

**“With the Everybody Wins Program, everybody truly does win, especially the children.”
Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA), former Power Lunch Reading Mentor and EWDC Champion**

ABOUT US

Everybody Wins DC is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving lives through shared reading experiences. The idea behind our mission is simple and straightforward, yet it brings about powerful change: by connecting a child with a caring adult over a book, everybody’s lives get better – everybody wins!

EWDC’s signature program – Power Lunch – currently serves approximately 500 students in 11 public elementary schools throughout the Washington metro area.

OUR HISTORY

Everybody Wins DC (EWDC) got its start in the spring of 1995 when Senator James Jeffords (R-VT) and Senator Paul Simon (D-IL) brought together a bipartisan coalition of 130 Senators and Senate staff to launch a volunteer reading program – Power Lunch – at Brent Elementary School, a public school just blocks from the Capitol Building. In the fall of 1995, the U.S. House of Representatives joined the effort, led by Representative Ray LaHood (R-IL).

By working together, both houses of Congress set EWDC and Power Lunch on a path to become the region’s largest volunteer read aloud program. Since 1995, EWDC programs have partnered with over thousands of volunteers to serve more than 10,000 students in the Washington metro area.

POWER LUNCH

Shared reading has the power to change a student’s life. Add a caring adult to the experience and the impact is even more profound.

Power Lunch, EWDC’s signature shared reading program, connects elementary school students with caring volunteers to read together once a week during the students’ lunch hour. No curriculum, no lesson plans. Just spending quality time together, reading books they enjoy. Why? Because while schools focus on teaching kids how to read, Power Lunch focuses on motivating kids to want to read. And students who are motivated to read – who love to read – are on a direct path to higher overall achievement and success both inside and outside the classroom.

But Power Lunch is bigger than developing a student’s love of reading. When adults read with children, everybody wins!

Students win by

- Developing literacy and reading comprehension skills
- Being exposed to new ideas and opportunities through their volunteers
- Building a positive relationship with a caring adult, which helps develop self-confidence and other critical social-emotional skills
- Improving listening, communication, and other interpersonal skills

Volunteers win by

- enjoying a meaningful way to give back to a student in need
- making a positive impact in a student’s life
- building connections with their own communities
- being able to take advantage of EWDC social and networking activities

In addition, **schools win** by seeing improvements in their students’ literacy and social-emotional skills without bearing any additional administrative burden or cost and **organizations win** by offering a simple and efficient, yet incredibly consequential way to give back to their communities.