



J3 FOUNDATION

Building Bold Readers for Bright Futures



J3 FOUNDATION
ANNUAL REPORT
JANUARY - JUNE 2025



NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SHORT YEAR, BIG IMPACT

Dear J3 Community,

This year our annual report reflects a short reporting period as J3 Foundation shifted to a fiscal year that aligns with the academic calendar. Covering January 1 to June 30, 2025, it captures the close of the 2024–25 school year, a season of measurable growth and **milestone achievements for our students and organization**.

During this six-month reporting period, J3 reached an important milestone: **servicing more than 1,000 students annually**, three years ahead of our original goal. Students continued to make meaningful progress in reading and confidence, with both families and teachers sharing the meaningful impact they saw in classrooms and at home. These outcomes affirm the importance of sharing results in step with the school year itself. By aligning our fiscal year with the academic calendar, we can reflect the full arc of student progress and the impact families and teachers see along the way.

We made this fiscal shift intentionally. As an organization deeply embedded in the rhythms of school communities, aligning our fiscal year with the school year allows us to tell a more complete and timely story of impact. Going forward, our Annual Reports will reflect this new July–June cycle.

Thank you for being part of this transition – and for your continued belief in what’s possible when young readers are given the right support at the right time.

In partnership,

SARINA SANDE

*Executive Director
J3 Foundation*



J3 FOUNDATION

is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization in Los Angeles that partners with high need schools to **provide reading programs.**

OUR MISSION is to equip 4th grade scholars with the **skills, habits, confidence, and books** they need for a **LIFETIME OF READING SUCCESS.**

TOO FEW FOURTH GRADERS READING AT GRADE LEVEL

Fourth grade is a critical turning point. It's when students are expected to read independently across subjects, but many haven't yet mastered the foundational skills. **That's where J3 steps in:** partnering with schools to offer additional, targeted support right when it's needed most.

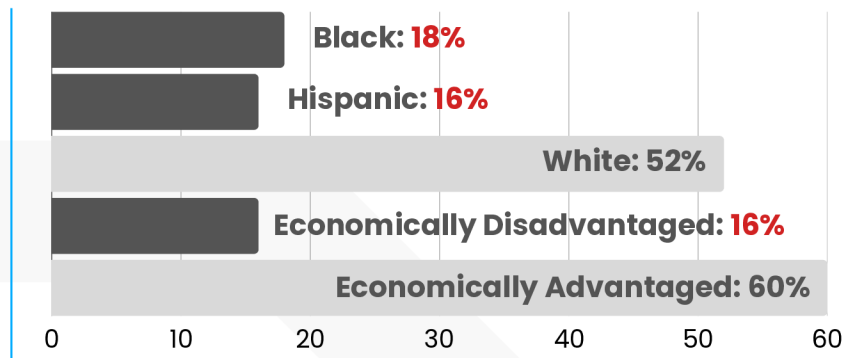


L.A. FOURTH GRADE READING PROFICIENCY

95% of children are **cognitively capable** of learning to read
— while only —

25% of 4th graders **in Los Angeles** are reading proficiently &

31% of 4th graders **nationally** are reading proficiently



In short, there is a literacy crisis in the U.S. that is only getting worse. Black, Hispanic, and economically disadvantaged students are faring the worst.

85% of youth in juvenile detention are **functionally illiterate**



Struggling 3rd grade readers are 4x more likely to **drop out of high school**



J3 INTERVENES BEFORE THE GAP BECOMES A LASTING LIMITATION

Our targeted, research-backed reading intervention gives children the skills, confidence, and support they need **right when it matters most.**

J3 FOUNDATION DELIVERS READING PROGRAMS

- IN HIGH-NEED SCHOOLS
- SERVING FOURTH-GRADE STUDENTS OF COLOR
- TO INTERRUPT THE SCHOOL-TO-PRISON PIPELINE

WHY WE FOCUS ON 4TH GRADE

Fourth Grade Is the Last Best Chance.

In most schools, formal reading instruction ends after third grade just as the academic demands start to rise.

We focus on fourth grade because:

- It's the last moment to **close the literacy gap** before students begin falling behind across all subjects
- Students at this age are forming beliefs about their capabilities—**beliefs that can stick for life**
- The **risks escalate quickly after this point**—academic failure, disengagement, and even dropout



Every child deserves the chance to read, thrive, and choose their future.

PROGRAM SNAPSHOT

Our reading programs encircle students with wraparound reading support through individualized, evidence-based lessons with measurable outcomes, a low staff-to-student ratio, culturally relevant books, and community involvement to support reading progress in school and beyond. We support students during school through **Building Bold Readers**, which intervenes during the school day with small groups of fourth graders reading below grade level. After school, our **Cozy Reading Club** transforms how children see themselves as readers. In welcoming spaces filled with curated, culturally relevant books, students build reading stamina, discover joy in books, and develop social-emotional skills through community circles, read-alouds, and peer discussion. As students step outside their school, our **Lending Library** provides over 8,000 high-interest, inclusive books for students to borrow and keep, building their libraries at home.

J3's growing reading programs allow us to:

- **increase access** to our students – growing attendance and student scores in tandem
- **ground offerings in rigorous, evidence-based research** and a cycle of continuous evaluation
- **personalize instruction** through the work of our highly-qualified Reading Interventionists
- **employ small-group reading instruction** with cohorts of 4–6, facilitating focused learning and individualized attention



Building Bold Readers

In-School Reading Intervention

We boost foundational reading skills.

Twice weekly (30 mins):

- Utilizing [SIPPS® Curriculum](#)
- Phonological Awareness
- Phonics & Decoding Instruction
- Sight Word Recognition & Guided Spelling
- Individual Reading Time with Staff

Data is monitored and instruction is tailored to each student all year long.



Cozy Reading Club

After-School Reading Enrichment

We boost reading skills, confidence & habits.

Once weekly (2 hour sessions):

- Student-Led Mindfulness
- Literacy-based Games & Activities
- Social Emotional Learning
- Read Alouds & Cozy Reading Time

We begin & end with Community Circles, fostering social connection.





1019 Students Served

Student Demographics

72%

Latino/a

18%

Black

94%

Low Income

38%

English Learners



24

Partner Schools



6,296

literacy intervention sessions



100%

of principals said J3's programs improved students' reading skills.



97%

of students now agree that reading is important



94%

of classroom teachers report J3 positively impacted their students



84%

of students achieved mastery of reading skills taught



14,171

books given to students



91

Instructors



56

Author & Therapy Dog Visits

DEEPENING OUR IMPACT

Nationally Recognized

J3 Foundation is explicitly named in the new [Education Recovery Scorecard](#) for Compton Unified, released by Harvard and Stanford as one of the district's partners advancing literacy instruction.

Districtwide Influence

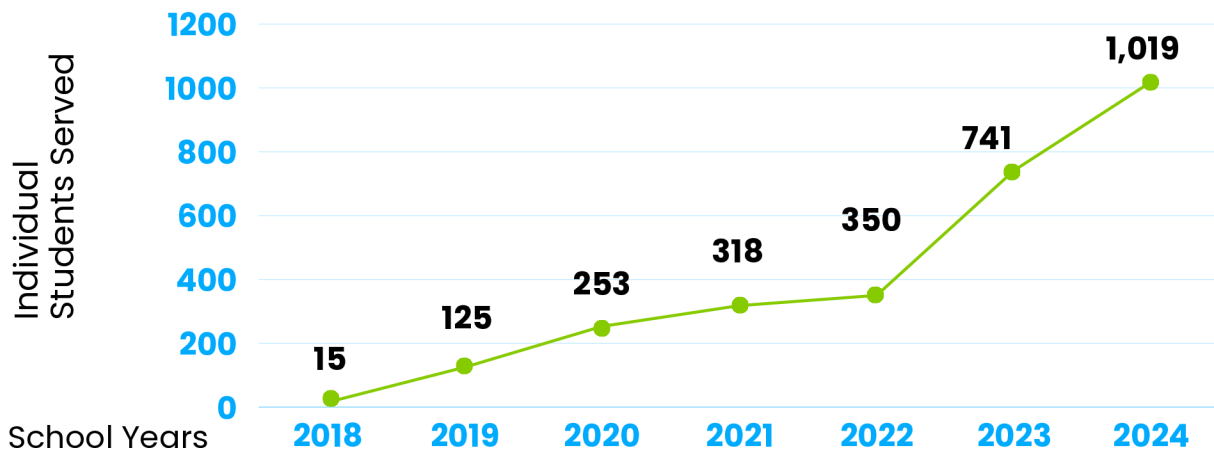
Building on results from our partnership, Compton Unified expanded its literacy intervention supports using the same science-of-reading curriculum J3 implements across all grade levels, giving thousands more students access to evidence-based literacy instruction.

Milestone Achieved

This school year, J3 Foundation surpassed its 10-year goal of serving 1,000 students annually, reaching the milestone three years earlier than expected. This growth reflects both our expanding reach and the impact of students gaining critical reading skills and confidence.



J3 Growth: Students *(per school year)*





Broadening Our Base

In early 2025, we took meaningful steps to grow the support behind J3, both in funding and partnerships, so we can keep showing up for more students in more places.

Welcoming J3's First Executive Director

In January, J3 welcomed Sarina Sande as our inaugural Executive Director, a role made possible in part by the Picerne Family Foundation's Social Entrepreneur Fund.

Building Support for What's Next

We welcomed new education-aligned funders who share our belief that every child deserves the chance to become a confident reader, including:

- The Picerne Family Foundation
- The Joseph Drown Foundation
- The Crail-Johnson Foundation

Partnering with Purpose

New partners strengthened J3's program and student experience.

- **Research Support:** Advisory Council member Dr. Rebecca Gotlieb (UCLA) launched a multi-year study to evaluate reading and narrative growth. Dr. Gotlieb found that J3 students outpaced their higher-performing peers in reading growth, reversing (or "counteracting") the "Matthew Effect."
- **Book Support:** KnowWhereYouAreKids.org donated 11 books per 4th grader and led classroom visits, while Lisa Libraries joined our book partners to expand access at home.
- **Emotional Support:** Alliance of Therapy Dogs boosted student confidence through nonjudgmental listening. As one teacher noted, "[The dog] isn't going to judge if you miss a word. He just listens. And that gives students permission to try without fear."



Each new relationship brings us closer to a future where all children have the support they need to thrive as readers—and as learners.



FINANCIAL REPORT

JANUARY 1, 2025-JUNE 30, 2025

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

ASSETS

Current Assets

<i>Cash</i>	\$41,048
<i>Accounts Receivable</i>	\$3,600
<i>Prepaid Expenses</i>	\$20,099
Total current assets	\$64,747
<i>Property and equipment, net</i>	\$3,133
<i>Investment in Blackstone Consulting, Inc.</i>	\$31,815,000
Total assets	\$31,882,880

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Current Liabilities

<i>Accounts payable and accrued expenses</i>	\$59,848
Total current liabilities	\$59,848

Net Assets

<i>Without donor restrictions</i>	\$31,823,032
Total net assets	\$31,823,032
Total liabilities and net assets	\$31,882,880

J3 Foundation is honored to announce a \$31,815,000 gift of private, non-voting stock. This represents a visionary investment in our future; however, as these shares are not tradable for cash, they do not support our current fiscal year budget. Our ability to serve students today continues to rely entirely on the ongoing generosity of our annual donor community.

FINANCIAL REPORT

JANUARY 1, 2025-JUNE 30, 2025

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

REVENUES, GAINS, AND OTHER SUPPORT

<i>Support, grants and contributions</i>	\$645,552
<i>Program service fees</i>	\$18,000
<i>Donated shares of Blackstone Consulting, Inc.</i>	\$31,815,000
<i>In-kind contributions</i>	\$140,263
<i>Interest and dividend income</i>	\$213,312
Total revenues, gains, and other support	\$32,832,127

FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES

<i>Program</i>	\$966,371
<i>Support services</i>	
<i>Management and general</i>	\$99,414
<i>Fundraising</i>	\$110,931
Total support services	\$210,345
Total functional expenses	\$1,176,716

NET ASSETS

<i>Change in net assets</i>	\$31,655,411
<i>Net assets, beginning of year</i>	\$167,621
Net assets, end of year	\$31,823,032

FOUNDATIONS

- The Book Foundation
a program of Make Good Inc.
- Crail Johnson Foundation
- Darien Book Aid Plan, Inc.
- Joseph Drown Foundation
- The Lisa Libraries
- Picerne Family Foundation
- Wyatt Family Foundation

INDIVIDUALS

Ann Alves
David and Beth Anderson
Joe Blackstone & Jamie Mohn
Wayne Bragg
Leena and David Brown
Paula and Dennis Brown
Anne Burg
Kanjuja and JC Champaneri
Nolan Charbonnet
Donald Craig
Selena Cuffe
Theresa Curtin
Edie Daves
Judith Dederick

CORPORATE

- Blackstone Consulting Inc.
- Genesis Building Services
- Imprint Revolution
- Kitchens Lang Creations
- Know Where You Are, Inc.



“Keep up the great work!”

“If you can teach an individual to read he/she can conquer the world.”

- Anonymous Donor

“It’s amazing to hear all that J3 Foundation has accomplished.

I’m happy to support the efforts.”

- J3 Donor



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...and a big thank you to our school site instructors, volunteers, guest authors, and therapy dogs who help make J3 possible!



Building bold readers for bright futures.

J3FoundationLA.org