

Alabama Kiwanis & Jean Dean RIF

Executive Summary

Jean Dean RIF, signature project of the Alabama Kiwanis Foundation, celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2016. Through the dedicated support of the Alabama Kiwanis Family and hundreds of “friends of Kiwanis”, Jean Dean RIF serves over 23,000 at-risk young children (primarily 0 through 5 year olds) in every county in Alabama through over 500 sites each year.

Key Issue(s)

In 2015, 71% of 4th grade students in Alabama did not read proficiently (NAEP, <https://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/subject/publications/stt2015/pdf/2016008AL4.pdf>). Each year globally, Kiwanis International members raise more than \$100 million and report more than 18.5 million volunteer hours to strengthen communities and serve children worldwide. There continues to be great need in Alabama that Kiwanis, in partnership with RIF, are able to work to address.

Local Impact

Since 1991, Jean Dean RIF has served more than 548,000 at-risk young children, distributing more than 1.56 million books to help build their home libraries and spark their imaginations. Children in Head Start programs in every county in Alabama have been served each year by Jean Dean RIF and Kiwanis. As one of RIF’s largest local organizations, the impact Jean Dean RIF has on these children and their families is far reaching. Because Kiwanis volunteers lend their time and talents, get into the classroom with kids to read aloud and distribute books, children learn local adults-outside of their family- also care about them and care about reading. Since these are the first books going into many of these homes- it has a significant impact on these families. Kiwanians across the state are avid volunteers helping to fundraise, sort books at the warehouse, distribute books, and read aloud. The impact RIF can have when partnered with a committed group of individuals like Kiwanis Club members is remarkable.