Sarah now works one part-time job while managing her store which is experiencing a growth spurt as people realize how important local and small businesses are to a community. Sarah writes: “...Calling Binc was the hardest but best decision I made during a terrible time in my life. They were the light at the end of my tunnel. I hope I never need their help again, but I know where to call if I do.”

Sarah* is a bookstore owner who also worked two part-time jobs. She and her husband were responsible for the estate of Sarah’s late brother and depleted their savings with funeral costs, putting her brother’s home on the market, and moving his belongings across the country. Then the pandemic hit along with a tsunami of health concerns just as her bookstore had to temporarily close due to local pandemic-related restrictions. She was laid off at one part-time job, and on leave of absence from her other one. If that wasn’t enough, her husband had diabetic complications which resulted in surgery which led to kidney stones that led to two surgeries within two days. He ended up with ongoing complications that left him unable to work for four months.

I reached out to the Binc Foundation for help because he is the primary income earner in our household, and I was unable to pay for household bills, rent, and basic living expenses such as food out of my paycheck. The Binc Foundation was easy to work with and very understanding, and they did more for us than I ever imagined they would, paying our rent and all utility bills during his recovery period. Thanks to Binc, we were able to keep a roof over our heads and the lights on while he recuperated. I am so happy that the Binc Foundation is still in existence, I hope that those who are able to do so continue to support our booksellers!

*Name has been changed to maintain the confidentiality of grantee.
**Book and Comic Communities Came Together Quickly**

To Support the People They Care About Most!

The Save Indie Bookstore initiative, launched in conjunction with the American Booksellers Association began with a leading gift from author James Patterson and boosted by Reese’s Book Club raised more than $1.2M for independent bookstores.

Jim Lee’s 60 sketches in 60 days, Creators 4 Comics, and Give Comics Hope along with dozens of artists and illustrators auctioned artwork raising more than $1M for comic shops and their employees.

Steven Malik, a Writers House literary agent, led pandemic relief efforts by enlisting authors and creating matching gift challenges and merchandise that ultimately raised over $2M.

“Thanks to your generosity no one was turned away.” — Pam French, Executive Director

You helped an extraordinary number of individuals, families, and stores.

**2020**

**By the Numbers**

32 scholarships

2,248 grants

621 individuals

1,627 bookstores and comic shops

$3 million distributed

168 authors

4,572 individuals

81 publishers

3407 new donors

17 trade associations

You are securing the future of Binc through your generous support

In 2012, Binc was fortunate to have seed funding from the Borders Group Foundation (what we call our legacy fund) when we expanded our mission to include all brick and mortar stores. This allowed us to serve and operate at a deficit until 2018. In 2019 we met our financial goal to fully cover our operating expenses without use of the legacy fund, and began to replenish those funds ahead of our original timeline. In 2020, during a time of enormous, widespread economic hardship caused by the pandemic, Binc fulfilled every qualified assistance request and was able to continue replenishing the legacy fund. It is thanks to your generous support the Foundation lives well into the future.

Remarkably, Binc has emerged from the pandemic stronger and with more advocates thanks to the coming together of the book and comic communities who supported and amplified our mission.

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Stay Involved

**Become a Monthly Sustaining Donor:** Your recurring donation will ensure that booksellers and comic shop employees in need have a place to turn for help.

**Leave a Legacy:** Your will affirms, honors, and protects what matters most in your life. Planned giving is a way for you to make a financial gift to Binc as part of your overall financial and/or estate planning.

**Join the Author + Creator Leadership Circle:** Led by Campaign Chair Garth Stein, the Leadership Circle celebrates the writers and creators in our community who support booksellers and comic shop employees through Binc.

**Join a Committee:** From Programs, to Finance, to Development & Communications, our volunteer committee members are assets to the Foundation.

**Host a Fundraiser or Initiative:** These fundraisers are powerful expressions of your support while amplifying Binc’s mission to others. There are many ways to show your own creative support of Binc whether it’s a birthday drive, t-shirts, auctions, even movies!