



# Books for Classrooms

*All children deserve to see themselves in books in their classrooms.*

January 15, 2024

To: AZ Women's Partnership  
From: Linda Laird, Books for Classrooms (B4C)  
Re: 2023 Grant Report

In April 2023 we were honored to receive a second grant in the amount of \$1,500 from the AZ Women's Partnership to move further forward on our ongoing project (initiated in 2021) to support literacy development for the underserved youth on the Tohono O'odham reservation in Southwestern Arizona.

Expected to be a five-year project, this project is focused to upgrade and provide high-quality supplementary diverse reading books with an emphasis on Indigenous authors and subject matter for all Baboquivari School District classrooms and libraries and to see literacy scores rise.

The AZ Women's Partnership 2023 grant purchased high-quality diverse books for the Baboquivari Elementary Intermediate School library in Sells, Arizona. Principal JoLynn Begay-Lewis is excited and very appreciative about the progress being made to bring up-to-date, attention-getting books into her school and reported that her reading scores more than doubled last year.

This 4th-6th grade school serving 255 Title I students is 95% Indigenous. In providing two years of funding, the AZ Women's Partnership grants have delivered books both to the middle school classrooms and to the middle school library. Your generosity is creating better opportunities for the 255 students at this Elementary/Intermediate School and Books for Classrooms has been proud to partner with your organization to make this possible.

Since student books, on average, have a shelf life of five years, the books funded by AZ Women's Partnership's two \$1,500 grants initially impact 255 students. However, over a five-year period, approximately 1,280 students will have had access to these books at a cost of only 40 cents/student.

In summary, by winter 2023, with the support of dozens of community-based foundations, Books for Classrooms has delivered over 50,000 books to more than 20,000 Pima County Title I students.

Thank you for your interest and your strong support. It has meant a great deal to our diverse, all-women Board of Directors and to our all-volunteer organization that AZ Women's Partnership chose to honor Books for Classrooms with their support.

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