A Gold Medal Year!
2020-2021

1.3 MILLION BOOKS SINCE 2005

BOOKS FOR COLLIER KIDS
Our mission:
Books for Collier Kids provides new books to children in need. Access to books addresses one of the most important factors affecting literacy.

"Focus, discipline, hard work, goal setting and, of course, the thrill of finally achieving your goals. These are all lessons of life."
-Kristi Yamaguchi, American figure skater; 1992 gold medalist

Message from the Chair

Dear Friends,
If 2020-2021 has taught us anything, it’s that getting through the challenges of life requires more than focus, discipline and effort. It takes resiliency and support from those who share similar values and goals. Like our favorite heroes from the Summer Olympic games, Books for Collier Kids continues to strive for excellence, adjust to adversity and celebrate the successes our team of donors, grantors, sister agencies, schools, volunteers, students and teachers have made possible!

Despite many hurdles brought by COVID-19, BCK continues to ensure Collier County students are at the heart of our efforts and remains committed 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.

By distributing new, age-appropriate books to at-risk children, our volunteer-driven delegation minimizes academic failure, delinquency, teenage pregnancy, substance abuse, unemployment, low productivity and welfare dependence.

Knowing literacy is one of the best predictors of a child’s future success, Books for Collier Kids had an exceptional year as we:

- Championed students’ safe return to the classroom and resulting elevated academic standings
- Established a plan to expand distribution to elementary schools not classified as Title I (75+% on free or reduced-cost meal program) to include those on the cusp (50-74%)
- Set a new goal for 2021-2022: adding Big Cypress, Corkscrew and Lake Park elementary schools to our line-up for a total roster of 26 schools

With more than 121,302 books delivered this year alone to eager children, we’ve not only broken BCK’s official distribution record, but provided more than 10,000 children a gold medal year!

Thank you for supporting Books for Collier Kids and the children we serve,

Sallie Williams, CFRE Board Chair

BooksforCollierKids.org
Facts about children in Collier County

- 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 18,500 elementary students (more than 12,000) 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.
- Families who qualify for the free or reduced-cost meal program earn less than 185% of the federal poverty guideline ($923 per week for a family of four).
- 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.

Did you know?

- 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 putting together such amazing books for our kids!! We distributed the August books and I have some teachers doing whole class lessons using the books. The students were amazed that they get to take home a book to keep forever!!!

Christin Newell
Media Specialist – BTC Corkscrew Elementary

A Gold Medal Year
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 16 years, we have given more than 1.3 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.

Here we grow again

Over the years, Books for Collier Kids has supported all Collier County elementary schools classified as Title I, where 75% or more of students are on the free or reduced-cost meal program, ensuring each student has access to reading material in the home.

After assessing the field, we now realize that there are many children in schools that are not Title I who would greatly benefit from receiving a book a month to take home, share and cherish.

As a result, this past spring we established a plan to expand distribution to elementary schools on the cusp of Title I designation, those where 50-74% of students benefit from the free/reduced-cost meal program.

For 2021-2022, we set a goal to add Big Cypress, Corkscrew and Lake Park elementary schools to our line-up for a total roster of 26 schools. We are able to meet this goal smoothly and effectively thanks to enthusiastic support from Dr. Kamela Patton and her staff who wholeheartedly support and commend our volunteer efforts in distributing 121,000+ books annually.

And we are pleased to announce that the Angel Fund at the Community Foundation of Collier County agrees with our expansion plans and has funded a $10,000 grant to support one of the schools.

While the expansion program is not novel or new, it is critically important to ensuring even more children have and enjoy books of their own in their homes, providing a foundation for their futures.

As we learned all-too-painfully when students moved to virtual schooling during the pandemic, there is power in holding a book—the tactile feel of the hard cover, smooth pages, colorful pictures and enduring stories (book awareness)—that one simply cannot get from gazing at a computer screen.

Please join our team today! With your support we can provide each pre-K, kindergarten, first- and second-grade student in Collier County a new, age-appropriate book each month... books to keep and cherish... books that help them develop skills to succeed academically and in life!

Thank you.
Summer slide

Children need to read over the summer!
Reading over the summer encourages children to continue to read and learn.

Children who are not actively reading over the summer experience significant, cumulative reading skill loss that can affect the rest of their lives. This is referred to as SUMMER SLIDE.

Children from low-income homes with little or no access to books are especially affected. Their reading skills can be 30% lower than those of children with a year-round, steady stream of books in their homes.

This past summer, Books for Collier Kids donated 14,131 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 summer were: Boys and Girls Club, YMCA of South Collier, Marco YMCA, Grace Place for Children and Families, Guadalupe Center, Pathways Early Education Center, Youth Haven, Friends of Foster Children Forever, and Collier County Middle Schools.

Many thanks to Books for Collier Kids Board members Emily Watt and Joe Charles, as well as volunteers from FineMark National Bank and Trust, for their help in preparing the books for delivery.

Books for Collier Kids is committed to continue the fight against Summer Slide.

Many thanks to our friends, the programs we serve, organizations that support our efforts and the schools in Collier County. Together we can open up a whole new world of adventure, education and fun for children in our community and help them excel in school and life!
Thank you so much for the donation of books to our Back to School event. Because of your kindness and support, many more foster children in Collier County will be helped.

Ann Hughes
Executive Director, Friends of Foster Children Forever

Books for Toddlers program helps level the field

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.

During the 2020-2021, at a time when having books in the home was even more important due to COVID, we were able to continue distributing 4,819 books because of ongoing support from Elizabeth K. Galeana Charitable Foundation and additional assistance from Windstar Club Charitable Foundation.

Like all well-trained athletes, our team quickly adapted to the changing conditions brought on by the pandemic, ensuring distribution of needed books to additional child care agencies while facing COVID restrictions and health safety protocols.

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, having books in the home is far too often related to socio-economic standing. Yet, 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.

Community support for this program helps level the playing field for our most at-risk toddlers!
Outstanding Champion for Students

As athletes achieve Gold medals after years of dedication to their sport, there are Books for Collier Kids supporters who deserve recognition for their celebration of reading, placing students at the heart of our movement and promoting literacy throughout Collier County.

This year, we join the community in acknowledging cherished Books for Collier Kids Advisory Council member and Superintendent of Collier County Public Schools (CCPS) Dr. Kamela Patton.

Dr. Patton drew well-deserved accolades for her management of the district’s growth, increasing high school graduation rates and state education rankings when named the 2021 Naples Daily News Outstanding Citizen of the Year in August and we agree wholeheartedly!

Under her leadership, CCPS outperformed the State in all 21 assessed areas for the first time ever and 60% of third-graders scored at level 3 or above in English Language Arts.

Since Grade 3 is a critical year for students’ developing proficient literacy, a six-point lead over the state average is even more noteworthy.

The first civil servant to take this top honor in the award’s 60-year history, Dr. Patton continues to praise her team for their handling of the pandemic and measures taken to “preserve student experiences, like sports, extracurricular activities and graduation ceremonies.”

For collaborating with Books for Collier Kids to help teachers and parents build a better world through reading for all Collier County students, Dr. Kamela Patton “takes the Gold!”

(Sources: Naples Daily News, ICO website)

Books for Collier Kids gives 121,000 books each year to over 10,000 children in need in Collier County

 Thanks so much for your continued support! These titles are awesome and our students will love them.

Dr. Susan Jordan
Principal
Lavern Gaynor
Elementary School
Books for Collier Kids gives 121,000 books each year to over 10,000 children in need in Collier County

Thanks to our devoted, award-winning partners

Our sincere thanks to all Books for Collier Kids partners who help us get books into the hands of children in need 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
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
Latchkey Program at Salvation Army
Pathways (formerly Immokalee Child Care Center)
RCMA (Redlands Christian Migrant Association)
The Shelter for Abused Women & Children
YMCA of the Palms
YMCA of South Collier—Marco YMCA
Youth Haven

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Chair
Sallie Williams, CFRE
Vice Chair
Nora Kolmer
Secretary
Mary Henrikson
Treasurer
Ray Kalich
Erika Aron
Joe Charles
Ana Daniel
Mary Polizzotto, Ph.D.
Emily Watt

DIRECTORS EMERITAE
Marcie Charles, Esq.
Donna Eskra
Dottie Gerrity
Jinny Johnson
Peggy Lavigne
Sandy Parker
Debby Shaver
Beth Thompson
Jennifer B. Walker
Joanne S. Wyss

ADVISORY COUNCIL
Patricia Barton
Susan Dalton
Christine Flynn
Don Gunther
Patricia A. Jilk
Rev. Dr. Kathleen Kircher
Suzanne Lount
Dick Munro
Kamela K. Patton, Ph.D.
Dick Stonesifer
Dolph von Arx
Anne Wamser

FOUNDING CHAIR
Joanne S. Wyss

A Gold Medal Year
Stay at Home and Read

Join our Honorary Chairs Erika Aron, Books for Collier Kids Board member and her husband, Peter Aron to “Stay at Home and Read” on Tuesday, March 2, 2022, and celebrate the birthday of renowned and beloved children’s book author Dr. Theodor Seuss!

Last year, our award-winning donors funded more than 12,250 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

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

Dr. Seuss

BooksforCollierKids.org
Books, books and more books

1.3 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 work for our Gold Medal volunteers!

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 hard-cover) for less than $2 each – titles that retail for $10, $15 and $20 a piece.

In 2020-2021, your support allowed us to distribute more than 121,300 new books, with a retail value of $1,359,600, 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!

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

In Memory of Joann Anthony

“As an avid reader herself, Joann had a close-knit group of friends in her beloved UUCGN Book Club (Unitarian Universalist Church of Greater Naples), where much laughter was enjoyed amidst discussions of great literature. This love of books was passed on to her grandchildren, with whom many hours were passed cuddling with books.”

Joann’s husband, George, suggested donations in her memory to Books for Collier Kids. Family and friends sent more than a dozen generous donations to Books for Collier Kids. Thanks to their support, we will purchase more than 1,500 beautiful, high-quality, new books for children from low-income families in our community.

Please consider suggesting Books for Collier Kids as a memorial for your loved one. Thank you!
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 2021.

Through your generosity, Books for Collier Kids received $26,860 of the $6.4 million raised in 24 hours, enabling us to put books in the hands of 10,000 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 9, to noon on Thursday, February 10, 2022.

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. To date, 1,100 families have received our housewarming gift totaling 17,600 books to Habitat families.

On behalf of the Habitat families and Books for Collier Kids, we thank you and award YOU a GOLD medal for helping us share this most treasured housewarming gift!
Books for Collier Kids
Efficient, effective and all-volunteer

Chart of Expenses
Books for Collier Kids Expenses
Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Expenses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Books</td>
<td>$138,958</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative</td>
<td>$12,768</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>$5,380</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$157,106</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Books distributed
2021-2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number of Books</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Three-year-olds</td>
<td>4,819</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-Kindergarten</td>
<td>14,627</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kindergarten</td>
<td>29,125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First grade</td>
<td>27,835</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second grade</td>
<td>25,903</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fighting Summer Slide</td>
<td>14,131</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partner Agencies</td>
<td>4,862</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>121,302</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Retail value of books distributed last year is more than $1.1 million
Over 1.3 MILLION books distributed in 16 years! Thank you for your support!

Your generous contribution is making a difference in the lives of young people who need us most and we are grateful for your support.

Megan McCarthy Beauvais
President & Chief Executive Officer
Boys & Girls Club Collier County

BOOKS!!!
FOR COLLIER 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.