REDDING DISPARITIES IN ACCESS
THE MOLINA FOUNDATION
2017: PARTNERING IN OUR COMMUNITIES
OUR MISSION:

To reduce disparities in access to education and health

FOUNDED 2004
Dear Friends,

This past year brought much change and evolution to our organization. For all of your wonderful support, encouragement, and flexibility during 2017, I want to start with a gracious "Thank you!"

**Book Buddies.** We refined our successful Book Buddies program to be even more efficient and effective in how we reach low-income communities nationwide with new books and educational resources. Through our strategic relationships with Cooperative Extension and Community Action Agencies across the country, we were able to give away more than 300,000 books. Many of these recipient communities were in hard-to-reach or underserved areas such as rural towns of Delaware, the mining regions of West Virginia, the back bayous of Louisiana, and the migrant worker neighborhoods of California.

**WordUp.** Our newest program, WordUp, grew as we developed engaging and simple online and print resources to help parents prepare their young children, as young as age two, to be ready for kindergarten. These bilingual resources will help parents identify developmental milestones and increase the number of words a child hears at home before they enter kindergarten.

**Making a Difference.** Sadly there is a staggering 30 million "word gap" that puts children from low-income families behind their better-off peers before they ever step foot into a kindergarten classroom. I am encouraged that the thousands of new books we distribute each year, coupled with our new educational resources, will help make a difference.

And so I am pleased to share with you some of the year's highlights and key accomplishments for The Molina Foundation by way of our 2017 Annual Report: "Partnering in Our Communities."

With appreciation,

[Signature]

Martha Molina Bernadett, MD, MBA
Founder and President
“So many of our students come from families where books are a luxury and the kids really appreciate having a book of their own.”

FROM A PROGRAM COORDINATOR IN READING, PA UPON RECEIVING 5,000 NEW BOOKS FROM THE MOLINA FOUNDATION

An analysis of nearly 100,000 U.S. school children found that access to printed materials is the "critical variable affecting reading acquisition," yet in many low-income neighborhoods one may find as few as 1 age-appropriate book in a home for every 300 children.

The Molina Foundation's programs are working to end the "word deserts" in our country's hardest to reach communities.
IN 2017,
304,537 NEW BOOKS, VALUED OVER $2.3 MILLION, WERE GIVEN TO FAMILIES IN 22 STATES.

Through The Molina Foundation's signature program, Book Buddies, we distribute new books to community agencies serving children and families in need. Each year, we work hand-in-hand with these agencies working in low-income and at-risk neighborhoods.

In 2017, we partnered with 209 community agencies including food pantries, schools, libraries, day care centers, preschool programs, and shelters to distribute books in targeted communities. Over our 14-year history, we have worked with thousands of agencies to distribute more than 5 million books.
IN 2017, 2,592 CHILDREN AND FAMILIES ENGAGED IN HANDS-ON LITERACY AND HEALTH ACTIVITIES IN 5 TARGETED COMMUNITIES.

Through our WordUp initiative, The Molina Foundation empowers families to create word-rich and healthy homes. Each year, we reach thousands of children and families with simple activities and tips to reinforce health and literacy skills, helping to make sure children are ready for kindergarten and success in school.

In 2017, we hosted in-person events with thousands of children; shared fun, downloadable resources on our website for parents and educators; disseminated hundreds of free activities via social media; and started developing our own line of printed bilingual content to help families practice kindergarten readiness skills at home.
"Thank you for the books! They are helping to establish a bond between caretakers and their children."

FROM A CASE MANAGER AT A CLINIC IN ANTELOPE VALLEY, CA

... The developing brain triples in the first year alone, and is virtually fully formed by the time a child enters kindergarten. Shockingly, children from low-income families hear 30 million fewer words than their better-off peers by the time they reach kindergarten, putting their growth and development at significant risk as they enter school.

The Molina Foundation's programs are working to provide resources for families to help close this "word gap" for our most vulnerable children.
"The low-income families we serve have limited resources for tutoring and learning materials. Being able to provide them with books they can use to practice skills during non-school hours will really assist them academically."

FROM THE PROGRAM STAFF AT A COMMUNITY CENTER IN KERN COUNTY, CA

About 41 percent, or 29.8 million, of America’s children live in, or on the brink of, poverty – including more than 5 million infants and toddlers under the age of three. There is significant work to be done to ensure that our youngest children are ready and able to learn.

Every day The Molina Foundation identifies new community partners to help families in need by providing access to educational and health resources.
IN 2017, 2,507 NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS, SCHOOLS, AND COMMUNITY GROUPS WERE PART OF THE MOLINA FOUNDATION'S NETWORK.

The Molina Foundation develops strategic partnerships with community agencies serving low-income and at-risk neighborhoods. In 2017, we developed relationships with 128 Community Action Agencies across the country and distributed more than 106,000 books in 15 states through their poverty-fighting programs. We also continued to build our relationships with Cooperative Extension programs in three states, bringing more than 71,000 books to rural and underserved communities through statewide campaigns.

Thanks to our partners, our joint efforts to reduce disparities in access to education and health were featured in 113 online, print, and broadcast news stories in 15 states.
IN 2017, 92 CENTS OF EVERY DOLLAR DONATED HELPED BRING NEW BOOKS TO CHILDREN AND FAMILIES IN UNDER-RESOUCEDED HOMES NATIONWIDE.

The Molina Foundation is thankful for the generous community and donor support we receive from across the country. With this assistance, we are able to provide children and families with access to critical health and education resources.

We appreciate the 128 volunteers from community and corporate partners who served 592 hours to support events, operations, and programs across the country in 2017.
A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR
MISSION PARTNERS
WHO INVEST IN OUR WORK TO REDUCE DISPARITIES
IN ACCESS TO EDUCATION AND HEALTH:

MOLINA HEALTHCARE
Your Extended Family.

FirstBook
www.firstbook.org

The Hoag Foundation
Heal. Educate. Empower.
WE ARE DEEPLY GRATEFUL FOR THE SUPPORT IN 2017 FROM:

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- Luciano Barragan & Maria Amate
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- Celestial Freight Solutions, Inc.
- Keesal, Young & Logan
- Robert & Janet Stemler
- Denise & Joseph White

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"We are able to expand the minds of children in our community. Children are now able to develop their reading skills, imaginations, knowledge, and life skills to benefit their futures."

FROM A COORDINATOR AT A COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY IN WEIRTON, WV AFTER RECEIVING MORE THAN 4,500 NEW BOOKS AND EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES FOR FAMILIES IN HER PROGRAM
“I got inspired in my book. I can solve problems around me. I’m now using more of my imagination. I thank you for donating books.”

FROM THE THANK YOU LETTER OF A THIRD-GRADe STUDENT