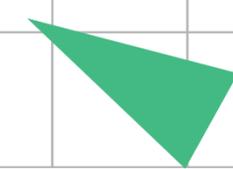
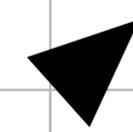
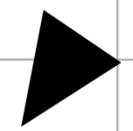


**WANTS**

**30TH**

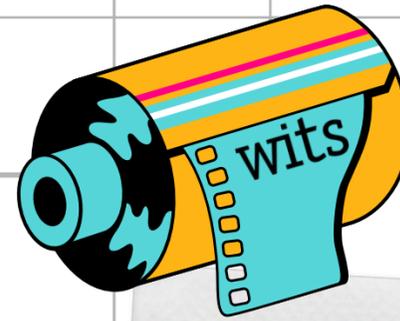


# WITS OVERVIEW

**Working in the Schools (WITS) sets students on a trajectory for success by building critical literacy skills and developing positive self-identity through teacher-led professional development and volunteer-powered mentorship programs.**

WITS believes that literacy is the foundation on which all other learning is possible. However, only 35% of fourth grade students in Illinois read at grade-level, with only 20% low-income students meeting proficiency.

WITS disrupts this trend by exclusively serving CPS, where 77% of students are from low-income households and 90% are minorities. By pairing one-on-one mentorship with teacher professional development, WITS drives 63% of students to outperform the national average in yearly reading level growth.



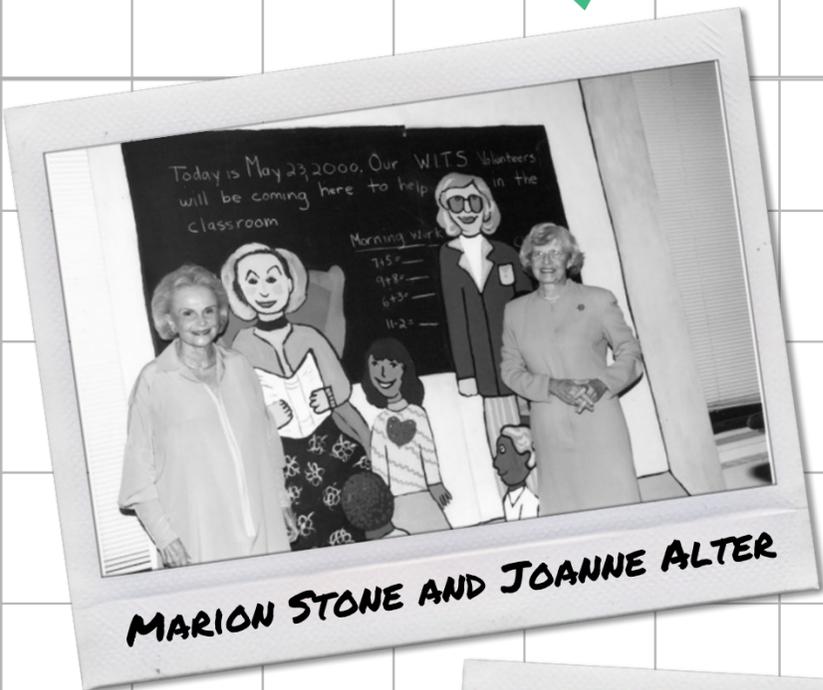
**STUDENTS WITH THEIR WITSUMMER BOOKS**





# IT BEGAN IN A CLASSROOM...

WITS' dedication to promoting literacy in Chicago Public Schools (CPS) stems from two civic leaders, Joanne Alter and Marion Stone. In **1991**, these two women visited a friend and teacher at Byrd Academy. When asked what would benefit her classroom most, the teacher requested that Joanne and Marion read one-on-one with her students.



Throughout their time at Byrd Academy, Joanne and Marion developed a rapport with the students, establishing trust and a sense of safety and joy. Joanne and Marion recruited more volunteers from their varying networks throughout Chicago, intent on deepening their impact in Chicago Public Schools (CPS). Although Byrd Academy no longer stands, WITS upholds the vision and passion of our founders by building relationships in the corporate sector and local communities to provide students with one-on-one literacy support.



A few years earlier, in **1989**, Chicago librarian Rochelle Lee was inspiring generations of students and parents through her passion for reading. In recognition of her impact, the Rochelle Lee Teacher Award was created to provide teachers with the training and resources needed to inspire a love of reading in students.

In 2015, these two programs combined under the WITS umbrella to create a holistic approach to literacy in the classroom serving thousands of students and hundreds of Chicago Public Schools teachers annually. Today, WITS has grown from a handful of committed neighbors to more than 1,500 mentors – making WITS the largest volunteer group serving CPS elementary schools.



# 2020-21 IMPACT

## EMPOWERING READERS AT HOME

In April 2020, WITS launched Empowering Readers at Home – a resource page that includes: read alouds and family activities for each grade level. The website also included a portal for mentors to leave messages for their students, and more than 350 messages were shared!

## ROCHELLE LEE TEACHER AWARD

The Rochelle Lee Teacher Award Summer Institute shifted to a virtual experience for 140 CPS educators. Workshop facilitators adjusted their curriculum content and structure to ensure workshops were accessible and meaningful to Awardees.

## EARLY CHILDHOOD SUMMER PROGRAM

In July 2020, WITS launched its Virtual Early Childhood Summer Program, a five-week program featuring bilingual fairy tale read alouds, phonics practice, and movement-based activities.

## WITS KINDERGARTEN ONLINE

In February 2021, we launched WITS Kindergarten Online, featuring activities and read alouds designed to teach early learners the skills appropriate for their age and give them the tools to apply those skills to their everyday lives.

## VIRTUAL PROGRAMS

In October 2020, WITS launched our Virtual Program - bringing together students and volunteers for a year of shared reading, mentorship, and community building.

25

Virtual Programs in Chicago Public Schools elementary schools in 2020-21

78

Bilingual read aloud videos posted on WITS Empowering Readers at Home site

400

Chicago Public Schools elementary school students in WITS programs

80

Hours of professional development for Chicago Public Schools teachers

15

Rochelle Lee Teacher Award Study Groups in 2020-21



# HONOREES



**WITS ASSOCIATES BOARD**

Alter & Stone Volunteer Award



**CHICAGO WHITE SOX**

Corporate Partner of the Year



# JUMP BACK TO THE 90S

Chicago Athletic Association Dance Party - December 11, 2021

## DANCE THE NIGHT AWAY

Saturday, December 11, 2021

Stagg Court, Chicago Athletic Association Hotel

For this year's celebration, WITS will be hosting a ticketed 90s themed DJ dance party.

The live-stream will be filmed from the dance floor - join us as we celebrate 30 years of WITS!

***Proof of vaccine is required for all event attendees.***



wits

# WITS 30TH

# SPONSORSHIP LEVELS



## MAGIC SCHOOL BUS

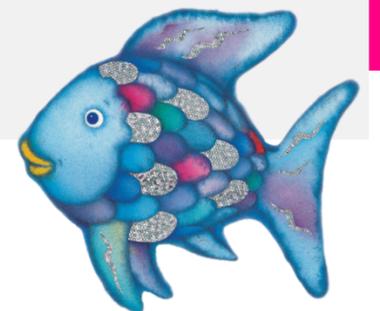
\$50,000

- 12 tickets to the dance party
- logo on all event materials, including: invitation and save the date
- logo on WITS website (3,000 users/month)
- logo social media post (reach of more than 3,000 users)
- full page ad in program book
- media recognition in pre/post event materials
- blog piece about organization
- recognition in night-of presentation

## RAINBOW FISH

\$25,000

- 12 tickets to the dance party
- logo on all event materials, including: invitation and save the date
- logo on WITS website (3,000 users/month)
- logo social media post (reach of more than 3,000 users)
- full page ad in program book
- media recognition in pre/post event materials
- recognition in night-of presentation







THANK YOU!

For more information about WITS, please visit our website: [www.witschicago.org](http://www.witschicago.org)

For questions regarding the 30th Anniversary Gala:

Alex Michel, [alexandra@witschicago.org](mailto:alexandra@witschicago.org)

