



# The Shadow Project Annual Review 2015-2016



*Changing Lives for Children with Learning Challenges*

Dear Friend,

What a pivotal year for The Shadow Project! We strengthened our signature goal-setting program that builds confidence, motivation, and strong academic habits for children with learning challenges. In addition, we created Oregon's first SuperSensory Literacy Spaces,\* where audio libraries make books come alive for discouraged readers, and sensory tools improve self-regulation and focus.



But, there's still more work to be done. Today, only 1 in 2 Oregon students with disabilities graduates with their class.

Together, we can change that equation. Children with learning challenges need access to tools and strategies, as well as appreciation for their diverse learning needs. Students with dyslexia, autism, ADHD, and other learning challenges can grow up to have powerful, fulfilling lives when they are supported to learn in their own unique ways.

Thank you for championing our children.

*Christy Scattarella*

Christy Scattarella, M.A.,  
FOUNDER & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



## Program Highlights

- ★ Developed and installed 12 SuperSensory Literacy Spaces—unique multi-sensory libraries that help children take ownership of their learning. The cozy spaces include audio books, high-interest, low-level print books, and a variety of multicultural reading materials, as well as sensory tools such as kinetic sand, fidgets, weighted lap pads, and massage pillows.
- ★ Expanded our audio book support to further engage struggling readers—who completed a record 34,369 audio pages.
- ★ Conducted 15 family and student literacy events at seven schools to empower parents to support their students.
- ★ Moved from donated office space to our own headquarters.



## The Shadow Story

The Shadow Project—the only nonprofit of its kind in the country—teams with teachers in 35 schools in the Portland area to make school more accessible and engaging for children with learning challenges so they can achieve their full potential. By equipping schools with innovative tools and strategies tailored to diverse learning

needs, The Shadow Project has helped foster success for more than 10,000 students in grades K-8 who typically read one- to- three-years below grade level due to disabilities such as dyslexia, ADHD, and autism.

Founded by a mother whose son has learning disabilities, The Shadow Project became a 501(c)3 organization in 2003. It is in its third year as a community partner in the Portland Public Schools' Read Together program to strengthen third grade reading at high needs schools.

## Advancing Equity

Two-thirds of Oregon children with disabilities miss a critical milestone that predicts high school graduation: third grade reading proficiency. With the right supports, young people with learning challenges can graduate and become productive members of society.



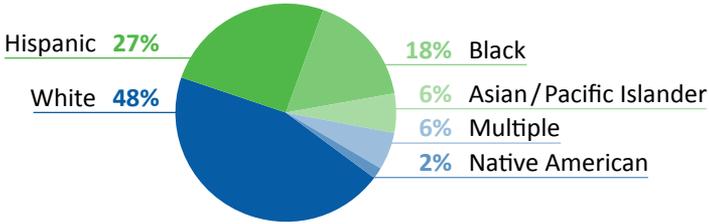
With a new three-year Strategic Plan focused on equity, diversity, and inclusion, The Shadow Project is strengthening its commitment to increasing educational opportunities for the students it serves, the majority of whom attend low-income schools and are overrepresented by communities of color.

Shadow is collaborating with schools to support children with learning challenges inclusively throughout the day. The organization is also making its first foray into Head Start, helping preschoolers get ready for kindergarten.

# Shadow Student Demographics

1,612 Total Students

- 36% Female
- 64% Male
- 80% Title I Schools
- 19 Languages Spoken
- 21% English Language Learners



“Reading is my new favorite subject!”—Isaac

Isaac used to avoid school but after he found **confidence** in his school’s Shadow Project-designed SuperSensory Literacy Space, his attendance soared.



“The audio books help me. I love reading now!”—Johnny

Johnny pretended to read in class until The Shadow Project gave him access to audio books that inspired the **courage** to “read with his ears” and jump two grade levels in reading.



“If you try and don’t give up, many problems go away.”—Mia

Mia struggled to read, but learned to **persevere** through The Shadow Project’s goal setting program.

# Evaluation

In a May 2016 survey of teachers in The Shadow Project:

- ★ 97% with K-3 students reported that the program strengthens third grade reading proficiency
- ★ 93% with Shadow's SuperSensory Literacy Spaces say the multisensory libraries contribute to student success
- ★ 98% agree that Shadow improves the educational experience of students with dyslexia
- ★ 100% would recommend Shadow to a colleague!



**“The Shadow Project has provided me with so many new resources that I didn't have access to before. The new resources allow me to provide the best learning environment for my students, and helps me meet their needs.”**

—Shara Klein, M.S.  
Rosa Parks Elementary

## Financial Summary

*July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016*

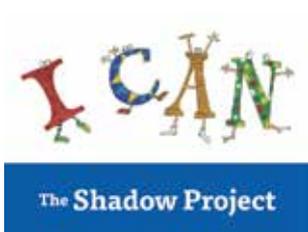
### INCOME

Foundations	\$162,000
Individuals	28,575
Corporations	30,497
Earned Income	78,680
Government	14,186
Gifts In Kind	33,911
Other	7,292
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$355,141</b>

### EXPENSE

Program	\$275,546
Development	47,051
Administration	30,244
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$352,841</b>





The Shadow Project's mission is to make school more accessible and engaging for children with learning challenges, so they can achieve their full potential.

### The Shadow Project

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## Did you Know?

For every \$1 invested in The Shadow Project, at least \$26 in benefits is returned to students and the community.

Source: Harvard Business School of Oregon

For more information, or to make a gift visit [shadow-project.org](http://shadow-project.org).

*On the cover: Portland Special Education Teacher Beth Brod, M.S., helps third-grader Christopher “read with his ears” on an audio book provided by The Shadow Project. Since using audio books, Christopher has increased his reading proficiency and enjoys books more.*