Jumpstart is a national early education organization that recruits and trains college students and community members to serve preschool children in low-income neighborhoods. Our proven curriculum helps children develop the language and literacy skills they need to be ready for kindergarten, setting them on a path to close the achievement gap before it is too late.
Dear Friends,

We recently gathered with Jumpstart board members and supporters in Atlanta to hear from veteran Corps member, Aimee Turner. Aimee was a Civil Engineering student at Georgia Tech when she joined Jumpstart and served preschool students just minutes from where she grew up in southwest Atlanta.

“I was excited,” Aimee said, “because I knew how much programs like Jumpstart were needed in my community. We serve classrooms that are understaffed, overcrowded, and underfunded. Even though Jumpstart only visits classrooms two to three times a week, we provide individual attention that children need to identify their letters, spell their names, and reassure them that they can be anything they aspire to be.”

Aimee explained, “My Jumpstart children and I are one and the same. Just as I tell them they are somebody and can do anything they want to do, I realize that I am somebody and can do anything I want to do. We can hold our heads up high together and proudly say, ‘That’s my name, that’s how you spell it, and we can be anything we want to be’.”

Aimee’s speech tells the story of Jumpstart’s impact better than any statistic. She came full circle, as did Joanne Lee when she became a Jumpstart Corps member in the same community where she had been a Jumpstart child 14 years ago. (You can read Joanne’s story on the next page.)

This year marked Jumpstart’s 21st birthday. We served more children than ever before, we saw the highest child gains in language and literacy skills, broke a world record for the most people reading the same book on a single day, and received national recognition from the Center for High Impact Philanthropy as an “exemplar” program in early learning. We cheered the growing support for early learning among bi-partisan policy officials, cultural leaders, and trusted groups like pediatricians and the military. The message that talking and reading with young children is a key ingredient for school success is echoing across communities.

Our circles of impact reach near and far, from the child whose eyes light up when she sees the red Jumpstart t-shirts coming down the hallway to an alumna like Ruby Ditchfield-Agboh who was part of the first Jumpstart class at Harvard University in 1994. Ruby is now the Network CIO for the New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation and tells us that the coaching and feedback she learned through Jumpstart made her a better manager.

“My Jumpstart children and I are one and the same. Just as I tell them they are somebody and can do anything they want to do, I realize that I am somebody and can do anything I want to do. We can hold our heads up high together…”

– Aimee Turner, veteran Corps member
Ruby is among 36,000 Corps members who have served over 76,000 children since Jumpstart’s inception. Thanks to our amazing alumni and the commitment of so many friends and supporters, partner organizations, and universities, we are closer to the day when every child enters kindergarten prepared to succeed.

Aimee Turner closed her speech in Atlanta by telling us that, “Jumpstart has played a critical role in my life, and I am eternally grateful for Jumpstart and all that it does for the community.”

In turn, we are grateful to Aimee and to you for your dedication and generosity which enable Jumpstart to continue to thrive.

**Thank you,**

_Naila Bolus_  
President & CEO

_Chris Stadler_  
Chairman,  
National Board of Directors

**COMING FULL CIRCLE:**

**Joanne Lee**

In 1998 Joanne Lee was a three-year-old preschool student at the Chinese Church Head Start in a low-income neighborhood in Boston. Joanne was a cheerful girl who loved being surrounded by friends, playing with bubbles, engaging in circle time, and taking field trips to places like the aquarium and local restaurants where they learned how to make pizza. Joanne was among the first generation of children to be served by Jumpstart and these moments make up just a small selection of her memories of the program.

Today Joanne is a 19-year-old sophomore at Boston University. She majors in Early Childhood Education, working toward a degree in Dual Language Development, and she is a Jumpstart Corps member. Joanne’s mom, Sally, is a huge role model for her. Sally is now a teacher at the same preschool that Joanne attended 14 years ago. After years of hearing stories of her mom’s experience as a teacher, Joanne felt compelled to get back in the classroom as an educator, not just a student.

Every Tuesday and Thursday Joanne returns to her childhood neighborhood to help children develop the language and literacy skills they need to be ready for school, setting them on a path for lifelong success.

“Growing up in Boston, I didn’t think about any other part of the country other than New England. Jumpstart motivated me to give back to the community. The kindergarten readiness gap is a national crisis and I’m doing what I can to help educate today’s youth.”
“Our children deserve nothing less than a strong start to a life filled with opportunity, and it all starts with successful early learning programs.”

– Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan
Illinois
Corps members teamed up with Young Professional Board members and corporate funders from AOL, PwC, and Salesforce.com to create over 4,000 “Home-Learning Kits” with books and educational activities for Jumpstart children in Chicago.

New York
This past summer, four Jumpstart fellows worked closely with 54 children at the Tremont Crotona Day Care Center in the Bronx, helping prepare them for kindergarten over a nine-week period. At the end of the program, 53% showed improvement in their oral language skills, an important indicator of later reading success.

Pennsylvania
Jumpstart’s program at Temple University impeccably embodies all five core values of Jumpstart: determination, connection, learning, joy, and kindness. This year, 33 of Temple’s Corps members (41% of their total Corps!), have chosen to go on to be teachers post Jumpstart service.

Massachusetts
Jumpstart has expanded its programming in Massachusetts thanks to new partnerships with five community colleges in Boston and the Merrimack Valley. These partnerships have enabled Jumpstart to engage 100 more Corps members and serve 250 more children annually.

Texas
Jumpstart and Texas Tech University were featured on the local CBS network show, “Friends and Trends.” Corps members hosted a day of reading and activities for more than 300 children and parents at Barnes & Noble to commemorate and celebrate Dr. Seuss’ birthday.

Georgia
In Atlanta, B & B Stern Foundation donated over 1,200 coats through Operation Smile to keep Jumpstart children warm throughout the winter.

Washington, D.C.
Jumpstart partnered with the DC Promise Neighborhood Initiative, supporting the early education component of the development of a cradle-to-career pipeline for children in one of 57 Promise Neighborhoods across the United States.
Jumpstart’s innovative and research-based program trains college students and community members to serve preschool children in low-income neighborhoods.

**Inside the circle**

A look at how Jumpstart works

By participating in Jumpstart’s year-long program, children develop the language and literacy skills they need to be ready for school, setting them on a path for lifelong success.

Jumpstart sessions take place two days per week, for two hours each time. Session plans are organized in six unit themes: family; friends; wind and water; the world of color; shadows and reflections; and things that grow. Each session follows a similar routine: welcome; reading; circle time; center time; let’s find out about it; and sharing/goodbye.

Through Jumpstart sessions, teams deliver a curriculum based on three key language and literacy domains: oral language, books and print knowledge, and phonological awareness. Jumpstart’s curriculum focuses on the key language and literacy skills that research shows are important predictors of kindergarten readiness, using appropriate and effective strategies designed to support these skills. Our Corps members allow us to reduce the student to teacher ratio to three to one in every Jumpstart classroom, allowing children to receive an individualized learning experience that helps them develop nurturing relationships with caring adults. Through the Jumpstart program, we not only help ensure kindergarten readiness for over 11,000 children each year, but provide our Corps members with the essential training, skills, and practical experience to pursue a teaching career if they so desire.

**Experience + Exploration**

“Let’s find out about it” is the portion of Jumpstart sessions during which small group activities take place to build children’s concept knowledge and vocabulary. Here, children have the opportunity to explore new ideas and information and learn about objects and their uses.

Last spring, Jumpstart’s President & CEO, Naila Bolus, attended a Jumpstart session focused on the theme of wind and water. “The Jumpstart team leader began the session by reading Rabbits and Raindrops by Jim Arnosky,” explains Naila. “Then, she introduced the day’s activity, explaining how it related to the story—carefully incorporating the lesson’s vocabulary words into her conversation.”

The activity involved creating an indoor “rainstorm” during which the children experimented with a variety of materials (mittens, rain boots, jackets, and a giant yellow poncho) to test absorbency.

“Perhaps the children’s favorite part of the activity—and mine, too,” recalls Naila, “was huddling under an umbrella with Jumpstart Corps members while water was sprayed over the top. The children giggled and watched above them as droplets dribbled down and noted that they were staying dry under the waterproof material. It’s mornings like these when I visit Jumpstart classrooms that I see firsthand the impact we are having and the progress we are making toward the day every child in America enters kindergarten prepared to succeed, one rainstorm at a time.”

In low-income neighborhoods, children start kindergarten 60% behind their peers from affluent communities, leaving them woefully unprepared.
Bridget Moynahan
The star of CBS’ Blue Bloods joined Jumpstart’s national board of directors, December 2013

Boston University & Northeastern University
Jumpstart awarded two research grants to professors for the 2014/15 program year

In February 2014, Jumpstart was profiled as an exemplar program by the Center for High Impact Philanthropy (CHIP) at the University of Pennsylvania in its early childhood toolkit for donors entitled: Invest in a Strong Start for Children

"AgingToday" featured a story on 73-year-old Corps member, Carleaner McKinney, and how Jumpstart saved her, physically and emotionally

Boston’s Community Corps piloted a “Walking Club” to encourage healthy living and fitness, leading to longer life expectancy and a stronger connection to the communities where Corps members live and serve

Jumpstart Corps members were accepted into the 2014/2015 Teach for America program

Children First
officially became Jumpstart’s registered trademark in October 2013

The Jumpstart Alumni Network is made up of a diverse group of people from every state in the U.S., in addition to countries across the globe such as China and India

New York City
Tommy Hilfiger provided over 15,000 t-shirts to Corps members to wear during their service hours

1,000,000 Hours Served by our AmeriCorps members

Jumpstart Highlights

15,000 Facebook likes

Bridget Moynahan
The star of CBS’ Blue Bloods joined Jumpstart’s national board of directors, December 2013

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Tommy Hilfiger provided over 15,000 t-shirts to Corps members to wear during their service hours

1,000,000 Hours Served by our AmeriCorps members
California is the state with the greatest number of higher education and Community Corps sites (18), where Jumpstart proudly served 3,372 children.

Jumpstart piloted a new direct assessment of child gains, the Test of Preschool Early Literacy (TOPEL).

Jumpstart partnered with the Whole Kids Foundation to create a kids book club highlighting the importance of literacy and healthy choices through reading.

Jumpstart was featured by America’s Promise Alliance in: *The Role of National Service in Closing the Graduation Gap*.

Jumpstart was named a notable children’s charity to support by *Parents* magazine.

Jumpstart was interviewed by the *Parents* magazine.

Jumpstart was featured by *Parents* magazine.

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Every fall, Jumpstart’s Read for the Record® signifies the kickoff to our program across the globe and helps us shine a national spotlight on the importance of early education by closing the kindergarten readiness gap.

On October 3, 2013, children and adults from across the country joined together to read Otis by Loren Long as part of the world’s largest shared reading experience. Most importantly, our collective efforts motivated people to talk about the importance of reading and high-quality early education. And if that wasn’t enough, we also broke the world record (again!) for the most people reading the same book on the same day! A whopping 2,462,860 adults and children gathered in big cities, small towns, and everywhere in between to put children first and show their support for Jumpstart’s mission: to work toward the day every child in America enters kindergarten prepared to succeed.

A lot has changed since we first introduced Jumpstart’s Read for the Record in 2006—but our commitment to preparing all children for kindergarten, no matter where they live, has only grown.

Jumpstart hosted several large-scale events on October 3 in cities and towns across the country, with marquee events in Boston, Los Angeles, New York, and San Francisco. In addition, many of Jumpstart’s amazing campaign partners—such as Gymboree, Tommy Hilfiger, and Franklin Templeton Investments—hosted unique events with community members, employees, and friends nationwide.

CIRCLES OF IMPACT

Jumpstart’s Read for the Record

World Record

2,462,860

The most people reading the same book on the same day!
Valerie was a Jumpstart Corps member at the University of Massachusetts Boston from 1999-2002. After four years of serving as a Corps member, Valerie knew that she was destined to teach. Currently, Valerie is an adaptive physical education coach for children aged three to seven. She is still connected to her Jumpstart partner child, Adrian, who is now 20-years-old. Over the years, they’ve enjoyed going to the zoo when Adrian was younger, attending sporting events, and spending time with Adrian’s family.

“If there is one thing that I remember from my Jumpstart days, it’s to never say ‘good job.’ Jumpstart taught me to identify the strengths in every child and tell them what they are doing well and what specifically they need to work on. Jumpstart changed my course in life – Jumpstart taught me how to be a teacher.”

By age four, the average child in a professional family hears about 20 million more words than the average child in a working-class family, and about 30 million more words than children in poor families.

COMING FULL CIRCLE:
Valerie Weche

Valerie was a Jumpstart Corps member at the University of Massachusetts Boston from 1999-2002. After four years of serving as a Corps member, Valerie knew that she was destined to teach. Currently, Valerie is an adaptive physical education coach for children aged three to seven. She is still connected to her Jumpstart partner child, Adrian, who is now 20-years-old. Over the years, they've enjoyed going to the zoo when Adrian was younger, attending sporting events, and spending time with Adrian's family.

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Tiffani Thiessen on the TODAY Show

On October 2, Jumpstart’s 2013 Read for the Record celebrity ambassador, Tiffani Thiessen, joined Jumpstart friends and supporters in New York City to light the Empire State Building in “Jumpstart red.” Thiessen was also featured on NBC’s TODAY Show before heading to a Jumpstart classroom on the Lower East Side to read Otis with author Loren Long.
Jumpstart’s Scribbles to Novels galas are unique fundraising events that celebrate the power of the written word. Across the country, we unite prominent authors, celebrities, and leaders in early childhood education to underscore the importance of literature in children’s lives and reinforce our critical mission: to work toward the day every child in America enters kindergarten prepared to succeed.

In San Francisco, Jumpstart welcomed Condoleezza Rice, the 66th Secretary of State. In Boston, supporters enjoyed a panel discussion highlighting the importance of literature and education in the lives of a number of distinguished authors, including Jeff Kinney, best-selling author of Diary of a Wimpy Kid. Attendees in New York City had the chance to meet Bridget Moynahan, Jumpstart’s national board member and star of CBS’ Blue Bloods, in addition to hearing from well-known authors Laura Schroff and Jarret J. Krosoczka.

This year’s Boston Scribbles to Novels honored Mark Nunnelly, Managing Director of Bain Capital, for his many years of service on Jumpstart’s national board of directors and his leadership in education reform. Mark, like Jumpstart, believes that large-scale national service has the power to transform our schools, communities, and the future of our country. He even helped the organization grow into one of the largest part-time AmeriCorps programs. Mark is known to many for his expertise in business and private equity—but to Jumpstart, he’s a philanthropic leader and true champion of high-quality early education.

Thanks to the amazing support of both new friends and longstanding supporters, this year’s Scribbles to Novels events in San Francisco, Boston, and New York raised over $2.4 million for Jumpstart’s programs across the country.
Jumpstart works with government and private sectors to secure the funds to support our mission.

To review our full audited financials (available February 2015), please visit jstart.org.
Jumpstart gratefully acknowledges the financial and in-kind contributions by the many individual, foundation, corporate, and government partners who have invested in our mission and work. Thanks to their gifts, we are closer to the day every child in America enters kindergarten prepared to succeed.

**Jumpstart Supporters**

**Government Supporters**
- California Volunteers
- Corporation for National and Community Service - Foster Grandparents
- Corporation for National and Community Service - National Direct AmeriCorps
- First 5 LA
- Georgia Commission for Service & Volunteerism
- Massachusetts Service Alliance
- Missouri Community Service Commission
- New Yorkers Volunteer
- Serve DC - The Mayor’s Office on Volunteerism
- Serve Illinois Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service

**$250,000+**
- The Barr Foundation
- Joseph Flom Family Foundation
- MFS Investment Management
- Pearson
- Chris and Loretta Stadler

**$100,000 - $249,999**
- A Better Chicago
- Anonymous (2)
- CVC Capital Partners
- Franklin Templeton Investments
- Gary Saltz Foundation
- Goldman Sachs Gives
- The Gymboree Corporation
- Greg and Tracy Johnson
- Joshua and Anita Bekenstein Charitable Fund
- Kay and Anjan Mukherjee
- The Pearson Foundation
- The Pinkerton Foundation
- The Stocker Foundation
- William Penn Foundation

**$50,000 - $99,999**
- Ahmanson Foundation
- Anonymous
- The Baupost Group
- Bloomberg
- Brooke Astor Fund for New York City Education
- Holly McGrath Bruce and David Bruce Capital Group
- Paul and Sandy Edgerley
- Heckscher Foundation for Children
- The Heinz Endowments
- Helios Education Foundation
- David Humphrey and Markella Zanni
- JPMorgan Chase & Co.
- Lissy Family Fund
- Mabel Louise Riley Foundation
- Marrus Family Foundation
- Jennifer and Andrew Marrus
- Overland Advisors - Gordy and Kristine Holterman & Derek and Tamara Dunn
- Pitney Bowes Foundation
- The Ralph M. Parsons Foundation
- The Rose Hills Foundation
- Silver Giving Foundation
- Robert and Christine Small
- The Tommy Hilfiger Corporate Foundation
- Tufts Health Plan Foundation
- W. Clement and Jessie V. Stone Foundation
- Wells Fargo Foundation

**$25,000 - $49,999**
- Lorie Almon and Mitch Bompey
- Amelina Peabody Foundation
- Andrew & Melora Balson Family Fund
- Anonymous
- Bank of America Merrill Lynch
- Ben & Jerry’s
- BJ’s Charitable Foundation
- The Boeing Company
- Bright Horizons Family Solutions
- Stephanie Blank
- The Brinkley Foundation
- Bright Horizons Family Solutions
- Stephanie and John Connaughton
- Credit Suisse Securities LLC
- Dwight Stuart Youth Fund

**$10,000 - $24,999**
- Jesse Angelo and Rebecca Dana
- John and Judy Angelo
- Anonymous (4)
- AOL
- Apollo Management LP
- The Green Foundation
- Dee and Jimmy Haslam
- Nancy and Max Justicz
- Kenneth Rainin Foundation
- KPMG LLP
- Liberty Mutual Foundation
- Lovett-Woodsum Foundation
- Mary A. Crocker Trust
- Navid Mahmoodzadegan
- The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation
- New York Community Trust
- Dwight Poler
- Polk Bros. Foundation
- PricewaterhouseCoopers
- Quest Foundation
- Robert T. Keeler Foundation
- Seyfarth Shaw LLP
- Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP
- Specter Fund at the Boston Foundation
- State Street Foundation, Inc.
- The Stringer Foundation
- The Walther Foundation
- Workday
- Steve Zide
AmeriCorps
Jumpstart has been a proud member of the AmeriCorps national service network since 1996. That year, Jumpstart recruited 80 AmeriCorps members. Since then, our partnership with AmeriCorps has grown tremendously. In the 2013/2014 program year, Jumpstart had over 3,000 AmeriCorps members serving over 1 million hours!

The Gymboree Corporation
shows its commitment to high-quality early education each year by bringing Jumpstart’s Read for the Record® campaign to life in its stores across the country, reaching more than 90,000 adults and children this past year. In addition to participating in Read for the Record, Gymboree generously donated over $200,000 to Jumpstart in 2014.

Greg & Tracy Johnson
have been involved with Jumpstart on a national level and locally in Northern California for the past ten years. The Johnsons have not only been generous contributors to Jumpstart, but have also helped to build the profile of our largest event in San Francisco, Scribbles to Novels, by involving notable authors such as Tom Brokaw and Condoleezza Rice.

Special thanks to:

AmeriCorps
Jumpstart has been a proud member of the AmeriCorps national service network since 1996. That year, Jumpstart recruited 80 AmeriCorps members. Since then, our partnership with AmeriCorps has grown tremendously. In the 2013/2014 program year, Jumpstart had over 3,000 AmeriCorps members serving over 1 million hours!
At Jumpstart we have an array of change makers, leaders, and partners who support our efforts and guide important research, allowing us to provide high-quality early education to children across the country. This year, we've created unique and exclusive opportunities with a few of our valued partners in order to help Jumpstart alums pursue a career in education, public service, and related fields.

Learning to lead. Servicing the community. Making a difference.

These are just a few of the important lessons that over 36,000 alumni have learned while serving with Jumpstart. Since 1993, Jumpstart has transformed the lives of 76,000 preschool children nationwide, helping cultivate a lifelong love for reading and learning, thanks in large part to our alumni.

At Jumpstart we have an array of change makers, leaders, and partners who support our efforts and guide important research, allowing us to provide high-quality early education to children across the country. This year, we’ve created unique and exclusive opportunities with a few of our valued partners in order to help Jumpstart alums pursue a career in education, public service, and related fields.

**Our Alumni Partners**

**Urban Teacher Center**
Urban Teacher Center is an alternative teacher preparation program that provides Jumpstart alumni in Baltimore and D.C. the opportunity to earn a dual Master’s degree in Special Education and K-8 Elementary, Secondary Math, or Secondary Literacy, while also getting classroom experience.

**Match Education**
Match Education designs and manages high performing K-12 charter schools and offers Jumpstart alumni the chance to participate in the Match Teacher Residency Program. Alumni can receive a Master’s Degree in Effective Teaching and a Massachusetts teaching license, while simultaneously working in Match’s charter classrooms.

**Reading Partners**
Reading Partners is a national education non-profit dedicated to improving the reading skills of students who are reading 6 months to 2.5 years below grade level in low-income communities. Jumpstart alumni who are interested in a career in education with a focus on training, recruiting, and tutoring are encouraged to apply to various AmeriCorps positions that Reading Partners offers.

**Bright Horizons**
Jumpstart is proud to partner with Bright Horizons, the world’s leading provider of high-quality child care and early education. Bright Horizons has joined together with Jumpstart to offer teaching jobs to alumni who are passionate about making a difference in the lives of others through a career in early education. Bright Horizons’ CEO, David Lissy also serves on Jumpstart’s national board of directors.

COMING FULL CIRCLE

Rebecca & Domingo Jarquin

Rebecca and Domingo met at San Francisco State University in 1999 during their first year as Jumpstart Corps members. In addition to their mutual love of helping prepare young children for kindergarten, Rebecca and Domingo found they had other shared interests. Today they are married with a five-year-old daughter. Rebecca continues to work in the early education field conducting classroom quality assessments for preschools, and Domingo works for the city and county of San Francisco as a social worker. Both look back fondly on their college days at San Francisco State University and how Jumpstart played a huge role in making them who they are today. Rebecca recalls, “The most memorable experience, besides meeting my husband Domingo of course, was the friendships that we made. I still value these friendships today.”
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Special thanks to:

**MFS Investment Management**

has been the largest corporate partner for Jumpstart Massachusetts for the last 10 years and has donated more than $2.5 million. Their support also includes a company-wide supply drive for our partner preschools throughout Boston. Since 2006, MFS employees have participated in Jumpstart’s Read for the Record® campaign by reading and facilitating learning activities for preschool children.

**Chris & Loretta Stadler** are passionate philanthropists who have been deeply committed to Jumpstart’s mission for over 11 years. Not only is Chris the chairman of Jumpstart’s national board of directors, but he and his wife have connected countless leaders from across the country to Jumpstart, helping to greatly amplify our reach and impact.

**The Pinkerton Foundation**

has been a supporter of Jumpstart Tri-State since 1998, donating $245,000 toward the implementation of the Neighborhood Literacy Initiative in Jamaica, Queens in 2014. Part of the NYC Literacy Network, a collection of 14 literacy and education organizations, Pinkerton and Jumpstart are working together on the Neighborhood Literacy Initiative to ensure that children living in low-income neighborhoods in NYC read at grade level by third grade and sustain literary achievement.
Pearson has been a strong supporter of Jumpstart for the past 13 years. Through both incredibly generous financial and in-kind donations, Pearson has shown its support for Jumpstart by sponsoring various events such as Jumpstart’s Read for the Record®, in addition to employee giving and volunteer engagement.

Joseph Flom Family Foundation is dedicated to supporting programs that produce measurable results in early childhood education. The foundation has joined Jumpstart in ensuring that children throughout New York City have access to effective, sustainable programs that enhance language and literacy skills, putting them on a pathway to success. This year, Jumpstart Tri-State received a $250,000 grant from the Joseph Flom Family Foundation.

Franklin Templeton Investments is a driving force in Jumpstart’s reach and visibility across the country. Each year, Franklin Templeton Investments (FTI) employees nationwide participate in Jumpstart’s Read for the Record campaign, contribute to Jumpstart through their employee matching gift program, and volunteer countless hours in Jumpstart classrooms. We are grateful to FTI for investing more than $1.2 million in both monetary and in-kind donations over the past 14 years. FTI President & CEO, Greg Johnson, also serves on Jumpstart’s national board of directors.
Rebecca began her college career at Wheelock College in Boston where she majored in Early Childhood Education with a focus in Humanities. Even as a freshman, Rebecca knew that she wanted to become a teacher and had a clear career path in mind. When she heard about Jumpstart through a friend at Wheelock, Rebecca was immediately intrigued. After her first day in the classroom, Rebecca was hooked. “I fell in love with working with children from low-income communities. I am from Vermont where there is very little diversity, and I love learning about people, cultures, and community.” Rebecca spent her next four years (2000-2004) as a Jumpstart Corps member, team leader, and program assistant. Rebecca continued to follow her passion for teaching and is now the Education Supervisor at Jamaica Plain Head Start in Boston, the same site where she served as a Corps member.
Ruth Andrews

The year was 2004 and like many other people, Ruth Andrews was on the job hunt. She had a wealth of experience under her belt but was looking for work that she would enjoy and find fulfilling. During a conversation with a friend, she learned about Jumpstart—and it was a discovery that changed her life. Ruth immediately applied to join Boston’s Community Corps program and has been serving children in low-income areas throughout the Roxbury community of Boston ever since.

Concerned with eliminating illiteracy, Ruth is committed to Jumpstart’s mission to help the preschool children she works with develop the language and literacy skills they need to be ready for kindergarten. With past experience working with a literacy group, Ruth came to Jumpstart knowing the importance of the fundamentals of reading early on. “We’re getting to them before they can reach that point, before they fall behind,” said Ruth.

She tells the story of one of her partner children, Gloria, who consistently had trouble spelling her name. Ruth spent time explaining the difference between various letters, including upper- and lower-case. Under Ruth’s guidance, Gloria learned to segment her name into two parts, allowing her to master her first name before moving on to her last—with some fun tricks and tests in between.

Throughout her life, Ruth has known people who’ve battled illiteracy into adulthood. Because of her work, this is a battle other children will not have to fight. She comes back to Jumpstart each program year ready for a new adventure with new children and considers herself one of the lucky few to have landed a “dream job.”