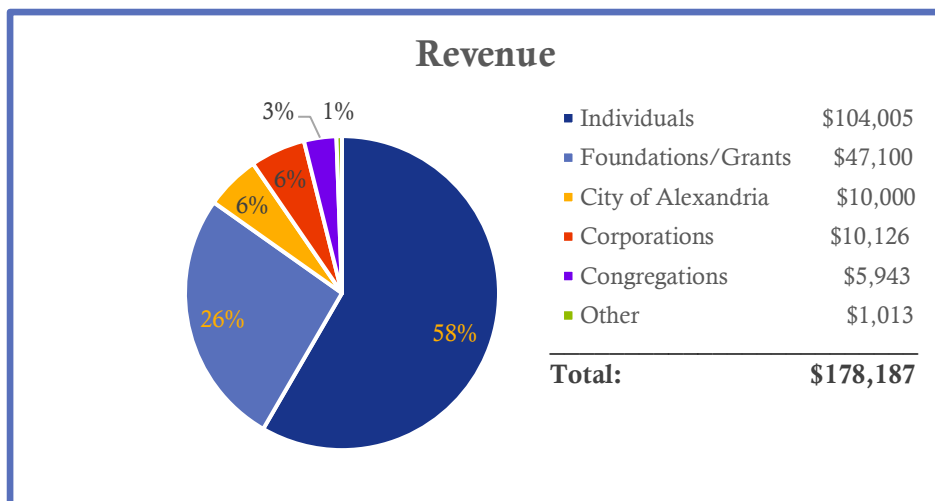
# Big Rewards at Modest Cost

*88% of Spending on The Kids*

ATC revenue was on a strong trajectory as the year progressed. The coronavirus initially shut down fundraising, but the ATC community rallied during April's Annual Spring2ACTION campaign, contributing over \$42,000 in donations, an all-time high. ATC also received \$6,667 from the Paycheck Protection Program, part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act.

Expenses were typical this year, with Executive Director, Program Advisor and seven Book Buddies Coordinators salaries representing almost 90 percent of outlays. ATC's board redirected resources to purchase books for virtual tutoring. ATC ends the year with a \$23,134 net gain.

As always, we are grateful to the Old Presbyterian Meeting House, which provides free office space for the ATC Executive Director and other significant office support, for its strong partnership again this year.



# Foundation of Our Success: Donors

## **Champions of Literacy (\$10,000 +)**

Marshall Foundation · Maple Tree Fund · Karen & Bill Schuiling

## **Literacy Partners (\$2,500 - \$9,999)**

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## **Literacy Benefactors (\$1,000 - \$2,499)**

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## **Leadership Circle (\$500 - \$999)**

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## **Supporters (up to \$249)**

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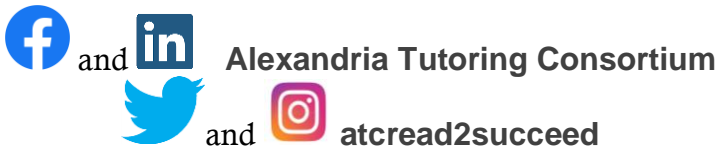
# Strengthening Fundraising Outreach

ATC built upon its strong base of donors to expand fundraising this year, paving the way for an academically successful year and the ability to adapt to a virtual tutoring program. More local business and corporate donors, returning and new individual donors who supported us through small cocktail events and online fundraisers like Spring2ACTion and the Summer Book Drive, and sustaining donors who are willing to make multi-year commitments have all made it possible for ATC to serve students no matter the circumstance, to help each and every child learn to read.

The **Lions of Literacy** campaign, spearheaded by former ATC Board Chair Jim Roberts, has successfully concluded, raising \$16,750. ATC thanks the original Lions – Laurie Blackburn, Gerry Cooper & Nancy Van Gulick, Mike & Louise Kenny, Jane & Jerry Murrell, Jim Roberts, Peter Smeallie, Eugene Steuerle, Daniel & Linda Vilardo, and John Woods Jr. & Donna Cramer -- who made three-year pledges to financially support ATC. To those of you who missed your chance – don't worry! ATC is renewing and expanding the Lions of Literacy campaign; more information coming soon.



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2020-2021

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### *Advisory Council*

ATC's board established an **Advisory Council**, whose members will serve as an ad hoc resource available to assist the organization in fundraising, operational issues, or a specific project.

ATC welcomes **Steve Shaw** and **Brooksie Koopman** as its first two appointees.

ATC recognizes retiring board members **Brooksie Koopman**, **Latta Chapman**, **Binh Tran**, **Jermaine Mincey** and **Charles Buki**. We are grateful for your service.

### *Staff*

**Lisa Jacobs**, Executive Director  
**Alison Jones**, Program Advisor  
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