



PROGRAM EVALUATION REPORT

THE DIFFERENCE WE'RE MAKING TOGETHER



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REGIONS SERVED

Athens

Elberton

Warrenton

Atlanta

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For more information about Books for Keeps,
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MISSION AND VISION



What We Believe

At Books for Keeps, we believe books are a gateway to understanding the universe and the boundless possibilities contained within it for every person, regardless of their life circumstances.

By bringing the world to a child's doorstep, reading pulls a child into the world as a critical thinker, an empathic individual and an engaged citizen.

We believe providing children with open, equal access to books allows them to connect the joy of reading with the thrill of discovery, laying the foundation for a successful, fulfilling life.

What We Do

We work to improve children's reading achievement by addressing barriers related to the accessibility and appeal of reading material. We give books to children whose reading opportunities outside of school might be otherwise limited due to geography, income or other factors.

We provide 12 free books each summer to every child in Athens-Clarke county elementary schools, two schools in Atlanta, one school in Elberton and one school in Warrenton – totaling 6,200 students in 2017.

We envision a world where all children have equal and consistent access to books, love to read and develop and maintain reading skills for life.

Since founded in 2011, BFK has...

...given **308,000 books** to Stop Summer Slide among students in grades K through 5.

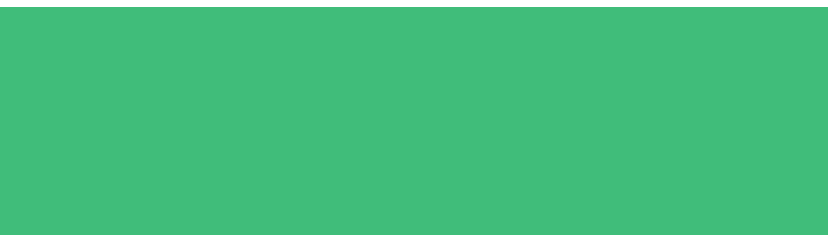
...given **6,000 books** to Pre-K students in high-need communities.

...given **13,000 books** to middle and high school students.

...given **23,000 books** to teachers and media specialists for classroom libraries.

...given **14,000 books** to partner nonprofits and literacy programs.

That's a total of **364,000 books** placed in the community.





SUMMER SLIDE AND THE BFK STRATEGY

What is Summer Slide?

Summer slide is a learning loss many children experience during summer when they are away from school. Low-income children are at higher risk of experiencing “summer slide” due to a lack of access to libraries, little parental involvement or other factors¹.

By providing children with 12 free books, Books for Keeps **helps students advance an average of 10 to 20 percent of a grade level over the summer.**

¹ Richard L. Allington 2010

In 2017...

15

Georgia
Elementary
Schools

12

FREE books
per child each
summer

6,200

Children
served

74,000

Books
given
away

THE BFK EFFECT: Graduation Rates

The Books for Keeps program is a proven, effective strategy in Georgia's efforts to get children reading on grade level. Research has shown there are direct correlations between low literacy levels and incarceration.

Reading proficiently by the end of third grade is the highest predictor of high school graduation². A student who is unable to read at grade level in the third grade is **four times less likely to graduate from high school**³. By making books free and accessible to students, BFK is helping decrease the likelihood of high school dropouts and incarceration in our communities.



2 Get Georgia Reading
3 Annie E. Casey Foundation 2010

One in 10 male students who do not complete high school will become incarcerated.



For black male students who do not complete high school, this *increases to one in four*.



DID YOU KNOW...

- # 1 Students who do not complete high school **cost society an estimated \$260,000** in lost earnings, taxes and productivity⁴.
- # 2 In Georgia, the average **cost to incarcerate** an individual for one year is **about \$21,039**⁵.
- # 3 By investing in a student's education and their future, programs like BFK **save taxpayers millions of dollars**.

4 AECF 2010
5 Vera Institute of Justice Report 2012

THE BFK EFFECT: Grade Level



“Something about ownership and their being allowed to choose twelve, really nice and popular books to take home and enjoy at no cost, simply sent our students to another level of love for literature.”

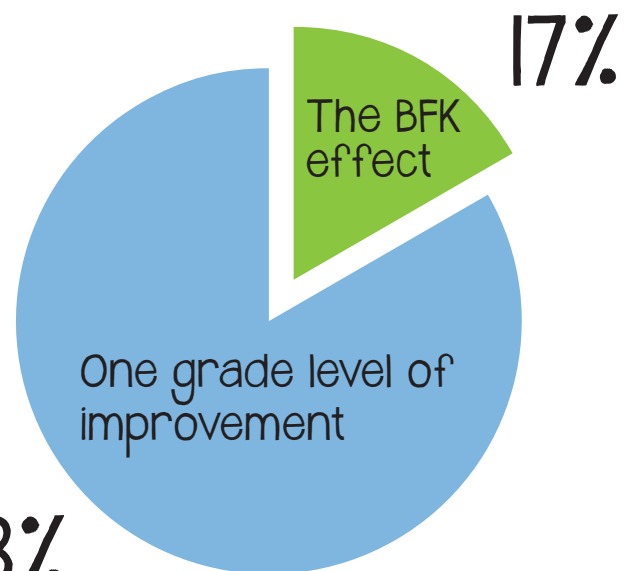
Rosa Harris, Principal
Elbert County Primary School

“I picked my daughter up from school and she was so excited... it was a bag full of beautiful and amazing books!!! Thank you for not only giving my daughter Christmas in April, but all of the children!!!”

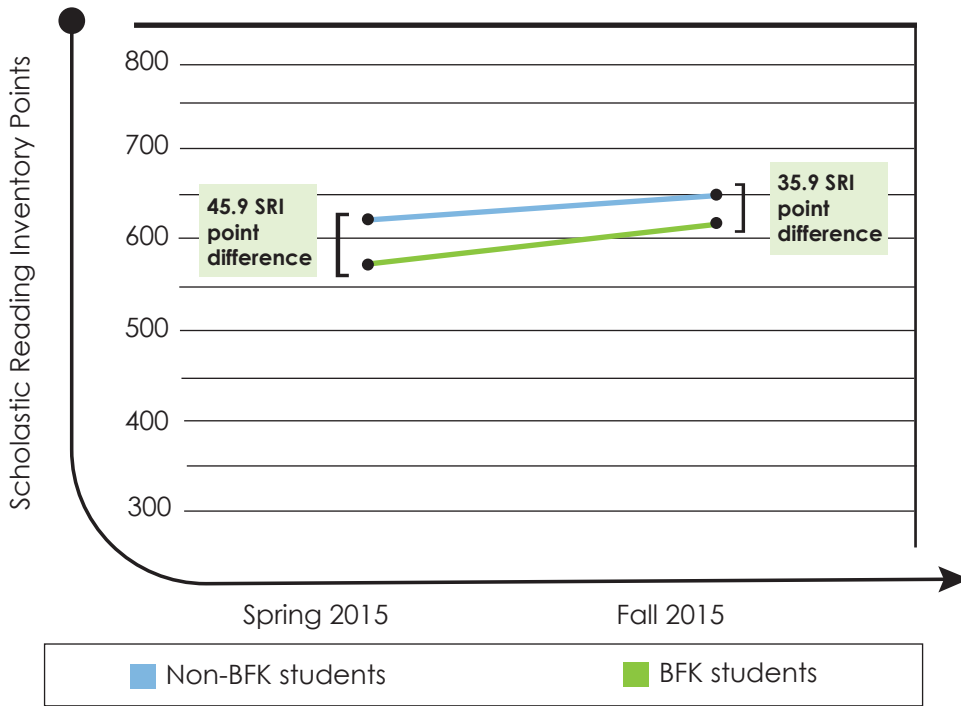
Trion Brown, Parent

With 100 Scholastic Reading Inventory points reflecting one grade level of growth, BFK students are gaining one-sixth of a grade level on average in reading comprehension during a summer spent with Books for Keeps books. That means students in the BFK program are improving reading skills even when they're out of school!

100
Scholastic
Reading
Inventory
Points
=
One grade
level



Average Summertime Gains for 3rd-5th Graders

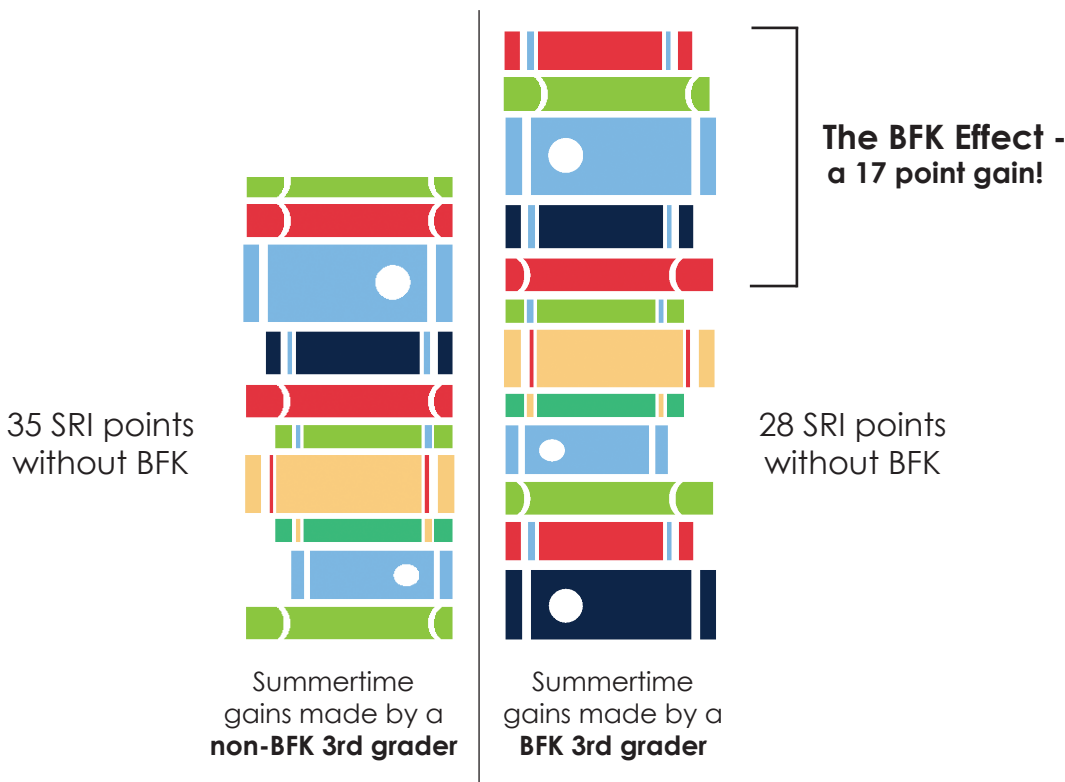


Research shows that a BFK student in the spring is reading 45.9 Scholastic Reading Inventory points below a non-BFK peer, or a little less than one half of a grade level.

This gap narrowed to 35.9 Scholastic Reading Inventory points for students in the program after a single summer, with BFK students returning in the fall a little closer to their more advantaged peers.

In short: BFK students face more challenges, but they **regain lost ground by participating in the program.**

THE BFK EFFECT: Reading Level



Take a look at 3rd graders' summertime gains!

12 books = 45 SRI points
That's nearly half of one grade level!



SPONSORSHIPS AND DONATIONS

Books for Keeps receives support from sponsors and donors throughout Georgia and beyond. Through sponsorships and donations, BFK is able to fund a variety of needs on many levels, helping students advance to the next level.

sponsors one child - 12 books!

\$30



sponsors four children!

\$120



sponsors a whole classroom!

\$600



DID YOU KNOW...

On average, it costs just

\$150 - \$300



to increase a student one grade level in reading through Books for Keeps.



“I cannot underscore how important the program is to my students and to our community at large. The day Books for Keeps visits is the most exciting day of the school year. This organization is creating a culture where children associate literacy with joy.

Deirdre Sugjuchi, Media Specialist
Oglethorpe Avenue Elementary School

THINKING AHEAD

Books for Keeps wants to expand our program reach in Georgia so no child loses educational ground during summer due to simple lack of access to books.

One school at a time, one child at a time, one book at a time – Books for Keeps will grow into a statewide organization, ensuring that every child served has the tools necessary to retain literacy skills gained during the school year.

This, in turn, supports broader educational efforts to get every child reading on grade level before middle school.

Core Strategies

1

Expand the program to all 14 Clarke County School District elementary schools.

2

Expand to a total of six Atlanta elementary schools.

3

Expand to a total of four rural Georgia schools.

4

Expand fundraising efforts to provide a broad, diversified and sustainable support base.

5

Build the organizational infrastructure to grow Books for Keeps into a statewide organization.



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Research Credits

Allington, R. L., McGill-Franzen, A., Camilli, G., Williams, L., Graff, J., Zeig, J., ... & Nowak, R. (2010). Addressing summer reading setback among economically disadvantaged elementary students. *Reading Psychology*, 31(5), 411-427.

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