

# Books for Kids, Erie Chapter

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Winter 2004

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

## Total Logistics Brings Books

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### BOOKS FROM NEW YORK

Total Logistics Corporation of Wattsburg Road in Erie made a huge contribution to Books for Kids, just in time for the Christmas rush.

The New York headquarters of Books for Kids offered the Erie Chapter some 7,000 books free of charge if they could be moved from the warehouse in Brooklyn to Erie.

To the rescue came **Mr. Tom Cunningham**, General Manager of TLC, who offered the use of one of his company's trucks to pick up the books. A time day and time was arranged for the pick-up, and the truck was able to load the books and bring them back to TLC's warehouse.

The problem now was to move the books from TLC's warehouse to the Books for Kids' warehouse on Holland St. Fortunately, good Samaritan **Bren Lindell**, a teacher in the Millcreek schools, offered his services and his truck, and he and board member **Dean Baldwin** loaded the books and drove them to Holland St.

There they were met by several of the young people of Juvenile Probation and their officers. These energetic youngsters had the books unloaded in no time and stacked neatly in the warehouse, where

they became immediately available for distribution to the children and youth of Erie County. Books for Kids extends a grateful thank-you to all involved in this event, especially Tom Cunningham and the good people at TLC, Bren Lindell, and all the folks at Juvenile Probation.

See photos, p. 2.

**THANKS!**

### A BIG PURCHASE

#### A Small Price

Books for Kids happily cooperates with First Book and Hooked on Books to coordinate our efforts to promote literacy and life-long learning. And such cooperation often pays big dividends.

In this case, the dividends came in the form of books—nearly 4,000 of them—obtained from the national headquarters of First Book through one of its periodic national book distributions.

The books themselves were free; Books for Kids paid only the modest shipping fee of 25 cents per book. All of these were brand-new, beautiful books that will be treasured by the children in Erie County who receive them.

Thanks to First Book for making these excellent books available to us at such a great price!

*Books for Kids, Erie Chapter*  
P. O. Box 3059  
Erie, PA 16508  
(814) 898-6214



**Bren Lindell and his faithful truck**



**The boys stack books**

**Workshops a Success**

On February 6, at 4:30 at the Blasko Library, Books for Kids and First Book combined for their third annual workshop on how to submit applications for books to the two organizations.

To publicize the event, over 200 letters were sent to non-profit groups and schools in Erie County.

On the day, some twenty-five men and women from a variety of agencies and schools assembled in the Library's Admiral(?) Room to learn how to submit applications to Books for Kids and First Book.

Several of the attendees spoke feelingly about books they had received in the past from one or both of the organizations and the impact these books had on the children and young people who received them.

**OVER 13,000 BOOKS IN 2003**

Hard-working distribution co-chairs **Florence Smith** and **Jane Levin** report another successful year of distributing books to the children and youth of Erie County.

In 2003, some 13,200 books were distributed to 50 agencies and schools, among them:

- Burton Elementary School**
- Booker T. Washington Center**
- Erie Family Center**
- Family Support Center**
- GECAC Charter School**
- Henderson U.M. Church Food Pantry**
- International Institute**
- Martin Luther King Center**
- Dept. of Health After School Programs**
- Social Work Club, Gannon University**
- United Way Success by Six**
- Union City Family Support Center**

Included in this number are over 900 books distributed through two Books for Birthdays locations, the GECAC Charter School and the GECAC Learning Center. Under

this program, parents or other care givers may select up to three books per year for their children as gifts for birthdays, Christmas, or any other occasion.

Books for Kids is proud to have helped so many children and young people to discover the joy of reading and the pleasure of owning their own books.

We also thank all the agencies who distributed our books to their clients. Without them, we could not do our work.

And a special thanks, also, to **Flo** and **Jane** for their hard work and dedication. They have the most difficult job in the Books for Kids organization, and they perform it admirably.

**Great work Flo and Jane!**

### GE DONORS NEEDED

For several years, Books for Kids was fortunate to qualify for matching gifts from General Electric through its "More Gifts, More Givers" program.

Under this program, if a non-profit group collects gifts totaling \$1,000 or more from the combined contributions of ten or more donors who are employees or retirees of GE, the company will match the total amount donated. (The minimum amount is \$25, and the donor must call GE to register the gift.) In some years, Books for Kids has received as much as \$1,300 from GE employees and retirees and received the matching amount from GE itself.

This past year, however, Books for Kids did not meet the minimum requirements—not because the amount of money was insufficient, but because fewer than 10 GE employees or retirees donated and notified GE.

We are hoping to become reinstated this year. We have a pledge of \$1,000 from a generous GE retiree, but we need an additional 9 donors to pledge at least \$25 each. GE employee **Mr. Don Proctor**, is heading up this effort to reinstate Books for Kids.

If you are a GE employee or retiree, willing to pledge at least \$25 a year to Books for Kids, please call Dean Baldwin at 898-6214.

**Please help us qualify for these vital matching funds!**

### INCOME DOWN EXPENSES UP

The last few years have been difficult for all non-profits, and Books for Kids is no exception.

In 2002, Books for Kids' income totaled nearly \$12,000, while in 2003 it dropped to under \$8,000. Meanwhile, expenses have risen: postage, rent and utilities at our warehouse, and the prices of books have all gone up.

The Books for Kids Board, therefore has pledged itself to a renewed effort to raise funds during 2004.

We hope we can count on your support for this effort, which begins with this issue of the newsletter.

### GIFTS HONOR ANITA DUNBAR

Anita Dunbar was a faithful supporter of Books for Kids, so that when she passed away this past December, it was fitting that her friends and relatives honored her memory with gifts totaling \$230 in Mrs. Dunbar's name.

Special thanks to those who donated: **Rose Barr, Kim Conti, Constance & Ronald Davis, Jerome and Edith Neidinger, Constance Roseberry, and Richard & Georgette Spinelli.**

### NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS

Books for Kids is pleased to honor all who have donated since our last newsletter.

**Major Contributors \$250+**  
Manufacturers' Assoc. of NW PA  
Miriam Hasslacher Memorial Fund  
St. Boniface Food Pantry

**Benefactors \$100+**  
Mary L. Atkinson  
Country Fair, Inc.

Henry & Shirley Fuller  
Harry & Nicole Martin  
John & Sarah Rees Foundation  
Park United Methodist Women  
Summit Community Food Pantry

### Patrons \$50+

Carla Clark  
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Dot & Chet Giermak  
Valerie Gray  
Mrs. Richard Hawn  
Howard & Jane Levin  
Bob & Connie Monahan  
Molly Monahan & B. Loughridge  
NFG Employees' Credit Union

### Sponsors \$25+

Anne H. Beebe  
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Thomas & Patricia Dahlkemper  
Anita Dunbar  
Erie Co. Office of Children/Youth  
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Larry & Marguerite Wander, &  
Aino Rinne

### Friends \$10+

Rose Barr  
Elbert & Helen Friend  
NW Pennsylvania NOW  
Richard & Georgette Spinelli  
Mr. & Mrs Russell Thelin  
Irene Zelazny

**The children and youth of  
Erie County thank all of you!**

**They have books because of  
your generosity!**

The Books for Kids Foundation,  
Erie Chapter  
P.O. Box 3059  
Erie, PA 16508

WON'T YOU PLEASE HELP US?

Please use this coupon to lend us your support. The children and youth of Erie County will thank you.  
[Has your membership expired? The date on the mailing label indicates your last donation.]

\_\_\_ Major Donor \$250+

\_\_\_ Benefactor \$100+

\_\_\_ Patron \$50+

\_\_\_ Sponsor \$25+

\_\_\_ Friend 10+

**Mail the completed form and check payable to "Books for Kids, Erie Chapter," P.O. Box 3059  
Erie, PA 16508.**

Donations to Books for Kids are tax deductible for those who itemize.

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