



# Book Report from The BookStart Fund

July 2018

“Getting babies and books together”

Vol. 11

*The BookStart Fund purchases new books for SCAN and eight other non-profit agencies in Allen County to give to their client families with babies and toddler in poverty homes. For the older children, SCAN provides donated books, but for babies and toddlers, BookStart supplies new, age appropriate and enticing board books. At SCAN the BookStart program is called READ TO ME.*

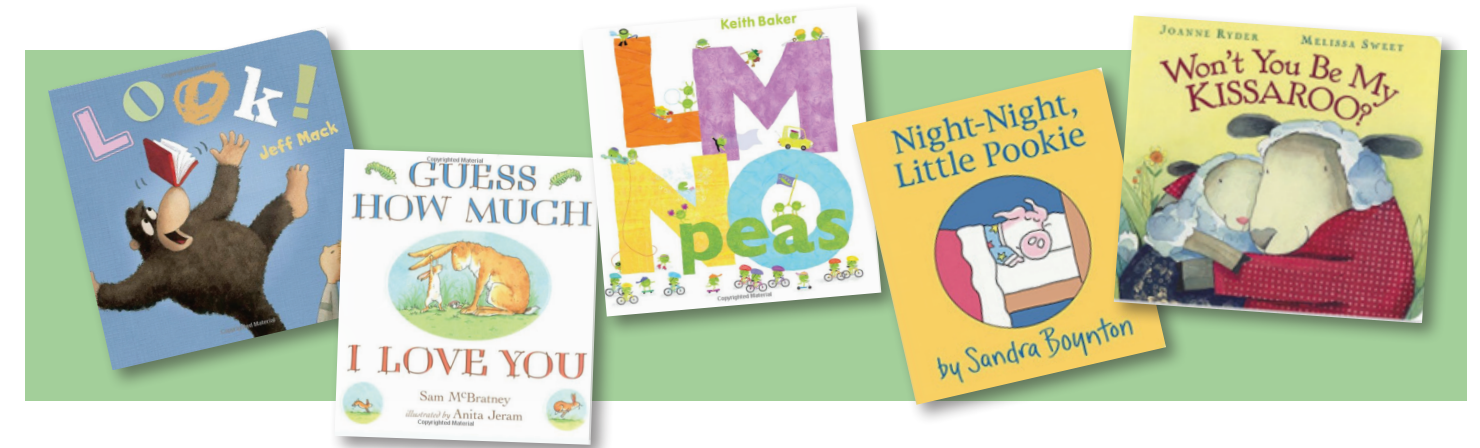
**Why books?** Books offer a medium to engage families with children. One of the many things that parents can do to support development in children is to spend time with them. Reading a book allows parents and children to bond in special ways. The children and families that receive services at SCAN are at risk or have been afflicted by child abuse or neglect and life struggles have created a lack of structure, consistency and lack of intimacy or attachment for our children. Our staff are trained on the importance of establishing or re-establishing the bond between parents and children, creating structure in the home environment and bringing back consistency to the evening routine.

## Guest column by Dee Szyndrowski, CEO of SCAN, Inc.

Teaching the importance of reading to a child is one of the many lessons our families engage in with our staff at SCAN (Stop Child Abuse and Neglect). SCAN offers a continuum of prevention and intervention services for our parents to support early childhood development, attachment and the significance of words. The READ TO ME program is one of the many tools our staff uses to engage families and children. Each month, our staff provides over 300 new board books from the **BookStart Fund** to children and families through the various home visiting services.

Robin James, Manager of our Fatherhood Program, shares the following impact that this program has had: “Dads in our program often don’t know how to take that first step,” she said. “Reading a book provides a way where there seems to be no way.” In our Daybreak respite program, Judy Parker states, “foster families have only 30 to 60 minutes to establish rapport with a child they will care for temporarily. So, they use a book.”

(cont. on page 2)



*Special thanks to the Fort Wayne Jewish Federation for selecting BookStart to receive donations from attendees to their annual People of the Book Lecture Series—and to the many people who made those donations!*

**BookStart Fund Advisors**

Madeline Baker, CEO Early Childhood Alliance  
Becky Hill, retired member FWCS Board  
Lanissa Maggert, Early Childhood Alliance  
Greta McKinney, Executive Director,  
MILK Montessori School  
Odelet Nance, Assistant Dean, Early College Programs NE IN, Vincennes University  
John Peirce, Consultant to Big Goal Collaborative and United Way  
Terri Jo Swim, Professor of Early Childhood Education, IPFW  
Dee Szyndrowski, CEO of SCAN, Inc.  
Dana Wichern, BookStart Co-Founder, FWCS, retired

**Grants received in 2018**

We are grateful for two grants received this spring:

**The ST. JOSEPH COMMUNITY HEALTH FOUNDATION**  
and The Waterfield Foundation

(cont. from page 1)

Reading is one of the many ways we can assist parents to set their children up for success. By introducing the experiential activity of reading, we educate parents on the important effects of this process. Parents are eager to hear how they can positively impact their child and love to share the benefits of this process. “I tell my families that words are brain power and reading to their children will help them in every subject they have in school,” said home visitor and former teacher Laverne Lafrentz. We discuss the impact on brain development for the child, the impact on cognitive development, processing what children see, hear and read, language recognition, and literacy skills. This allows our families to find a WHY behind supporting the development of our children; often leading to changes in the family structure.

Family Support Specialist **Leslie Gibson** says she sees books she shared with families still being used when she visits six months later. All agreed that upwards of 90 percent of families continue reading with their children, which helps establish reading time, nap time and bed time routines that are so important to building a strong home life.

SCAN is so grateful for the **BookStart** program—our ability to implement READ TO ME has made tremendous impact in the lives of our children and families. There are so many benefits that this program offers to our children, but most importantly it offers us a medium to establish bonds and relationships in families.

### *Little books for little hands open big minds*

All nine BookStart Partner Agencies give the books directly to parents and children together, modeling for the parents the appropriate way to use the book for their child. That’s what Alyssa Stalter, the Read & Rise Coordinator at the Fort Wayne Urban League, is doing in these photos. She often sits down on the floor to engage the child in the book. Notice how interested these two children are in the books!



Scenes like this one are happening many times a day in Fort Wayne, thanks to our Partner Agencies and our Donors. BookStart depends on your donations to continue to provide enticing, carefully chosen books—some of our recent selections are shown on page one.

**Will you send a donation now, to help us keep this program going?**



### ***BookStart Partner Agencies***

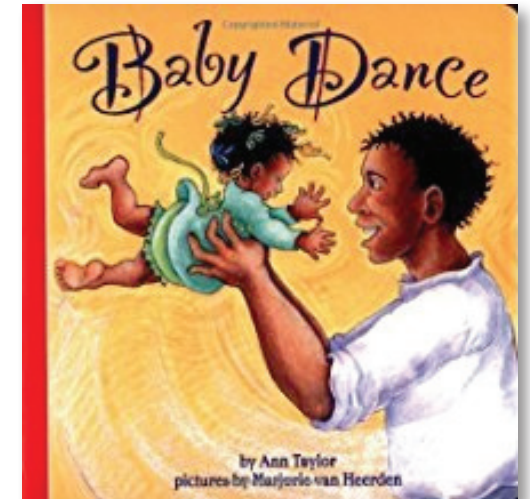
Allen Co Superior Court: Bright Steps  
Bright Point: Early Head Start Home Visits  
Fort Wayne Urban League: Read & Rise  
Healthier Moms & Babies  
Just Neighbors Interfaith Homeless Network

Rescue Mission: Charis House  
SCAN: Healthy Families & other programs  
Vincent Village  
YWCA Shelter

### ***An Important Criteria...***

Many parents today want to raise their children to accept all others—what better way than to start them off with books that include children of all colors! One of our book selection criteria is that they show diversity in the characters, not only because all children should see themselves in some of their books, but because all children should see children of other races as equally important and valued. Since almost all children’s books, even new ones, show only or mostly white families, we look hard for books about other kinds of families doing normal family things!

*Here are two of our choices—the first just published and the next from 1998.*



***“What’s so important about kids’ books—they can be windows to introduce them to the world, but they also need to see a reflection. They should be a window and a mirror.”***

*-- Carla Hayden, 14th Librarian of Congress.*

### **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/](http://cfgfw.org/donate/)  
Check “Other” and write “BookStart” as the fund name.

**Questions?** Ginny Clark: 625-3837