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REACH OUT AND READ WELCOMES BALTIMORE PEDIATRICIAN TO THE NATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dr. Ruby Dey joins a diverse group of esteemed professionals from across the country to promote strengthening parent-child bonding through shared reading.

BALTIMORE (Jan. 17, 2024) – Nonprofit [Reach Out and Read](#) has named Baltimore pediatrician Dr. Ruby Dey to its National Board of Directors. Dey joins Caleb B. King and Carly Roberts as the board’s newest members. Dr. Trude Haecker, Medical Director of Global Patient Services at Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, was named chair.

Reach Out and Read’s board mirrors the millions of diverse families it serves nationwide. These accomplished professionals bring a wealth of experience across medicine, early childhood, and law, and a passion for promoting Reach Out and Read’s work — strengthening parent-child relationships through books and guidance about shared reading from dedicated medical clinicians.

Dr. Ruby Dey is a seasoned general pediatrician with 17 years at the Mid-Atlantic Permanente Medical Group (MAPMG) in the Baltimore Service Area. During her six-year tenure as Chief of Pediatrics for MAPMG, Dr. Dey successfully incorporated Reach Out and Read into the Mid-Atlantic service area for Kaiser Permanente. She formulated a comprehensive plan, securing annual funding and establishing program infrastructure for the distribution of books across 38 medical facilities in Maryland, the District of Columbia, and Virginia.

“As a pediatrician, I have the privilege of advocating for children before they have a voice regarding their future,” Dey said. “Introducing books from birth helps build a strong foundation of literacy, which opens a child’s eyes to possibilities beyond their own experience. One of my goals as a board member of Reach Out and Read is to help expand the program to populations in need, so more families have access to books and the benefits of early literacy.”

Dey will be a strong voice on Reach Out and Read’s board.

“We are thrilled that Dr. Ruby Dey is joining Reach Out and Read’s National Board of Directors,” said Reach Out and Read CEO Marty Martinez. “Dr. Dey has been an incredible advocate for making Reach Out and Read a standard of care for the children she serves and a driving force in the expansion of Reach Out and Read programs in Maryland and beyond. Her

pediatric expertise will be invaluable as we finalize and implement our strategic plan and look to major growth moving forward.”

The board also welcomed **Caleb B. King**, a judicial law clerk at the U.S. Courts of Appeals in New York, and **Carly Roberts**, Associate Program Director for Out-of-School Learning at the Overdeck Family Foundation.

In FY23, Reach Out and Read served more than 4.4 million children and provided 7.1 million free books across 8.8 million well-child visits. More than two-thirds of the children served are from low-income families. Recent research in a [peer-reviewed study published in Academic Pediatrics](#) confirms the program's effectiveness in increasing the frequency of parental reading. To learn more about Reach Out and Read and the programs offered, go to ReachOutAndRead.org.

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About Reach Out and Read: As a 501(c)3 nonprofit, Reach Out and Read provides children with a solid foundation for achievement by integrating books into pediatric care and encouraging family reading time. Endorsed by the American Academy of Pediatrics as the sole evidence-based national pediatric program centered on emotional bonding, Reach Out and Read reaches children in every state across the U.S., delivering services through 6,200 clinics and leveraging the expertise of 36,000 clinicians. Discover more at reachoutandread.org.