2025 Annual Report

MIGHTY WRITERS

3520 FAIRMOUNT, PHILADELPHIA, PA 19104

WWW.MIGHTYWRITERS.ORG

ROOTED IN COMMUNITY; RISING WITH PURPOSE

Forward motion has always been our answer to uncertainty—and in 2025, we met the moment with clarity, discipline, and renewed purpose. This year marked a pivotal chapter for Mighty Writers.

With new leadership came a sharpened focus on strengthening our foundation—refining operations, reinforcing financial systems, and building a culture of accountability to support long-term, sustainable growth.

For 17 years, Mighty Writers has served more than 45,000 young people across Greater Philadelphia and New Jersey through free, high-quality writing and literacy programs. But our work extends beyond the page. We create spaces where young people feel safe, seen, and valued—where their voices matter.

In 2025, that impact deepened:

- 90% of students say Mighty Writers is a safe place
- 84% report increased self-kindness (up from 72%)
- 75% report stronger confidence and self-esteem
- 82% are making more positive decisions (up from 70%)
- 70% report improved family relationships
- 82% report stronger peer connections

These outcomes reflect the strength of our whole-child model—where literacy, emotional well-being, and community support work hand in hand.

At the same time, we expanded our reach. Through initiatives like Mighty Writers On the Road and strategic partnerships with schools and community organizations, we are bringing our programming directly into neighborhoods—meeting families where they are and removing barriers to access.

We also continue to address one of the most urgent needs facing our communities. Today, Mighty Writers provides fresh food and essential resources to more than 2,500 families each week across Philadelphia, Chester County, and South Jersey—ensuring that young people have the stability they need to learn and thrive.

While 2025 was a year of alignment, the years ahead will be defined by intentional growth. Our five-year strategic plan is focused on strengthening our operational core, building financial resilience, expanding partnerships, and growing our model into new communities.

As we evolve, we are working toward becoming an intergenerational hub—supporting not only young people, but entire families.

In 2026, we are deepening our impact through:

- Transformative enrichment experiences that expand students' sense of possibility
- Integrated social-emotional learning to support confidence, resilience, and self-awareness
- College and career readiness for teens, including hands-on application and workforce support
- Free, full-day summer programming that keeps learning joyful and accessible
- Continued food access, meeting essential needs with dignity

Mighty Writers has always been about more than writing. It is about voice, belonging, and possibility.

The need has never been greater—and neither has our resolve.

In service,

Dr. Corinne Green

DR. CORINNE GREEN, DSL
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MIGHTY WRITERS

THE ORGANIZATION

WHO WE ARE

Mighty Writers is a regional nonprofit with a simple, powerful mission: help young people think clearly and write with clarity. Founded in 2009 in a single Philadelphia storefront serving 70 children, Mighty Writers has grown into an eight-site organization reaching nearly 5,000 youth annually across Greater Philadelphia, Chester County, and South Jersey through free, high-quality after-school and summer literacy programs.

We know that children can't think or write clearly when hungry. Understanding that hunger hinders learning, we launched a food distribution program during the COVID-19 pandemic. Today, our distribution program serves 75,000 families annually with culturally relevant food and essential supplies through five hubs and seven pop-up sites.

OUR MIGHTY CENTERS

West, 3520 Fairmount, Philadelphia, PA 19104
El Futuro, 1025 S. Ninth St., Philadelphia, PA 19147 (bilingual site)
North, 2300 Master St., Philadelphia, PA 19121
El Futuro Kennett, 121 Willow St., Toughkenamon, PA 19374 (bilingual site)
Camden, 1801 Broadway, Camden, NJ 08104
Camden East, 307 Ablett Village, Camden, NJ 08105
Atlantic City, 211 Melrose Ave., Unit 5, Atlantic City 08401

OUR IMPACT

328
programs

5,883
students served

15,300
free books

3,300
mentorship hours

110,000
family distribution visits

OUTCOMES

ACADEMICS

85% Students plan to return to Mighty Writers programs

79% Students report improved writing skills

75% Students enjoy writing more

71% Students write outside of school more often

TEENAGERS

79% Teens are learning how to focus better

77% Teens write outside of school more frequently

77% Teens are prioritizing careers aligned with their interests and skills

75% Teens plan to continue participating in Mighty Writers programs

Social Emotional Learning

85% Students plan to return to Mighty Writers programs

82% Students report stronger relationships with peers

75% Students enjoy writing more

70% Students report improved relationships with their families

BILIGNUAL

98% Participants report strong relationships with other bilingual families in their community

90% Participants believe being bilingual is important and special

88% Participants feel their bilingual identity is supported

85% Participants are improving focus through Mighty Writers programs

DISTRIBUTION

98% Families trust Mighty Writers staff and volunteers

98% Families feel supported by staff and volunteers who genuinely want to help

98% Mighty Writers helps families meet their basic needs

97% Families report saving time and money through our distribution programs

FAMILIES

85% Families report stronger relationships within their neighborhood community

79% Families would recommend Mighty Writers to others

72% Families are aware of Mighty Writers' free educational programs

WHAT OUR STUDENTS SAY

"I love Mighty Writers because the staff here push me to do more and challenge me to be the best I can be. They've helped me grow so much as a writer, especially in how I structure my sentences, paragraphs, and essays. Because of their support, I feel more confident in my writing every day."

— Lola Garcia

"Mighty Writers has helped me become a stronger writer while also improving my listening and leadership skills. I've completed many challenging activities that have helped me grow as a person. Through social-emotional learning, I've also developed coping skills that help me manage my emotions and improve my behavior. Now I love writing—Mighty Writers made me mighty."

— Zakai Smith

"I love Mighty Writers because I get help with my homework and my writing skills. I'm getting so much better at reading and writing, and I've also made a lot of great friends here."

— Zion McClennan

"Mighty Writers has given me an incredible community to be part of. Before coming here, I didn't realize how much I could enjoy writing. Now I love it. Mighty Writers has helped me discover how creative I can be when I put in the work. It has truly changed my life I've become more outgoing, kinder, and better at staying calm and centered when I'm facing overwhelming situations."

— Emma Eastling

WHAT OUR COMMUNITY SAYS

"As a mentor at Mighty Writers, I am grateful for the opportunity to support a community dedicated to helping others. Through this experience, I have assisted young children with their homework, projects, and reading skills. I am thankful to play a role in guiding the next generation. Mighty Writers is more than just a community; it is a united family committed to supporting one another."

"I would like to say from last year until the present mighty writers had an impact on my grandchildren . From being shy to having confidence in being able to read and speak in front of people. Behaviorally changes were made and still being worked on in a positive manner. It takes a village and our children deserve that and so much more. Thank you mighty writers, keep up the good work!"

"The Mighty Writers Program is an excellent source of additional education for our children in this community. Its like a village. The children interact extremely well with the staff and other children. This program provides the structured activities that our children need & want for our community. Giving back to our community is what Mighty Writers is all about. Teaching our children not only to learn in an educational environment but to feed the homeless and help people have better quality of life is truly a blessing. GOD BLESS THIS PROGRAM!"

"Mighty Writers deserves more praise than I could ever give them! Their local presence allowed my child and I to stay and grow, both as students here in Camden! She has had many incredible opportunities, and continues to, along with access to daily drop ins, homework help, or just a place to have a snack and catch up with friends and counselors alike! Which means as a busy working parent and student myself, I know she is in a safe and trustworthy environment, learning about the world from the most organically kind souls. With Mighty Writers we know we are to supported ups and downs, curveballs and all because we know Mighty Writers is there to lend a resourceful hand!"

DISTRIBUTION

In 2025, we served over 110,000 families through four on-site food distribution centers and three mobile pop-up locations, reaching families in underserved neighborhoods with limited access to nutritious, affordable food. We distributed more than 2 million pounds of food, including 58,000 prepared meals and lunches, 214,270 units of groceries, and 144,000 boxes of fresh produce—all delivered with dignity, consistency, and cultural sensitivity. Our offerings included fresh fruits and vegetables, frozen meats, seasonal goods, shelf-stable pantry items, and culturally relevant meals that honored the backgrounds of the communities we serve.

We maintained strong partnerships with local food retailers, community-based organizations, and volunteers to ensure timely communication and efficient coordination of food donations. Through regular pop-up food distributions and mobile services, we expanded our reach to families unable to travel to our primary sites.

DISTRIBUTION

OUR IMPACT

73,520 Diapers given

14,400 Boxes of food received

15,300 Books given

1,956,330 Pounds of food distributed

WHERE TO FIND US

PERMANENT LOCATIONS

MW West - 35th & Fairmount, Philadelphia
Monday-Friday, 11:30-1:30 p.m.

MW El Futuro -1025 S. Ninth St., Philadelphia
Tuesday-Friday, noon-1:30 p.m.

MW North - 23rd & Seybert, Philadelphia
Tuesdays and Thursdays, noon-1:30 p.m.

MW Camden - 1801 Broadway, Camden, NJ
Monday-Thursday, 11:45 a.m.-1:15 p.m.

MW Camden East - 307 Ablett Village
State Street & River Road, Camden, NJ
Every other Friday, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

Mighty Writers El Futuro Kennett
121 Willow St., Toughkenamon, PA
Tuesday, 12:30-2:30 p.m.
Wednesday, 3-6 p.m.
Thursday, 2-5 p.m.
Fridays, noon-2 p.m.

POP-UP LOCATIONS

Lucien E. Blackwell Community Center
761 N. 47th St., Philadelphia
Tuesdays, 2-3 p.m.
First and third Wednesdays, 2-3 p.m.

John Street Community Center
1100 Poplar St., Philadelphia
Thursdays, 1:45-2:45 p.m.

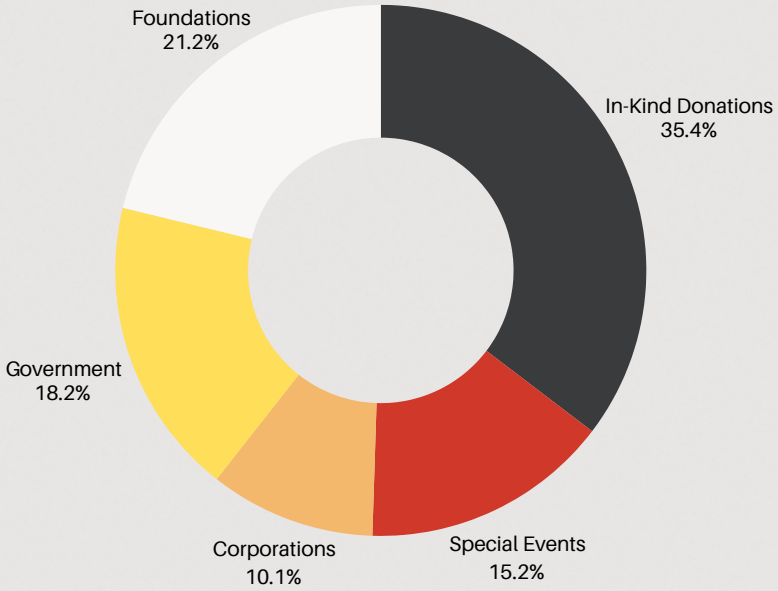
Christ Gospel Church
615 Ohio Ave., Atlantic City, NJ
Fridays, 9 a.m., weather permitting

Stanley Holmes Village Community Center
1539 Adriatic Ave., Atlantic City, NJ
Wednesdays, 10 a.m., except for the second Wednesday of each month

FINANCIALS

Mighty Writers free programming would not be possible without our financial supporters. Mighty Writers development team maintains a rigorous grants calendar, applying for hundreds of grants to support its varying programs and activities and solicits thousands of generous individuals from across the country.

Most funding came from institutional giving, with:



THE CHALLENGES WE ARE SOLVING

In 2025, Mighty Writers experienced a notable decline in institutional giving, with fewer grants awarded from state agencies, foundations, and corporations.

This decrease was driven in part by an increasingly competitive funding environment. State and federal funding cuts, along with delayed reimbursements from public grants, created a significant mismatch between program delivery and cash receipts, contributing to a projected $1.9 million budget deficit and an estimated $2 million cash-flow shortfall tied to reimbursements anticipated through 2027.

As federal funding was cut, delayed, or halted for many organizations, thousands of nonprofits that had previously relied on those sources turned more aggressively to private foundations, corporations, and state-level opportunities to fill urgent gaps. As a result, grant funding pools became significantly more crowded, making it more difficult to secure support even for strong, mission-aligned proposals.

This shift contributed to broader financial pressure across the organization and reinforced the importance of strengthening MW's long-term sustainability strategy. In response, Mighty Writers is working to diversify revenue, deepen donor stewardship, pursue more selective and strategic grant opportunities, and build a more resilient fundraising model that is less vulnerable to volatility in any one funding source

LOOKING AHEAD, MOVING FORWARD

Mighty Writers is enhancing its fundraising model to diversify revenue streams, focusing on over 300 grant prospects and grassroots initiatives like the Annual Literacy Bash. The organization is expanding major gifts and donor engagement while implementing tighter financial controls and planning. Mighty Writers has narrowed its geographic focus by closing sites in Newark and El Paso, yet continues strong operations in Atlantic City, Camden, Philadelphia, and Southern Chester County. In response to community needs, Mighty Writers will open two new food pantries in Atlantic City and West Philadelphia, integrating its mission with literacy and food distribution efforts.

Beginning in 2026, Mighty Writers will also shift its fiscal year from January–December to July–June to better align financial planning with the academic calendar. Together, these steps reflect a disciplined approach to realistic growth, financial resilience, and long-term impact.

THANK YOU, TO OUR DONORS

Together, 730 households contributed to advancing literacy, opportunity, and belonging for thousands of young people.

$10,000+ | Leadership Giving

26 Households

These visionary supporters are helping to shape the future of Mighty Writers. Their extraordinary generosity fuels expansion, innovation, and long-term impact across every community we serve.

$5,000–$9,999 | Major Giving

22 Households

These committed partners provide critical support that strengthens our programs and ensures we can continue delivering high-quality, transformative experiences for young people and families.

$1,000–$4,999 | Community Builders

159 Households

These generous donors form the backbone of our community, sustaining our day-to-day work and helping us reach more students with meaningful, consistent programming.

Under $1,000 | Broad-Based Support

523 Households

Every gift matters. This collective generosity reflects a powerful community of supporters who believe in our mission and contribute to making our work posts-ble, one student at a time.

STAY IN TOUCH!

Website
mightywriters.org

Email
hello@mightywriters.org

@mightywriters

DONATE

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