



# Book Report from *The BookStart Fund*

Spring 2019

“Getting babies and books together”

## *Reading is becoming contagious at homeless shelters*

BookStart’s Partner Agencies that serve homeless families have become so aware of the benefits to their “guests” of promoting reading to little children that some of them are now looking for books for older children, too. The BookStart Fund’s mission is to provide parents with enticing new books to be read to their zero to three age children. We are thrilled that the staff at the homeless shelters now want books for older children! Let’s see if our readers will help with that. Gently used, appropriate books for school age children are welcomed.

From Nancy McCammon-Hansen, Marketing and Development Director at Just Neighbors:



*Thanks to the Book Start program, reading is now something that we are focusing on with all the children in our homeless shelter. The staff and volunteers are making reading a part of almost every day in our shelter. When parents are using the*

*computer in the offices to job search, kids can often be found sitting in the “library” reading and looking at books. The little ones get a tote bag from BookStart for keeping their new books in. That has inspired us to expand our book section to add a “Young Adult” section for teenagers. Volunteers and staff sit with parents and kids during the dinner hour and read to the kids to give parents a little “down time” and to reinforce the need to expose children to the way reading can expand your mind and knowledge. If you’ve ever*

*seen a child walk into your office with a book in hand and a smile on their face, you know that reading is a valuable skill to give to children.*

Books can be dropped off during the work day (preferably) or evenings during the week to the shelter. Call 458-9772 and ask for Nancy McCammon-Hansen or Shirley Rork.

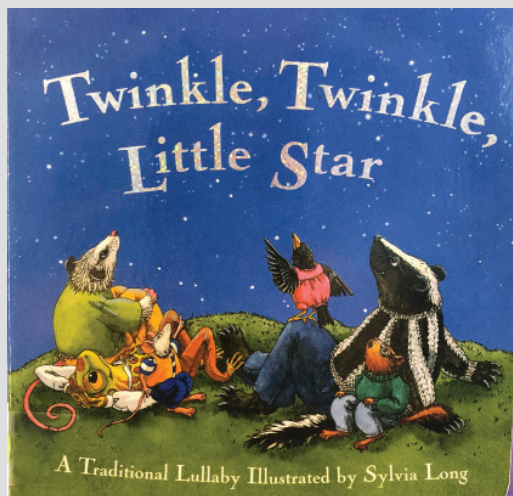
From Julie Conroy, Director of Chara 10:14, the childcare at Charis House:

*One benefit of the BookStart program I have seen is older children reading to younger ones. And it’s not always siblings. Older children sometimes are more relaxed and know how to “read” to others because of school experiences. One child who has speech delays has greatly benefitted from this program. His mother spends each evening reading to him and we are definitely seeing progress. He will ask one of us to sit and listen to him read!*



All donations to Charis House must go to Treasure House, the Rescue Mission/Charis House donation center. It is located at Coldwater Crossing and is open 9 a.m. - 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

## *A new favorite book: Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star*



The text is the traditional lullaby, including all five verses, but look at these illustrations! Note the focus on cross-species friendships and universal going to bed routine.

Six “animal” friends (frog, hamster, crow, skunk, possum, and mouse) head home when the stars first appear. Lovingly welcomed home by their parents, after dinner they each go through familiar bedtime routines—including being read to. How could we not love this book?

Throughout the pages, a fox quietly goes through the village, lighting the lamps—helping to “light the traveler in the dark.”

*Published by Chronicle Books in 2001. Illustrated by Sylvia Long.*

## *New BookStart advisors add mix of savvy and soundness*

Maureen Grinsfelder and Mary Voors, newest members of the BookStart Advisors, add layers of perspective to the current board. Grinsfelder, now retired, was former executive director of the Questa Education Foundation. She brings a new level of understanding regarding the skill levels high school graduates need in seeking financial assistance for further education. Voors, long-time children’s librarian, has an in-depth understanding of children’s books and experience with a young child’s needs for success in reading.

The BookStart Advisory Council works with BookStart founder Ginny Clark to make substantial differences in improving the delivery of the BookStart mission and helps create new solutions to problems. With strong backgrounds and experience in delivering child growth and development services to children for (and with) a variety of agencies, these members are servers, creators, and evaluators of what’s best for serving up books and learning for our youngest children.

**Madeleine Baker**, CEO Early Childhood Alliance

**Maureen Grinsfelder**, Former Questa Education Foundation Executive Director, retired

**Becky Hill**, FWCS Board, retired

**Lanissa Maggert**, Early Childhood Alliance

**Greta McKinney**, MLK Montessori School Director

**Odelet Nance**, Vincennes University, Assistant Dean

**John Peirce**, Early Learning and Public Policy Consultant

**Terri Jo Swim**, IPFW, Early Childhood Education

**Dee Szyndrowski**, CEO of SCAN, Inc.

**Mary Voors**, Manager of Children’s Services, ACPL

**Dana Wichern**, BookStart Co-Founder, FWCS, retired

## *BookStart Partner Agencies*

Bright Point Early Head Start

Healthier Moms and Babies

Just Neighbors Interfaith Homeless Network

Rescue Mission: Charis House

SCAN: Healthy Families and other programs

Vincent Village

YWCA Shelter

Twinkle, twinkle, little star,  
How I wonder what you are!  
Up above the world so high,  
Like a diamond in the sky.

When this blazing sun is gone,  
When he nothing shines upon,  
Then you show your little light,  
Twinkle, twinkle, through the night.

Then the traveller in the dark  
Thanks you for your tiny spark;  
He could not see where to go,  
If you did not twinkle so.

In the dark blue sky you keep,  
And often through my curtains peep,  
For you never shut your eye  
Till the sun is in the sky.

As your bright and tiny spark  
Lights the traveller in the dark,  
Though I know not what you are,  
Twinkle, twinkle, little star.

*Written by Jane Taylor in 1809*



## Remembrances

You might consider making your next donation  
to the BookStart Fund either in honor  
or in memory of a special person.

Special thanks to the Bells,  
who did that last month.

**IN HONOR OF**  
Rosella Harter

**FROM**  
Janet and David Bell

## 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 online at [cfgfw.org/donate/](http://cfgfw.org/donate/)  
Check "Other"  
Enter "BookStart" as the fund name.

**Questions?** Contact Ginny Clark at 260-625-3837



Illustration from Book! by Kristine O'Connell  
George, illustrated by Maggie Smith