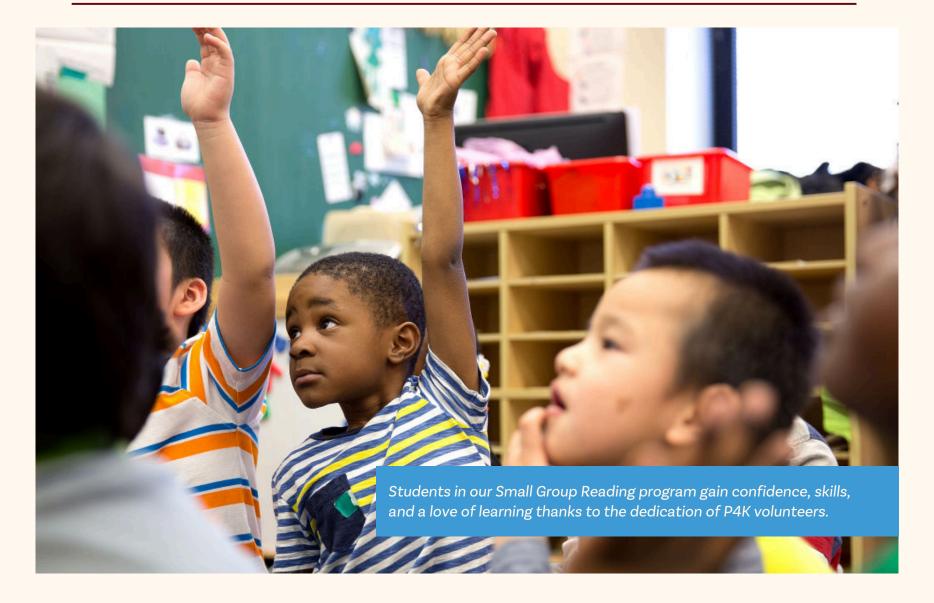


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SEPTEMBER 2025



Launching Small Group Reading Across 5 OPS Elementary Schools

Changing Lives for 1,267 Book Buddy Students

Partnership 4 Kids is proud to announce the expansion of our Small Group Reading program into 5 Omaha Public Schools elementary school, with full roll-out to be completed by January 2026. This exciting milestone builds on years of literacy support in select schools and reflects our shared commitment to ensuring all students have the tools to succeed.

At the heart of this initiative are our volunteers. We are grateful to the 75 dedicated community members who have already stepped up to read with students, encourage their growth, and help foster a love of learning. Their time and care make a direct impact in classrooms, helping students reach grade-level reading benchmarks and strengthening critical literacy skills that lay the foundation for lifelong success.

This effort is made possible thanks to a powerful partnership between OPS, our volunteers, and the generous supporters who believe in the P4K mission. Together, we are closing literacy gaps, building student confidence, and creating opportunities that will last well beyond their elementary years. As we move forward, we look forward to sharing stories of student progress and celebrating the community that made this expansion possible. With your continued support, we're helping every child unlock the door to a future filled with possibility.





This literacy expansion builds on P4K's longstanding commitment to our youngest learners. At the elementary level, we focus on developing consistent study habits, positive attitudes toward school, and the foundational skills that set students up for long-term success.

From incentive-based programming that motivates kids to achieve, to mentorship that provides encouragement and accountability, P4K is dedicated to walking alongside students during these important early years.

The Small Group Reading initiative will add another layer of support, allowing us to reach students in a focused and highly impactful way.

By working in groups of just a few children, volunteers give more individualized attention and create an environment where students feel comfortable asking questions, making mistakes, and celebrating growth.

This approach ensures that reading isn't just an academic skill—it becomes a source of confidence and joy.

Each student who participates will not only strengthen their reading skills but also gain the encouragement and belief that they can succeed both inside and outside of the classroom. We know from experience that this kind of targeted support makes all the difference in helping students reach gradelevel benchmarks and continue progressing with their peers.

Looking ahead, we're excited to watch the effects of this initiative spread across classrooms and families. Strong literacy skills are the gateway to future success, and we are confident that with the dedication of our volunteers, the partnership of OPS, and the generosity of our supporters, our elementary students will continue to thrive.

CEO's Corner

A Note From Deb

As I look back on the last few months, I can't help but smile when I think about our 2025 Swing 4 Kids event. What a day!

From the sunshine (and occasional breeze) to the laughter on the course and the incredible support from our community, it was an event to remember. Most importantly, it reminded me of how generous, fun-loving, and dedicated our P4K family truly is.

Events like Swing 4 Kids are about so much more than golf - they're about connection. They're about cheering each other on, celebrating the work we've accomplished together, and reminding ourselves of the bigger picture: every swing, every sponsorship, and every dollar raised goes right back to the students we serve.

Now, as we turn the corner into the holiday season, I find myself filled with gratitude and anticipation. Gratitude for the mentors, volunteers, and donors who make this work possible every single day. And anticipation for the year ahead, knowing that the momentum we've built in 2025 is carrying us into an even stronger 2026.

But here's the truth: our students need us right now. The holiday season is a time of joy, but it's also a time of real impact. The end of the year is when your giving matters most—when every gift directly fuels programming, mentorship, and opportunities for the kids who count on us. I invite you to consider P4K in your year-end giving and help us finish this vear strong.

Together, we can make sure our students are ready to step into the new year with confidence, support, and hope.

Debbie J. Denbeck *President/CEO*



Welcome to P4K!

9th Grade Kickoff Event



Starting high school can be exciting and a little nerve-wracking. That's why we kicked off the summer by hosting a "Welcome to P4K" event for incoming 9th graders at Chops Bowling. The goal? To give students a chance to meet their coordinators, connect with peers, and start building the relationships that will support them throughout high school.

Students bowled, shared pizza, and engaged in fun icebreaker activities designed to spark conversation and connection. Beyond the games and laughs, the real focus was on building trust and rapport between students and coordinators.

These early connections create a foundation of guidance, encouragement, and accountability that helps students navigate high school challenges—and celebrate their successes—knowing they have a strong support system cheering them on.

Thanks to the combined efforts of our middle and high school teams, the kickoff was a success. With new friendships forming, nerves easing, and coordinators ready to guide them, these freshmen are stepping into high school feeling prepared, welcomed, and empowered.

At P4K, relationships aren't just part of the program—they're at the heart of everything we do.





PlaySmart 2025

Building Skills, Confidence, and Connections

This summer, students gathered at the Omaha Kroc Center for our four-day PlaySmart camp, an experience designed to build leadership skills, confidence, and lasting connections. The camp introduced its guiding pillars: Resiliency, Teamwork, Integrity, and Empathy.

Through group challenges, games, and reflection, campers learned how to lean on one another, celebrate their strengths, and grow in ways that will benefit them long after camp ends. Guest speakers, including community leaders such as Shukura Huggins, Benson Elmore, Madison Rushing, Mary Clare Sweet, Eric Williams, and George Achola, shared their stories and wisdom, giving students powerful examples of how resilience, integrity, and empathy can shape a meaningful life and career.

Students also worked on Service Learning projects - projects that directly gave back to the community. From cleaning up trash around the Kroc Center with Keep Omaha Beautiful, to making tie blankets for animals at the Nebraska Humane Society, to writing heartfelt cards for Omaha veterans, campers saw how small acts of service reflect big lessons about kindness and responsibility. They even supported the Kroc Center's youngest campers by leading a line dancing activity in the gym!

By the end of camp, participants had not only formed new friendships but also practiced real skills in resilience, teamwork, and leadership. They walked away with stronger bonds, deeper ties to their communities, and a sense of pride in all they accomplished. PlaySmart continues to provide a safe, engaging, and inspiring environment for our youth to grow into their full potential.







Winding Down 2025

This season is full of opportunities to give back.

As the year winds down, there's no better time to reflect on what we've accomplished and look ahead to all the possibilities in 2026.

For Partnership 4 Kids, year-end giving and Giving Tuesday are more than just dates on the calendar; they're a chance to make a real difference for students at every stage of their journey.

So, why give now?

Because your support directly powers our student programming:

- Elementary students get celebrated for hitting literacy, attendance, and life-skill milestones.
- Middle and high schoolers build confidence, connect with mentors, and explore what comes next after graduation.
- Postsecondary students receive guidance as they navigate college, trade school, or career paths.

Every gift helps keep these programs strong, vibrant, and full of opportunities for students to thrive.





Donate. Empower. Repeat.



Become a monthly donor for as little as \$5 and help empower the next generation.

Scan to Donate!

Become a P4K Volunteer!

Scan the QR code or visit p4k.org/volunteer to learn more!

For additional questions: mentor@p4k.org



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