



# Best Beginnings Impact Report

Fiscal Year 2017



## GROWING READERS

**Kindergarten readiness starts with reading.** The research is clear and the experts agree, children who have access to books and are read to from birth will have greater academic success.

Getting high-quality books into children's hands, encouraging parents and caregivers to read with their children, and creating unique early literacy opportunities is **growing readers** in Alaska.

231,887 books mailed to Alaska children through Imagination Library

605 individuals participated in StoryTRACKS, an interactive early literacy activity

20,083 children in 107 Alaska communities received a brand-new, high-quality book each month at no cost to their families

85% of parents read more with their children because of Imagination Library in Alaska



## BUILDING STRONG FAMILIES

**Parents are a child's first and most influential teacher.** When parents are engaged with their young children in meaningful ways, children are better prepared to form friendships, communicate emotions, and deal with challenges - all critical skills for success in school and beyond.

Creating opportunities for meaningful parent-child interaction as well as educational materials and tools is **building strong families** in Alaska.

152 family events put on by Best Beginnings and its partners

9,337 attendees at free family events



826 early learning tools and materials provided to Alaskans

85% of Imagination Library parents are closer with their child as a result of reading together





## ENGAGING COMMUNITY

If all Alaska children are to begin school ready to succeed, Alaskans must be behind them. A community that demonstrates broad-based support for Alaska's young children and their families creates an environment and circumstance in which they can thrive.

Raising awareness, garnering volunteer and financial support, training partners, and educating Alaskans about the importance of a child's first years is **engaging community**.

159 community volunteers engaged

100% of partners receiving training learned how to better support children in their community

2,938 Alaskans accessed resources through the Best Beginnings website

46 presentations in support of early learning

## More children ready for kindergarten through leveraged resources and partnerships

Alaska Imagination Libraries spent \$479,365.19 on books and postage in FY 2017

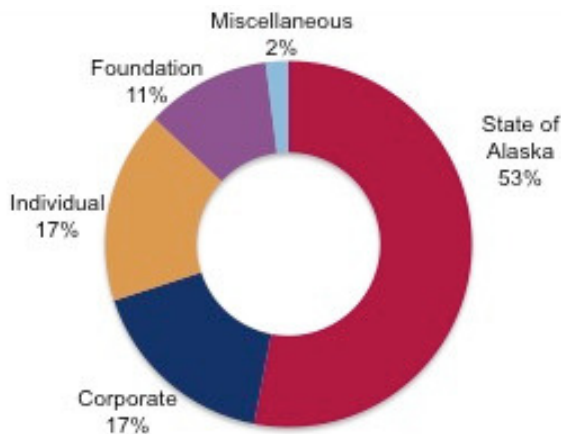
Estimated market value of books distributed through Imagination Library in Alaska in FY 2017 is \$3,014,531

## \$2.5 million dollars in cost savings was realized in FY 2017 delivering high-quality books to tens of thousands of Alaska children through Imagination Library

A big state requires big support. Dozens of partners across Alaska join Best Beginnings to serve children and families by advocating, getting books to children, sharing educational information in person or via public service announcements, volunteering, and so much more. Alone, Best Beginnings can do a great deal. With committed partners, the impact for Alaska children and families is undeniable.

## Best Beginnings Financial Summary FY 2017

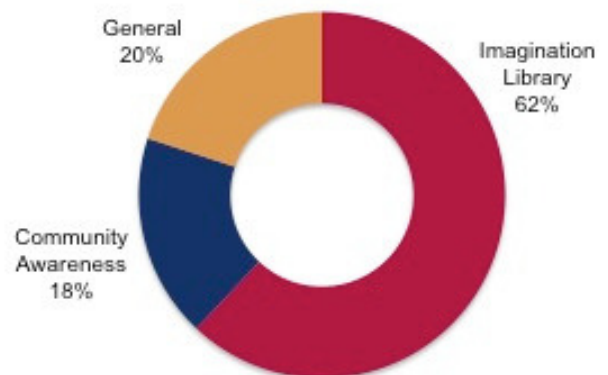
### FUNDING



State of Alaska	\$320,300
Corporate	\$101,558
Individual	\$103,447
Foundation	\$63,950
Miscellaneous	\$10,096

\*Additional funding provided through multi-year grant

### EXPENSES



Imagination Library	\$387,397
Community Awareness	\$113,443
General	\$126,978

For more information visit [www.BestBeginningsAlaska.org](http://www.BestBeginningsAlaska.org)