

# *Book Report from The BookStart Fund*

*Newsletter Number Five, March 2016*

## *Five Questions People Ask About The BookStart Fund*

### **1. What is it?**

Answer: A fund at the Community Foundation of Greater Fort Wayne to provide books for low-income families with young children. BookStart Fund books are now being used by four agencies serving low-income parents of very young children: Early Childhood Alliance, SCAN, Fort Wayne Urban League and Healthier Moms & Babies. Hundreds of children in Allen County are learning about the wider world and increasing their language skills, compassion, and curiosity.

### **2. Why do you provide only board books to the participating agencies?**

Answer: Because they hold up better than regular or paperback books in the hands of toddlers! We want the books to last and be read over and over, adding to the words and ideas heard by the children before age three.

### **3. Why do you focus on children under age three? Won't pre-K programs for four-year olds solve the problem of children in poverty not being ready for kindergarten?**

Answer: Pre-K is too late! Research shows that by age three, many children from homes in poverty are at least a full year behind in vocabulary—and follow-up studies show that the gap predicts the children's academic outcomes at age nine.

### **4. Why should the books be taken to the families at home?**

Answer: The emphasis of our program is what happens in the home. Many of the families we serve would not be reached by programs that require the parent to go somewhere else, such as to an agency or a library. The mentoring relationships with parents that our partner agencies develop combined with our gift books makes it work!

**5. How is it going?** Answer: Great! To date 78 donors have given a total of \$27,839. We have purchased 8,687 books so far...45 different titles!

## *Early Childhood Alliance Joins the BookStart Family*

We are very happy to announce that we have added one more agency to our BookStart family. The Parents As Teachers (PAT) program of the Early Childhood Alliance (ECA) is now receiving board books purchased by the BookStart Fund to give to the families they serve in Allen County.

In the PAT program, Parent Educators support parents in their role as their child's first teacher, offering information and encouragement to develop the skills that lead to school readiness. Now those families will receive books to keep and enjoy over and over with their children.

***Talk to toddlers! Read to toddlers!***  
***Reading to toddlers gives them the best start for the rest of their lives.***

***Gifts Made In Honor or In Memory of...***

Debbie Alvarez, by Helen Frost & Chad Thompson

George Morrison, by Nancy Stewart

Jeanne McNulty Leffers, by Regina Leffers

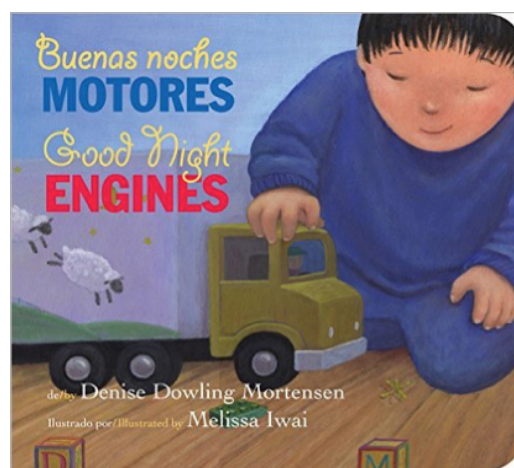
***BookStart Fund Donors***

\* Marks new donors since December 2015 newsletter.

! Marks the 27 donors who have given more than once!

Kathy & Steve Adair  
Adie & Dick Baach !  
Liz Banse & Brian Clark !  
David & Ann Bobilya \*  
Stephany Bourne  
Cathy Brown  
Liz & Steve Brown  
Betty & Isa Canavati !  
Kathy & Alan Candioto  
Howard & Betsy Chapman \*  
Weili Chen  
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Heather Strzelecki  
Dolores Tomusk  
Irene & Bob Walters  
Dana Wichern !  
Terence & Joyce Wogan  
Linda & Mack Wootton  
Debra & Remound Wright  
Judy & Frank Wright !



**A new find, reminiscent of Goodnight, Moon.**

***How To Help***

Mail a check payable to the Community  
Foundation of Greater Fort Wayne  
(write BookStart on the memo line) to:

Community Foundation  
555 East Wayne Street  
Fort Wayne IN 46802

Or go to [cfdgw.org](http://cfdgw.org) and donate on line.  
Write "BookStart" as the special fund.

***Donations are used only for books!***

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