



The BookStart Fund

Helping parents nurture their babies with read-aloud books

Newsletter Number Nine, June 2017

Our Mission

The mission of the BookStart Fund is to encourage parents to talk to and to read to their children from infancy on by giving them inviting new books and encouragement from a trusted mentor. Who are the mentors who actually put the books into the hands of the parents? These special people are the parent educating staff of the eight social service agencies in Allen County who have agreed to be BookStart Partners.

We want you donors to know more about what happens to the books your donations fund. We are starting a regular feature in our newsletters to focus on our partner agencies. This time the focus is on **Read & Rise**, a Fort Wayne Urban League program that works with low-income parents in their homes.

How's the BookStart Fund Doing?

Super well, with almost 20,000 new board books distributed to our partners so far. This would not be possible without our 120 donors—thank you! Please continue being generous and tell your friends about the BookStart Fund! And check out our website:

BookStartFund.org

Focus on Read & Rise

Alyssa Stalter is the Read & Rise mentor who visits families in the neighborhood of the Urban League offices at Hanna and Creighton. Alyssa sometimes knocks on doors to invite parents to enroll in the 15 week Read & Rise program.

During each home visit, Alyssa coaches, encourages, and teaches the parents how they can help their children be prepared for school. Every young child in the home receives a

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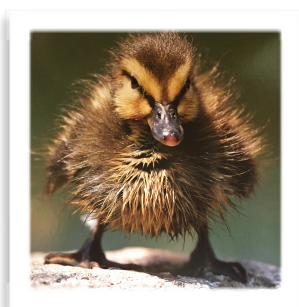
Read & Rise mom Faviola, shares a new board book with her daughter Yareli, 16 months.

Read & Rise, continued

new book from BookStart at each visit. Alyssa says that sometimes the parents think they cannot teach their children, so she works to convince them how much they can help their child's learning. She also suggests appropriate parenting techniques for children's social, emotional and behavioral development.

One mother recently told Alyssa that because of the Read & Rise program, she now approaches her son's behavior differently—so much so that someone noticed it and complimented her.

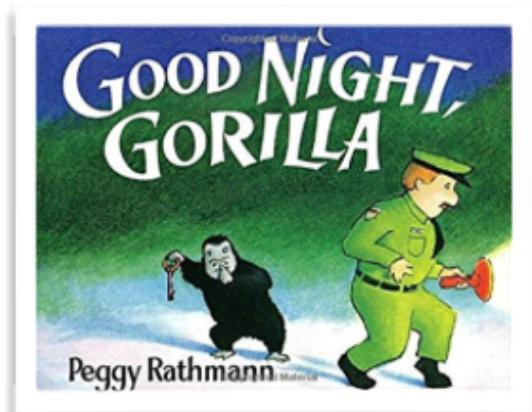
We want to compliment Alyssa for her positive influence through Read & Rise!



Alyssa's families love this book about a duckling who stubbornly insists he cannot swim.

New Grant Received

The BookStart program is partially supported by a grant from the St. Joseph Community Health Foundation. We are honored to have received this grant, as it confirms our belief that the BookStart program is a valuable asset to our partner agencies and to the families they serve. And also to the community! Thank you!



This almost wordless book has lots for parents & children to explore and talk and laugh about.

New Donors Since March 2017

Mark Flanagan
Cynthia & David Scott
Peggy & Jack Seigel
Marnie & Dick Waterfield
Thank you!

New Memorial Tribute

In Memory of Florence Pauly,
by Dolores Tomusk

How To Donate

Write a check to the Community Foundation
of Greater Fort Wayne
(Write BookStart on the memo line).

Mail it to:

CFGFW

555 East Wayne Street
Fort Wayne IN 46802

Or donate on line at cfgfw.org/donate/

Check "Other" and write

"BookStart" as the fund name.

Questions? Ginny Clark: 625-3837