

Books For Kids, Erie Chapter

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An affiliate of The Books For Kids Foundation, New York, NY

Project Begins at Wayne

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Project Begins at Wayne

In our last newsletter, we announced the start of an ambitious literacy program at Wayne School in Erie.

Together with sister organization First Book, Books for Kids has begun a four year program with the students, teachers, and administrators at Wayne, pledging to provide books and literacy support for the next four years, beginning with this year's entering kindergarten class.

At the first visit to Wayne on November 14, volunteers Belle Koncewicz and Stacey Konkel of First Book, together with other volunteers, told stories to 108 students, gave 141 students new books, spoke to 8 parents and presented them with favors, distributed reading literature, and networked with teachers.

Perhaps the most important intangible result of these visits, besides encouraging reading, is that these volunteers showed that the community of Erie cares about students and wants them to succeed.

The idea behind this program is that supplying students with books, involving parents in home reading programs, allowing students free reading time at school, and offering incentives to

parents to participate in home and school activities will result in improved reading scores and a love of reading among the students.

The program will be monitored at many steps along the way by reading experts from Edinboro University and Mercyhurst College.

Books for Kids' involvement in this event was to provide 85 new books to give to the kindergarten children.

A particularly big hit with the teachers and parents was "Tell Time With Thomas the Tank," because the classes had just begun learning how to tell time.

Other books distributed included "Bob the Builder," "10 Minutes to Bedtime," "Building Machines and What they Do," "Handbag Friends," and "Shanna's Hip, Hip, Hoorey."

We will be reporting regularly on the activities and progress of this program.

Providing books to all these children will put a strain on our resources, both financial and human.

We hope that readers of this newsletter will support this program enthusiastically!

**Books for Kids, Erie
Chapter**

P.O. Box 3059
Erie, PA 16508
(814) 898-6214

Teachers Receive Books for Classrooms

Books for Kids normally gives books only to needy children and youth, but in a slight departure from this policy, it held its first book distribution for teachers on November 5.

Some 38 teachers from schools in Erie and Erie County came to our headquarters on East 10th St. after school and selected books for their classroom libraries.

Teachers were obviously delighted by the quality and choice of books. Exclamations of "This is wonderful!" "This is like Christmas!" and "I'm so grateful you are doing this!" echoed in our store room at Bethany Outreach Center.

This new program was begun in response to the fact that public school teachers spend between \$300 and \$500 a year of their own money on books and supplies for their classrooms.

Recognizing this need for support, Books for Kids gave every teacher who participated the opportunity to select up to 10 books for his or her classroom library. In addition, we had somehow accumulated curricular materials, which we also gave away, and on top of this we used the opportunity to distribute multiple copies of titles we have in abundance.

Thanks to volunteers Dean Baldwin, Juan Fernandez, Jane Hackenberg, Jane Levin, and Florence Smith for participating in this evening's activity.

In all, over 1,000 books were given to the teachers!

Books for Birthdays New Locations

Under the leadership of Jane Hackenberg, Books for Kids' Books for Birthdays program has opened three new locations:

House of Mercy
2005 Woodlawn, Erie

International Institute
517 East 26th St., Erie

John F. Kennedy Center
2021 East 20th St., Erie

In addition, she has arranged a trial period for Books for Birthdays at Community Health Net, 1202 State St.

Books for Birthdays offers 3 books per child per family through these locations, encouraging parents to play a direct role in their children's education and reading.

Time for G.E. Matching

Employees and retirees of G.E. are reminded that donations to Books for Kids will be matched by General Electric if the gifts are made before December 31, 2008.

To register a gift, donors must make a contribution of \$25 or more and notify G.E. either by calling 1-800-305-0669 or by going on line at www.gefoundation.com/matchinggifts.

Third Spelling Bee Scheduled for March 31

Books for Kids' and WQLN's third annual corporate spelling bee is scheduled for Tuesday, March, 31 at Junior's Last Laugh on State Street in Erie.

Businesses, offices, organizations, or groups that would like to sponsor a team are encouraged to call Traci Teudhope at 217-6020 for sponsorship information.

Anyone who would like to volunteer to help at this event or who would like to participate as a speller is also urged to call Traci at this number.

It's always a great time, so mark this date on your calendar and plan to attend and cheer on your favorite team!

What Kids Want

At this time of year, children all over the world are making out their Christmas lists for Santa.

Usually, the kids want toys or gadgets, but the students at Wayne School, when asked what they would like, provided answers that will break your hearts.

Remember, this is Erie.
Here is what they say:

I wish there were no drug dealers on my street.

I wish my mom started giving me toys.

I wish my family loved me.

I wish money for the poor.

I wish I could help people who don't have clothes.

I wish there was no violence.

I wish the war would stop.

I wish foster kids had a mom and a dad.

I wish I could heal the world.

I wish for people to stop stealing.

I wish the earth can be clean.

I wish for peace and love.

Books for Kids hopes that all their wishes will come true!

Thanks to Donors

As always, we owe a debt of greater than we can ever repay to all of those who support the work of Books for Kids.

Without them - and you - we could not exist, let alone continue to provide brand new books to the children and youth of Erie County.

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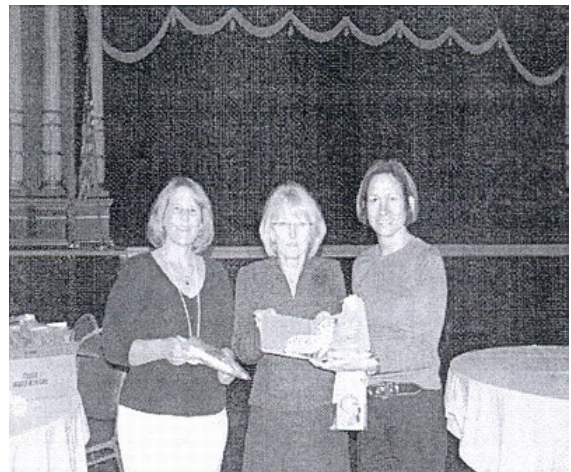
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Thank you again to all of our donors and sponsors.

Very best wishes to everyone for a happy and blessed holiday!



Kiwani members assemble gift bags



Lynne Poyer of Kiwanis, Diane Zenewicz of Community Health Net, and Jane Levin of Books for Kids display some of the books provided by Books for Kids

Books for Kids donated books to the Kiwanis Club of Erie. Kiwanians assembled these into gift bags for distribution to Community Health Net. Each gift bag contained literacy tips, a theether, and a book donated by Books for Kids.

The Books for Kids Foundation, Erie Chapter
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Erie, PA 16508

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