



Kids Who Read Succeed

Fact Sheet—Book Worm Angels

The literacy challenge:

- 40% of American children have difficulty reading or learning to read.
- Low literacy is related to poverty – 43% of those with the lowest literacy skills live in poverty.
- Reading at home is critical to literacy – yet:
 - In many public elementary schools, the majority of the children read below grade level.
 - Typically, these schools are in neighborhoods where 93% of families are low-income and qualify for public assistance.
 - Children in these schools typically have no history of reading at home, nor are there books at home.
 - Public libraries can be inaccessible and in dangerous gang territories.
 - Books owned by the schools are often kept at the school – not permitted to go home with the children.

What we do:

- Provide new and gently used “fun” children’s reading books for in-classroom lending libraries, primarily for city schools where a majority of the students read below grade level. We provide 7-10 books per student, or about 250 books per classroom. Our books are required to be available for at-home use.
- How do we get all those books?
 - Organize children’s book drives year-round with a wide variety of organizations, schools and businesses.
 - Partner with other organizations which collect and distribute books.
- Provide a simple-to-administer program involving school principals, reading specialists, teachers and parents/caregivers that encourages at-home reading and rewards success.
- Re-stock participating classrooms every year with additional books.

Our accomplishments:

- Serve 174 Chicago Public School System elementary schools, 6 Aurora, Illinois schools, 1 East Chicago, Indiana school, 3 Gary, Indiana schools, 5 Hammond, Indiana schools, 1 Atlanta, Georgia school, 1 Dorchester, South Carolina school, 1 Lowell, Massachusetts school, 3 Fitchburg, Massachusetts school and 6 South Holland, Illinois schools, over 106,000 students.
- Collected and distributed over 2,000,000 books.
- Organized over 1000 book drives via public and parochial elementary schools, school districts, Rotary clubs, scouting organizations and businesses.
- Praise for the program from school administration, principals, reading specialists and teachers.
- Reading scores in BWA schools increased at a rate 60% greater than the all-school average increase.

Our goals:

- Continue to provide books to partner schools where the majority of the children read below grade level.
- Expand to other cities.

What we are:

- A 501(c)(3) corporation dedicated to children’s literacy through the development of regular reading habits among at-risk, low income children in grades pre K-8.

For Book Drives and Collections, call:

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