BOOKS!!
FOR COLLIER KIDS

ONE MILLION AND GROWING!
Over one million new books to Collier Kids since 2005

Celebrating
our 13th year
2017-2018
Message from the Chair

ONE MILLION BOOKS AND GROWING!

In 2018, Books for Collier Kids celebrated a phenomenal milestone: One Million books given to disadvantaged children in our community since 2005. In fact, children in pre-K who received their “first book” in 2005 are now seniors in high school. Thanks a million to all of our donors, grantors, volunteers and supporters.

Books for Collier Kids has a single purpose: we give books to disadvantaged children in our community to take home, share, cherish and own.

One million books are a LOT of books to young, disadvantaged children. What does a million children’s books look like? If you placed them end to end, they would actually reach from Naples to Miami and back again . . . 189 miles.

More importantly, children who would otherwise not have books at home are learning to read, sharing delightful books with siblings and family, and becoming lifelong readers and learners.

In 2005, we gave a total of 7,300 books to 900 pre-k children. Over the years, we have grown to support all of the Pre-K, kindergarten, first- and second-grade classrooms in now 21 Title 1 elementary schools in Collier County. In 2018, we gave 100,000 high-quality, age- and curriculum-appropriate books to more than 7,400 children in 350 classrooms plus more through our summer programs and local agencies.

We cannot accomplish this work without your loyal and generous financial support. Your gifts make a transformational difference in the lives of disadvantaged children right here in Collier County. Thank you!

Sallie Williams
Chair

Getting books to kids who need them
Learn to read...read to learn

Books make a difference.
The number of books in the home correlates strongly with children’s reading skills, yet most children from low-income families have no books at all at home.

Books for Collier Kids makes a difference.
Books for Collier Kids gives disadvantaged young children a steady supply of their own new books. In 13 years, we have given over ONE MILLION books to children living in poverty in Collier County.

Your support makes a difference.
We buy first-quality new books at a fraction of the retail cost. A donation of $500 provides ten or more books for each disadvantaged child in a pre-K, K, first- or second-grade classroom.

Facts about reading

- Nationally, in some of the lowest-income areas, there is only one book for every 300 kids.
- Children whose parents are unable to read tend to struggle with reading too, perpetuating a cycle of poverty.
- Low-income children without access to books experience summer slide, starting fall classes with reading scores 30% lower than students with steady access to books year round.
- By the end of fifth grade, children-in-need are nearly three grades behind in reading skills.
- 63% of Collier County’s 22,000 elementary students are economically needy.
- 21 of Collier County’s 31 elementary schools are Title I schools, with more than 75% of students from low-income families relying on the free or reduced meal program.
- More than 52% of our students live in non-English homes, where English is not the first language, or may not be spoken at all. The percentage increases to more than 55% in grades pre-k through third, where learning to read is so critical.

One Million and Growing!
BOOKS FOR COLLIER KIDS CONTINUES TO FIGHT AGAINST SUMMER SLIDE

When kids don’t read over the summer, they fall behind.

By the end of fifth grade, kids in need are nearly three grades behind their peers in reading skills.

Summer slide refers to the fact that students who are not actively reading over the summer experience significant, cumulative reading skill loss that can affect the rest of their lives.

This especially affects children from low-income homes with little or no access to books. In the fall, their reading scores can be 30% lower than those children who enjoy a steady access to books year round.

This past summer, Books for Collier Kids donated 7,657 wonderful new books to many learning programs in our community. These books were distributed as part of structured summer programs for the students to take home and enjoy. Some of our partners are Boys & Girls Club, Greater Marco Family YMCA, Manatee Elementary School, Parkside Elementary School, Grace Place for Children and Families, Guadalupe Center, Salvation Army and Friends of Foster Children Forever. The response has been overwhelming.

Reading over the summer encourages children to continue to read and learn. As a result, Books for Collier Kids is committed to continuing this program and with your ongoing support we can!

By working together, family, friends, organizations and schools can help level the summer slide and open a whole new world of adventure, education and fun for children in Collier County.

Books for every new Habitat for Humanity family

Books for Collier Kids, in partnership with Christ Child Society of Naples, provides a home library to every new Habitat for Humanity of Collier County family. Containing 15 age-appropriate children’s books plus a dictionary, each home is presented on a brightly painted bookshelf at Habitat home dedication ceremonies. More than 100 families a year benefit from this ongoing program that started in 2010.
“Thank you, Books for Collier Kids. The children absolutely love the books and are incredibly surprised that they get to actually keep the books at home. Books for Collier Kids makes a huge difference in their lives, and we who see their faces thank you for the privilege of being a part of your generosity.”

Esta Alliker, Y-Reads! Coordinator

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**Thanks to our partners**

We work collaboratively with many community organizations to get books into the hands of children living in poverty in our community. Sincere thanks to all our partners who join in the fight for child literacy, including:

- Boys & Girls Club of Collier County
- Christ Child Society of Naples
- Collier County Dependency Court (Circuit Judge Elizabeth V. Krier)
- Collier County Public Schools
- Community Foundation of Collier County
- Early Literacy and Learning Model (ELLM)
- Friends of Foster Children Forever
- Fun Time Early Childhood Academy
- Future Ready Collier
- Grace Place for Children and Families
- Guadalupe Center of Immokalee
- Habitat for Humanity of Collier County
- Healthcare Network of Southwest Florida
- Immokalee Child Care Center
- Immokalee Housing & Family Services
- Latchkey Program at Salvation Army
- NCH Healthcare System
- RCMA (Redlands Christian Migrant Association)
- Ronald McDonald Care Mobile®
- The Shelter for Abused Women & Children
- YMCA of the Palms
- Youth Haven

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“The first book distribution was a success! I saw so many happy faces. I had kids come to me the next day to say how lucky they were to get a new book. What a joy! I felt like Santa Claus for all my little ones. Just wanted to say thank you for making this happen.”

Debra Smith
Reading Coach and teacher at Calusa Park Elementary

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One Million and Growing!
In February 2018, Books for Collier Kids celebrated our milestone event of 1 million new titles distributed to children in Collier County since our inception. Two hundred supporters attended a dinner at the private club in Naples to ensure that we will continue our life-transforming work of opening the world to our students, elevating their lives, enhancing their home environment, and enriching the community.

Dr. Kamela Patton, Superintendent of Collier County Public Schools and keynote speaker, shared the ongoing need for early and regular access to books for local children. Dr. Patton also addressed the fact that Books for Collier Kids has made a difference to thousands of children each month since 2005 by donating brand new books students in need.

That evening, early $200,000 was donated to buy books for children in need in our community for over 300 classrooms. Many thanks to everyone who supported our Thanks a Million celebration so generously!
Stay at Home and Read

Join us to “Stay at Home and Read” on Saturday, March 2, 2019 and celebrate the birthday of Dr. Seuss, the renowned and beloved children’s book author. Donations to support classrooms are most welcome; $500 provides new books for every child in one classroom for an entire year. Please mark your calendars for this relaxing and worthwhile non-event.

“The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more you learn, the more places you’ll go.”

Dr. Seuss

Thank you to our grantors

A special thank you to the following grantors for their generous support:

Christ Child Society of Naples
Elizabeth K. Galeana Charitable Foundation, Inc.
The League Club, Inc.
Julia Van Domelen

With these significant gifts, Books for Collier Kids has been able to continue its core mission of placing brand new books into the hands of children living in poverty in Collier County.

We are most grateful for these timely gifts as they have allowed Books for Collier Kids to recover from the effects of Hurricane Irma. Just prior to Irma, pallets of books were ready to be sorted and delivered to the schools; however, Irma delayed that effort and the books remained in the school district warehouse, which suffered wind and water damage, destroying the books. Fortunately, Books for Collier Kids was able to respond and get books to the children upon their return to school. These gifts will ensure that BCK’s response will not be at the expense of its summer program efforts.

In addition, these grants have enabled Books for Collier Kids to provide substantial support to community agencies that serve children in need. With these gifts, we have been able to build the library collections at the Boys & Girls Clubs (both Nichols Campus in Naples and Bolch Campus in Immokalee); the Nichols Campus in particular suffered damage in the hurricane.

Lastly and importantly, thanks to grantor support, Books for Collier Kids has had the funding to provide books to two newly designated Title I elementary schools: Poinciana Elementary and Palmetto Elementary where over 560 children will now receive a book a month during the school year.

“Thank you, Books for Collier Kids, for your continued support in helping us build our students’ home libraries by providing us brand new books to share with our students. With the books you provide, we demonstrate to both the parents and the children how to read a book and use it to build literacy skills. Time with books at home is extremely important to build children’s literacy skills, yet the average number of books in homes below the poverty line is less than one book. Thank you for ensuring that our students are entering kindergarten with home libraries of more than 20 books.”

Tim Ferguson, Ph.D.
CEO, Grace Place for Children and Families
Special thanks to the Community Foundation of Collier County and the Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation for their generous support of area nonprofit organizations (including Books for Collier Kids). Give Where You Live 2018 raised over $3.9 million in a 24-hour period, which was shared among 38 nonprofits. In addition to their individual fundraising efforts, each charity received a proportionate share of the $400,000 matching fund provided by the Schulze Foundation and $2,500 each from the Community Foundation. Thanks to the community’s support, Books for Collier Kids received more than $10,500, funds that allow us to put books in the hands of 450 children in 21 classrooms throughout Collier County.

Please mark your calendars: Books is pleased to have been selected to participate in the Give Where You Live 2019, set for noon on Wednesday, February 20 until noon on Thursday, February 21. Thank you!

“The beaming child holding the Llama Llama, Red Pajama book quickly caught my eye. Thanks for all you and your amazing team do for growing home libraries in our community.”

C. Todd Vedder, M.D., FAAP
Healthcare Network of Southwest Florida

The First Five Years

Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation partnered with the Community Foundation of Collier County and funded the 2017 Collier County Community Needs and Assets Assessment to identify and quantify the community’s positive assets and most pressing issues.

“The first five years is the crucial developmental period for forming social and emotional connections and neural pathways, laying the foundation for future learning. During these formative years, a child’s brain grows 90%.

According to a 1992 study referred to as “The Thirty-Million Word Gap,” children from lower-income families hear 30 million fewer words than children from higher-income households by the time they are four years old.”

Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation
From Cradle to Career

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One Million and Growing!
Over ONE MILLION books distributed in 13 years! Thank you for your support!

“Books for Collier Kids is one of the most popular booths at the Back to School Bonanza for foster children. This year because of your support 450 foster children and their siblings took home at least one new book of their very own to celebrate the beginning of the new school year. Also, with your help we continue to fill the bookshelves of the Children’s Waiting Room at the Collier County Courthouse, plus, we keep a supply on hand for those children that are removed from their homes in times of crisis and have nothing of their own to take with them to their new home.

We thank you all for the work you do for so many, you really are helping make a difference in the lives of these children.”

Jane Billings, Executive Director
Friends of Foster Children Forever

BOOKS
FOR COLLIER KIDS

4755 Tamiami Trail North, # 139 • Naples, FL 34103
Please visit our website: WWW.BOOKSFORCOLLIERKIDS.ORG

Please give to Books for Collier Kids

Books For Collier Kids Is Dedicated To Putting A Steady Stream Of New Books Into The Hands Of Children Living In Poverty In Our Community—Books For Them To Read And Own. Books In The Home Are Vital To A Child’s Ability To Read And Learn.

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