BOOKS FOR COLLIER KIDS

Celebrating our 15th year!

1.2 MILLION BOOKS SINCE 2005
2019-2020
Message from the Chair

Dear Friends:

Since March, we’ve experienced unprecedented changes in our world, staying close to home and loved ones and wearing masks to avoid COVID-19. The pandemic wreaked havoc on us all, but especially our children who miss friends, teachers and attending school.

As a result of your commitment and those of our donors, grantors, sister agencies, schools and volunteers, Books for Collier Kids has continued to buy and deliver new, high-quality books to children in need.

Care and Share.

Providing some normalcy as well as much-needed reading material for family bonding and literacy, Books for Collier Kids, our partner agencies and the Collier County Public Schools were able to bring the magic of reading to the children whom we serve by distributing books with bags of food at meal sites.

Additionally, when COVID-related safety supplies delayed the use of space in the school system’s warehouse, Books for Collier Kids went into action, ordering National Geographic Young Explorers magazines that shipped directly to classrooms, providing one for each kindergarten, first- and second-grade student in the county’s 21 Title I elementary schools.

Care and Share.

Today, we remain committed to providing children from low-income families the opportunity to enjoy books of their own.

So thank you for ensuring books for so many children! I hope that you will join us again as we provide every child-in-need new titles to read, share and cherish at home.

Sincerely,

Sallie Williams
Board Chair

BooksforCollierKids.org
Did you know?

- Children whose parents are unable to read tend to struggle with reading too, perpetuating a cycle of poverty.
- By the end of fifth grade, children in need have fallen nearly three grades behind in reading skills.
- 65% of Collier County’s 24,300 elementary students (nearly 16,000) are economically needy.
- 21 of Collier County’s 29 elementary schools are Title I schools, with an average of 90% of students from low-income families relying on the free or reduced-cost meal program.
- More than 55% of Books for Collier Kids’ students live in non-English-speaking homes where English is not the first language or is not spoken at all. In grades pre-K through third, where learning to read is so critical, the percentage is even higher.
- Books for Collier Kids is an all-volunteer organization with no expenses for staff, offices or rent.
- A $500 donation provides 250 brand-new, high-quality books to every child in one classroom each month of the school year.
- Each book shared is personalized with the child’s name inscribed as “This book belongs to...”.

Thank you so much for this excellent resource that we will be able to send home with our primary students! I’m sure they will all be excited to have these magazines that they can read and share with their families.

Thank you for your support!

Kindly,
Sarah Woofter
Principal
Herbert Cambridge
Elementary School
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 15 years, we have given more than 1.2 million books to children living in poverty in Collier County.

Your support makes a difference.
Books for Collier Kids has buying power! We buy first-quality new books at a fraction of the retail cost. A donation of $500 provides a book a month (ten or more books) to each disadvantaged child in a pre-K, K, first- or second-grade classroom—more than 250 books for $500.

“Thank you all for your continual adjustments during these times! All of you are true angels sent to help our kids!!!

Stay safe!!
Kamela Patton, Ph.D.
Superintendent
Collier County
Public Schools

BooksforCollierKids.org
Lack of books leads to summer slide

Without access to books throughout the summer, children from low-income homes return to fall classes with reading scores 30% lower than those with steady access to books.

To address this reality, we partner with other charities, schools and friends to ensure that kids have books to read and own.

However, since most of our partners didn’t have children on their campuses this summer, they developed extremely creative means to distribute new titles. From food distributions and shopping bags of books for families to stuffed backpacks and home deliveries, their caring and sharing ensured that 10,161 books made it into homes this summer.

Joining our efforts this year were:

- Avalon Elementary School
- Boys and Girls Club of Collier County
- Friends of Foster Families Forever
- Grace Place for Children & Families
- Guadalupe Center
- Latchkey League of the Salvation Army
- Manatee Elementary School
- Parkside Elementary School
- YMCA of South Collier—Marco YMCA
- Youth Haven

Together, we help open new worlds of adventure, education and fun for the children of Collier County!
Fantastic!

We look forward to enjoying the books with our students and their families!

Thank you for your continued partnership.

Margaux Horne
Principal
Highlands Elementary School

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**Expanded program for three- and four-year-olds**

Thanks to a visionary donor, Books for Collier Kids was able to extend our mission in 2019 by providing books to three- and four-year-olds in a limited number of child care facilities.

Books in the home are crucial to young minds since a child’s book awareness and demonstration of literacy development—knowing how to turn pages; recognizing that stories have a beginning, a middle and an end; and understanding that the marks on the page as well as the pictures communicate information—is a predictor of future academic success.

Unfortunately, home libraries are far too often related to socio-economic standing, despite the fact that without books in the home, children face a multi-million-word gap compared with those who enjoy daily at-home story reading. Plus, both parent and child miss the joys of snuggling during story time.

This is why Books for Collier Kids is pleased to announce that funding from the Elizabeth K. Galeana Charitable Foundation ensures that we can continue working with agencies across Collier County to share three or four new, high-quality, age-appropriate books with children from economically disadvantaged homes!
èBella salutes our Hometown Hero

Please join us in honoring our Hometown Hero, Books for Collier Kids Book Distribution Chair Mary Polizzotto, as recognized in èBella Magazine’s July 2020 èXtra:

Limited access to books is one of the biggest threats to children’s literacy, but even a worldwide pandemic couldn’t stop Polizzotto from getting books to kids in need.

When Collier schools closed in early March, she immediately went to work with the school district to ensure that children received their books for April and May. Still, she worried about the summer months, when reading skills tend to fall behind, especially for kids from low-income households.

Books for Collier Kids already works with many local organizations and their summer school programs to fight summer slide, but this year, Polizzotto managed to find funding to double the number of books, not only for early readers but also for needy children in grades 1 through 8.

“Some of these children have never even held a book before,” she said. “But the smiles and body language of children receiving their first books tell me that this is a good way to spend my time.”

Source: èBella Magazine

Books for Collier Kids gives 100,000 books each year to over 8,000 children in need in Collier County

Thank you for all that you are doing for the children in our area!

Dr. Susan Jordan
Principal
Lavern Gaynor Elementary School
Thanks to our caring partners

Our sincere thanks to all Books for Collier Kids partners who care, share and join us in the fight for child literacy:

Avow Hospice
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 & Families
Guadalupe Center of Immokalee
Habitat for Humanity of Collier County
Healthcare Network of Southwest Florida
Immokalee Housing & Family Services
Latchkey Program at Salvation Army
NCH Healthcare System
Pathways (formerly Immokalee Child Care Center)
RCMA (Redlands Christian Migrant Association)
Ronald McDonald Care Mobile®
The Shelter for Abused Women & Children
YMCA of the Palms
YMCA of South Collier—Marco YMCA
Youth Haven

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Joanne S. Wyss
Stay at Home and Read

Join our Honorary Chairs Joanne Wyss and Jinny Johnson to “Stay at Home and Read” on Tuesday, March 2, 2021, and celebrate the birthday of renowned and beloved children’s book author Dr. Theodor Seuss!

Last year, our caring and sharing donors funded more than 19,000 books to children in need while relaxing at home reading a favorite book to a child or loved one.

A gift of $500 provides more than 250 new books, ensuring a book a month for each child in one classroom for an entire year. Please mark your calendars for this relaxing, stay-at-home, worthwhile non-event.

“Fill your house with stacks of books in all the crannies and all the nooks.”

Dr. Seuss
Books, books and more books

1.2 million books are A LOT of books for Collier County’s children in-need. In fact, if you placed them end-to-end, they would span from Naples to Miami and back again!

Not only is that A LOT of books, it’s A LOT of caring and sharing.

So how does an all-volunteer, small charity like ours buy and distribute 100,000+ new books annually? Through buying power, volunteers, partners and donors like YOU.

Thanks to First Book Marketplace, its Book Bank and generous publishers, Books for Collier Kids buys high-quality, new books (nearly all hardcover) for less than $2 each – titles that retail for $10, $15 and $20 a piece.

In 2019-2020, your support allowed us to distribute more than 115,000 new books, with a retail value of $1,103,800, to three-year olds, pre-K children, elementary schools, summer programs and through collaborations with dozens of partner agencies.

This buying power means that your donation of $500 buys 250 new books—enough for every child in a pre-K, kindergarten, first- or second-grade class—to receive a book a month for the entire school year!

Beth Thompson, retired Chief Instruction Officer for Collier County Public Schools, tirelessly sorts pallets of books with her team of loyal volunteers preparing cases for delivery to elementary schools in Collier County. Thank you, Beth, for your years of service to Books for Collier Kids!

What a difference it makes to have books in the home!

Golfers Care and Share

Thanks to the energy and creativity of Sandy Serchuk and the Imperial Ladies 18-Hole Club’s December 2019 Christmas Golf Fundraiser, we received nearly $2,000 and 150 wonderful new books for Collier students!

We also want to thank Patricia O’Connor and the Villages at Country Creek Country Club in Estero for hosting their most successful ladies’ golf event in February 2020, raising $9,000 for Books for Collier Kids.

In total, these two events funded 5,500 books for children in our community.

Thank you!

If your golf club would like to support Books for Collier Kids, please contact us at (239) 394-4062.
Special thanks to the Community Foundation of Collier County and the Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation for generously supporting area nonprofit organizations including Books for Collier Kids through Give Where You Live 2020.

Through your generosity, Books for Collier Kids received $16,000 of the $5.7 million raised in 24 hours, enabling us to put books in the hands of 8,000 children throughout Collier County.

Please mark your calendars: Books for Collier Kids is pleased to share that once again we have been selected to participate in the Give Where You Live program, set to run from noon on Wednesday, February 10, to noon on Thursday, February 11, 2021.

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 library is presented on a brightly painted bookshelf at Habitat home dedication ceremonies. Each year, more than 100 families enjoy the gift of reading at home through this ongoing program launched in 2010.

On behalf of the Habitat families and Books for Collier Kids, thank you for caring and helping us share this most treasured housewarming gift!

A $500 donation buys 250 books for children in need
Books for Collier Kids
Efficient, effective and all-volunteer

Chart of Expenses
Books for Collier Kids Expenses
Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Expense</th>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
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Staff $0
Office $0

Books distributed
2019-2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Books Distributed</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Three-year-olds</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pre-Kindergarten</td>
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<td>Kindergarten</td>
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<tr>
<td>First grade</td>
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<tr>
<td>Second grade</td>
<td>23,583</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fighting Summer Slide</td>
<td>10,161</td>
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<tr>
<td>Partner Agencies</td>
<td>3,130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>115,089*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Retail value of books distributed last year is more than $1.1 million
Over 1.2 MILLION books distributed in 15 years! Thank you for your support!

"That is great news! I am so excited about working with you again this year. Always a joy to work with you!"

Kelly Bergey
Principal
Golden Gate Elementary School

2020 Tax Incentives for Charitable Donations

This year the CARES Act provides incentives for both individuals and corporations by increasing the available deductions on qualified charitable contributions, such as to Books for Collier Kids to up to 100% of adjusted gross income for individual taxpayers who itemize their deductions.

Donors may still make Qualified Charitable Distributions directly from an IRA to Books for Collier Kids without incurring taxable income.

For more information, please contact your tax advisor.

BOOKS!!
FOR COLLIERS KIDS

PO Box 10811, Naples, FL 34101
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.

OUR FEDERAL TAX IDENTIFICATION NUMBER IS 82-1078351. BOOKS FOR COLLIER KIDS, INC. D/B/A BOOKS FOR COLLIER KIDS IS A 501(C)(3) TAX-EXEMPT CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION, FOR BOTH FEDERAL AND STATE TAX PURPOSES. A COPY OF OUR OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE FLORIDA DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE 1-800-435-7352 WITHIN THE STATE OR VISITING WEBSITE: WWW.800HELPFLA.COM (CH-53291). REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE.