



Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy Facts

Our Story

- Before her husband entered his first presidential race, Barbara Bush began thinking about how she could serve America if she became First Lady. She wanted to devote her time and energy to a cause that would make a positive and meaningful difference to as many people around the country as possible. As she jogged around Houston's Memorial Park one day, she pondered everything in society that worried her: homelessness, crime, hunger, and drugs. She realized that all of the conditions she was concerned about would improve if more people could read, write, and comprehend.
- Mrs. Bush stated that if more people could read or write, "we could be much closer to solving so many other problems that our country faces." She recognized that providing access to literacy programs was essential to helping parents and children have an equal chance to succeed in life.
- On March 6, 1989, shortly after President George H.W. Bush entered the White House, she established the Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy, inspired by her vision to foster the opportunity for every man, woman, and child to secure a better life through literacy.
- Mrs. Bush served as honorary chair of the Foundation until 2012, when she transitioned leadership of the 501(c)(3) public charity to her daughter, Dorothy "Doro" Bush Koch, who now carries on her mother's legacy of literacy.

Our Achievements

- Over the past 29 years, the Foundation has raised and provided more than \$110 million in support to create or expand family literacy programs in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.
- On Mrs. Bush's 90th birthday in 2015, the Foundation announced the launch of the \$7M [Barbara Bush Foundation Adult Literacy XPRIZE](#). This groundbreaking, multi-year, global competition is the Foundation's single largest investment to revolutionize the future of adult literacy education.
- Through the Barbara Bush Foundation Adult Literacy XPRIZE initiative, the Foundation is now the single largest provider of literacy services to adults in the U.S. who read below a third grade level. The competition's field testing phase, currently underway in Dallas, Los Angeles, and Philadelphia, is providing nearly 11,000 learners with free access to mobile learning apps with the power to significantly improve their literacy skills in just one year. Over the next two years, this program will be launched nationally to serve hundreds of thousands of students.

- The Foundation currently provides support for 160 programs nationwide, achieving impressive results:
 - Nearly half of all preschoolers (46%) entering Barbara Bush Foundation family literacy programs were at risk for developmental delays. By the end of the year, only 14% remained at risk, representing a 70% decrease in the number of children at risk for developmental delays.
 - Parents enrolled in the Foundation’s family literacy programs, on average, improved their literacy skills by two grade levels in one year.
 - Elementary students—who entered the Foundation’s Teen Trendsetters™ reading mentoring program, on average, half a year behind in reading—advanced their reading skills an entire grade level.

Learn More

- BarbaraBushLegacy.org
- [Remembering Barbara Bush video](#)
- [Barbara Bush Foundation Retrospective](#)

Social Media

- [Facebook](#)
- [Twitter](#)
- [YouTube](#)
- [Instagram](#)

Please contact Lauren Sproull, Director of Communications, at 850.562.5300 or lauren.sproull@barbarabush.org if you have any additional questions.