

# Books for Kids, Erie Chapter

Vol. 13 No. 2  
Spring 2003

An affiliate of Books for Kids, New York, NY

## Edinboro Walmart Donates \$500

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### Edinboro Walmart Donates \$500

Walmart, now the world's biggest retailer and at the top of the Fortune 500 companies, is an avid supporter of literacy programs. Books for Kids has in the past received donations and promotions from the Erie Walmart, but this year we were extremely fortunate to receive our first contribution from the Edinboro Store.

Walmart's literacy grant program accepts applications from a variety of literacy groups, and Books for Kids, Erie Chapter was fortunate to be chosen for one of these in the amount of \$500.

Presentation of the check was made by Walmart employee Marnie Woodworth to Books for Kids' President **Dean Baldwin**. (See photo, page 2).

Books for Kids is very grateful to Marnie, to all the employees at the Edinboro Walmart, and to the Walmart Corporation for this generous and timely gift.

### Second Workshop a Success

Last year Books for Kids teamed up with another local literacy group, First Book, to offer a grant application workshop for schools and non-profit organizations wanting to submit requests to either group.

This year's workshop was held

on Wednesday, February 5 at the Blasco Library. Presenters included First Book's President, **Heather May**, and Books for Kids' President, **Dean Baldwin**.

The purpose of the session was to explain the Books for Kids and First Book programs, to outline their grant procedures and requirements, and to encourage non-profit groups and schools to request books for the children and youth that they serve.

In addition, Jean Bender of the Erie City School's Teen Pregnancy Program testified regarding the way in which her program has used books obtained from both groups to foster good reading habits among the young mothers in this program. Books from our two organizations are given to young mothers, who are trained to read to their children from the very beginning. (See photo, p.2)

### GE Fund Still Accepting Donations

Members of Books for Kids who are GE employees or retirees can double their contributions to Books for Kids by taking advantage of GE's "More Gifts More Givers" program.

The process is very simple: make a donation of \$25 or more to Books for Kids, and then call the **GE Fund Matching Gifts Center at 1-800-462-8244**. You will need to give the Books for Kids' zip code of 16508.

**Books for Kids, Erie Chapter**

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

**Marnie Woodworth Presents \$500  
To President, Dean Baldwin**

**Heather May of First Book  
Explains Application Procedures**

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## Literacy Groups Offer Internship

Three of Erie's literacy groups—Books for Kids, First Book, and Hooked on Books—are combining to offer a local college student the chance to work as an intern to promote these agencies in the Erie Community.

Although the intern will not be paid for his or her work, the position will offer the student a chance to work on a variety of projects: publicity, mailing, newsletter writing and layout, photography or video production, research and fact-gathering, and of course some fairly routine “grunt” work as well.

The intern will work under the direct supervision of each group's president, though the bulk of his or her time will be spent under the supervision of **Dr. Dolores Sarafinski** at the office of Hooked on Books at Gannon University. Hooked on Books uses adult volunteers to read aloud to children at the Neighborhood Art House at 10<sup>th</sup> and Holland Streets in Erie.

The decision to cooperate on hiring an intern was made at a recent First Book Board meeting. The idea is to help each group to improve its effectiveness by using the talents and energies of a college student looking for practical experience in professional writing, public relations, and journalism.

In addition, the internship will help the three groups to work together more effectively to tackle the many issues and facets of literacy in Erie County—a county in which two-thirds of its children live

below the poverty line.

In our next issue, we will report on who this intern is and give readers a chance to meet him or her and sample some of the student's work.

## Hooked on Books Needs Volunteers

As noted in the previous story, our sister organization, Hooked on Books, promotes literacy and the love of reading by connecting children with adult volunteers who read to them.

Every summer, a small army of volunteers is needed to provide children at the Neighborhood Art House with a personal “reading pal.” Ideally, each child is paired with a single adult who reads to the child every noon for a week.

## Books for Kids Wants You!

If you would like to volunteer your time and expertise, Books for Kids could use your help.

We are always looking for energetic, take-charge individuals who are willing to serve on the Books for Kids Board. The board meets six times yearly, is comprised entirely of unpaid volunteers, and is a working board: members have important jobs to do.

Our hard working distribution team, **Flo Smith** and **Jane Levin** could use help distributing books to agencies whose applications are approved. Anyone interested in helping Flo and Jane needs to be reasonably fit, at there are stairs to climb and boxes of books to be moved. Also, this person has to be free during the day.

If you are interested in serving in any capacity as a Books for Kids volunteer, please call **Dean Baldwin** at 898-6214.

We'd love to put you to work!

## New And Renewing Members

As always, Books for Kids is pleased to acknowledge the support of all those who make our work possible.

Without the support of individuals, businesses, and groups like those listed below, our work of promoting literacy and the love of learning would not be possible.

### Major Donors \$250+

Walmart Corporation

### Benefactors \$100 +

Dean and Vicki Baldwin  
Church of the Covenant Mission Outreach  
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Northwestern Food Pantry  
Mr & Mrs. James Stolley

### Patrons \$50 +

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Neil & Patricia Milligan

### Friends \$10+

Helen Friend  
Kathleen Miazga

**A Sincere Thanks to All Our Donors  
From the Children and Youth  
of Erie City and County!**

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