BOOKS FOR COLLIER KIDS

1.1 MILLION BOOKS SINCE 2005

Exploring new frontiers with books

Celebrating our 14th year 2018-2019
"...but then I thought about all those 400,000 people who had given me the opportunity to make that step and thought it’s going to be a big something for all those folks and, indeed for a lot of others who weren’t even involved in the project..."

~ U.S. Astronaut Neil Armstrong explaining his historic statement, “That’s one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind.”

**Message from the Chair**

**Exploring new frontiers with books**

![Sallie Williams](image)

Behind every dream is a hero fueled by passion and supported by a team of dedicated individuals working diligently to make the impossible possible.

We witnessed this 50 years ago when Apollo 11 touched down on the moon’s surface, sparking the imagination of children across the globe wanting to stake their claim among the constellations.

While much has changed since then, with children now aiming to be YouTube stars versus exploring space, we should remember that the mission's success rested on the shoulders of countless men and women behind the scenes who rocketed Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin and Michael Collins to the moon.

Today, we thank you for helping us propel another generation of children towards their dreams by supporting Books for Collier Kids’ mission of 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.

Our control center is volunteer driven, fueled by your funds and advanced by educators and other partners throughout the county who know that literacy is one of the best predictors of a child's future success.

Books not only open doors to new worlds for children but also provide basic literacy skills that shield students from academic failure, delinquency, teenage pregnancy, substance abuse, unemployment, low productivity and welfare dependence.

With more than 1.1 million books donated to children of low-income families in Collier County since 2005, we can say with assurance that a book in hand ignites a student’s academic performance, breaking through socio-economic barriers.

While we continue to purchase more than 100,000 books annually to distribute to 8,000 boys and girls in our community, we have lofty goals that include a new program providing at least three or four age-appropriate, educational, engaging books to three-year-olds through cooperating agencies.

We don’t accomplish this historic work alone. Today we shine a spotlight on you, our “hidden figures,” for ensuring another successful Books for Collier Kids mission!

Sallie Williams
Chair

BooksforCollierKids.org
New program for three-year-olds

In 2017, thanks to the generous support of Julia Van Domelen, Books for Collier Kids embarked on a pilot project for three-year-olds. We worked with Grace Place for Children & Families, the Guadalupe Center and Future Ready Collier, providing books specifically for three-year-old children and their parents.

The initial program was very well received by parents, and the toddlers loved their new books—titles for them to keep, share and read again.

Baby steps: A big step in literacy development is recognizing that marks on the page as well as pictures communicate information. Having a child hold a book and turn the pages is a key first step. Stories have structure; there is a beginning, a middle and an end. Repetition helps children see similarities among different books.

Research: In Parent-Child Home Programs working with toddlers, short- and long-term outcomes have found that these children are 50% more likely to be considered ready for kindergarten, 30% more likely to graduate from high school, and 50% less likely to be referred for special educational services by third grade.

Now, thanks to the Elizabeth K. Galeana Charitable Foundation’s support, Books for Collier Kids is expanding our pilot project to provide three to four new, high-quality, age-appropriate books to three-year-olds through cooperating agencies.

"Maria is so happy to read her new book! Thank you!"
"Thanks again for all of the wonderful books bringing literacy into the lives of children even before they begin pre-K!"

Family Service Worker
Collier County Public Schools

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

Exploring new frontiers with books
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 14 years, we have given over 1.1 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 a book a month (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.
- 66% of Collier County’s 24,300 (more than 16,000) elementary students 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 our students live in non-English-speaking homes where English is not the first language or perhaps, may not be spoken at all. The percentage increases to more than 58% in grades pre-K through third, where learning to read is so critical.

BooksforCollierKids.org
Books for Collier Kids continues to fight against

**Summer Slide**

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. When kids don’t read over the summer, they fall behind. 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 access to books all year round. By the end of fifth grade, kids in need are nearly three grades behind their peers in reading skills.

Having books with English text in homes of second-language learners also helps to enhance the language development of at-risk children. Having them in the home over the long summer break helps diminish summer slide.

One of the goals of Books for Collier Kids is to distribute books in areas referred to as “book deserts.” These are neighborhoods in which access to books is extremely limited. Our Summer Slide program’s goal is to bring more books into those “deserts,” thereby helping children bloom.

This past summer, Books for Collier Kids donated 4,300 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. Our partners this year were:

- Avalon Elementary School
- Boys and Girls Club
- 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

We are continually looking for opportunities to increase our distribution. 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. With your continued support we can accomplish this mission!

**Guadalupe Center fights summer slide**

“The 537 books provided by Books for Collier Kids were distributed to our kindergarten, first and second grade students during our Summer Program at the Guadalupe Center. Many of our students do not have transportation to the library or access to books at home. These books allow our students to have books to take home at their reading level. It has been proven through many studies that the ‘Summer Slide’ can be prevented by providing summer programs and appropriate reading materials for students. Our data supports this! We could not provide these types of programs and opportunities if weren’t for organizations like Books for Collier Kids!”

Dawn Montecalvo, President
Guadalupe Center

**Exploring new frontiers with books**
"One truth I have discovered for sure: When you believe that all things are possible and you are willing to work hard to accomplish your goals, you can achieve the next 'impossible' dream. No dream is too high!"

— Buzz Aldrin

Thank you to our grantors

A special thank you to the following grantors for believing in the Books for Collier Kids dream:

Christ Child Society of Naples
Elizabeth K. Galeana Charitable Foundation, Inc.
The League Club, Inc.
Angel Fund at Community Foundation of Collier County

With their stellar support, Books for Collier Kids has been able to soar to new heights in our core mission of placing brand new books into the hands of children living in poverty throughout Collier County.

Every successful mission takes teamwork, and the funding provided by Christ Child Society of Naples (CCSN), as well as their collaboration with Habitat for Humanity and Books for Collier Kids, has once again ensured that each of the 100 new Habitat Collier County homes features a handmade table-top bookshelf stuffed with age-appropriate books for the family to enjoy and cherish.

But the achievements don’t stop there! Through the generosity of the Elizabeth K. Galeana Charitable Foundation, BCK is now able to reach farther than ever before, expanding on last year’s pilot project to give books to three-year-old children. The initiative, which was sparked by the Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation’s findings about the critical need to help little ones be kindergarten ready, is a partnership with numerous local cooperating agencies.

And not to be outshone, The League Club and the Angel Fund at the Community Foundation of Collier County helped us open new galaxies of fun-filled learning for students at two newly designated Title I elementary schools, as well as kindergarten students at five area schools. Through these grants alone, more than 1,000 students will now receive a book a month during the school year (that’s 10,580 books annually).

Books spark imagination. Books ignite a lifelong love of learning. Together we have achieved the next “impossible dream” and proven Buzz right — “No dream is too high!”

Sallie Williams & Charlene Barnette,
President, The League Club

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Stay at Home and Read

Join us to “Stay at Home and Read” on Saturday, March 2, 2020, and celebrate the birthday of Dr. Seuss, the renowned and beloved children’s book author. Donations to support classrooms are most welcome; $500 provides a book a month for each 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

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 2019 raised over $5.5 million in a 24-hour period, which was shared among 40 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 $32,000, funds that help us put books in the hands of 1,400 children in 64 classrooms 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 19, to noon on Thursday, February 20, 2020.

“A home where children are surrounded by many books helps them build vocabulary; increase knowledge, awareness and understanding; and expand their horizons — all benefiting them in adulthood. Books in the home also make a difference beyond literacy. Many studies show a strong correlation between access to books at home and children’s ability to apply mathematical concepts in everyday life and to communicate effectively.

Books for Collier Kids is a valued partner to Collier County Public Schools in supporting the literacy development of young children through their work to assure students have home libraries filled with high-quality children’s books. Books for Collier Kids provides a book each month for students (and their teachers) in pre-K through grade 2, nearly 8,000 children in 375 classrooms districtwide, totaling approximately 100,000 books each year! We are grateful for this partnership and for the diligent work of the Books for Collier Kids team in providing these valued resources for our students and families.”

Kamela Patton, Ph.D., Superintendent
Collier County Public Schools
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:

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 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
YMCA of South Collier—Marco YMCA
Youth Haven

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. More than 100 families a year benefit from this ongoing program that started in 2010.

“I hope the photos of Jean, John, Elijah and Yatsari will share the DEEP, DEEP gratitude for our partnership and the way that it touches so many lives and opens worlds of imagination for children and adults alike!”

Rev. Lisa B. Lefkow, CEO
Habitat for Humanity of Collier County
Over 1.1 MILLION books distributed in 14 years! Thank you for your support!

Friend for a Lifetime Award

Books for Collier Kids is pleased and proud to share that Friends of Foster Children Forever (FFCF) has chosen Books for Collier Kids as the recipient of this year’s Lynn Schultz Friend for a Lifetime Award.

Every year Friends of Foster Children honors an organization that, through its body of work, extraordinary service and contribution, has helped improve the lives of foster children in our community. It is FFCF’s way to recognize and thank groups who have gone out of their way to support abused, abandoned and neglected children.

Education is a key component of FFCF’s work, and working with Books for Collier Kids enables our foster children to develop a passion for reading and builds a foundation for continued learning.

"Books for Collier Kids has been a tremendous supporter of Friends of Foster Children Forever for many years. We are incredibly grateful to Books for Collier Kids for partnering with us on our successful Back to School program. Over 400 foster children attended the event and were able to select complimentary books, thanks to this generous donation."

Ann Hughes, Executive Director
Friends of Foster Children Forever

Books for Collier Kids

PO Box 10811, Naples, FL 34101
Please visit our website: WWW.BOOKSFORCOLLIERNKIDS.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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