LITERACY BEGINS AT BIRTH

Read to Grow, INC.
Building literacy from birth.

ANNUAL REPORT 2011
FROM BOARD CHAIR ROXANNE J. COADY

Dear Friends of Read to Grow,

The year may have come to a close, but Read to Grow’s mission remains the same: to promote early literacy for all Connecticut children. With Connecticut’s achievement gap the widest in the nation, our work is more critical than ever before.

To close the achievement gap, we first need to eliminate the “preparation gap” — the gap that exists before children ever walk through the kindergarten door. Our aim is to make sure that all children arrive at school ready to learn by giving them an equal chance to develop the language and literacy skills they need to succeed in their formal education.

Reflecting on Read to Grow’s accomplishments this year, I am aware of how our many partnerships, both new and old, have furthered our mission. Through our many collaborations, and Read to Grow’s increasing visibility and voice in the state, more children are being read to and have books of their own at home, two of the most important ingredients for raising children who are ready for school and for learning to read.

Our work would not be possible without our partnerships with you — donors, hospitals, community organizations, civic groups, schools, volunteers, and all who support Read to Grow’s mission every day. Thanks to you, we were able to grow our programs and to provide 136,000 books to Connecticut children — more than any year in our 13-year history.

As we begin the new fiscal year, we are thrilled to welcome a dynamic new leader, Anthony DiLauro, who joins us as executive director. This year we will develop and adopt a new strategic plan to guide RTG’s path and growth through the next five years. We will also continue to expand our Books for Babies program into more birthing hospitals so that we can reach more parents of newborns and help more families make sure their children are prepared for school.

This is such an exciting time for RTG, and we look forward to working with all of you on preventing low literacy and closing Connecticut’s achievement gap. Let’s make this a year that all children start life with an equal chance for a bright future.

Roxanne J. Coady
Founder and Board Chair
To improve early literacy for all Connecticut children by providing books, by helping families share books with their babies starting at birth, by encouraging language development, and by promoting awareness of literacy services.

Our Vision

- Every child in Connecticut will own books and take an active interest in reading.
- Every family will understand the critical importance of early literacy efforts and take an active role in their child’s literacy development.

Our Values

The following core values serve as a guide for the organization:

- Children are born with the ability to learn and the skills to embrace language.
- Parents are their child’s first and most important teacher.
- When books are provided to families (parents or adult caregivers), along with appropriate developmental guidance, they will be more likely to read to their children.
- The moment of birth is a key teachable moment for parents.
- Being read to and owning books is a critical feature of every child’s development.
- Literacy is important to all families in Connecticut regardless of economic means.

Connecticut’s achievement gap is the largest in the nation, and more than one-third of kindergartners are unprepared to begin learning to read when they come to school.

By promoting early literacy, Read to Grow can help reduce the costs associated with remediation, and impact the negative outcomes associated with low literacy: school dropout, juvenile delinquency and unemployment.

"Because skills are accumulated starting early and over time, investing in young children is an investment in future productivity."

~ Economist James Heckman, Nobel laureate

Read to Grow is the only statewide organization that prepares parents to start building their babies’ literacy from birth and provides free books to children of all ages to support their literacy development.
READ TO GROW programs promote early language and literacy skills that begin developing at birth and are critical to school and reading readiness.

OUR PROGRAMS

Books for Babies — established in 1998, provides parents of newborns with a new children’s book, a literacy packet and a visit from a trained volunteer on the maternity unit of partner hospitals. Books for Babies promotes early literacy by ensuring that parents of every newborn in our partner hospitals understand that reading to their infants positively impacts brain and language development. Additional new books and literacy information are sent at three and 12 months at no cost to families who sign up to receive the follow-up materials. Gently used books are also available on the maternity units for brothers and sisters of newborns at Read to Grow partner hospitals.

Books for Babies is reaching more than 50 percent of all Connecticut newborns and their parents.

Hospital Partners

- Bridgeport Hospital ~ since 2004 ~ 2,100 babies annually
- Hartford Hospital ~ since 2008 ~ 4,000 babies
- Hospital of St. Raphael, New Haven ~ since 2000 ~ 1,200 babies
- Lawrence & Memorial Hospital, New London ~ since 2001 ~ 1,600 babies
- Manchester Memorial Hospital ~ since 2005 ~ 1,100 babies
- St. Francis Hospital & Medical Center, Hartford ~ since 2003 ~ 3,000 babies
- St. Vincent’s Medical Center, Bridgeport ~ since 2005 ~ 1,200 babies
- Yale-New Haven Hospital ~ since 1999 ~ 4,200 babies

Two more hospital partners in early 2012:
- Middlesex Hospital, Middletown ~ 1,600 babies annually
- Sharon Hospital ~ 250 babies

Books for Kids — introduced in 2002, supports early literacy by making books accessible to families on an ongoing basis and building children’s home libraries. Individuals, schools, businesses large and small, community organizations and other community groups, as well as children’s book publishers, donate new and gently used books to RTG. These books are, in turn, redistributed to those in need, directly from our office to families and in the community, through partnerships with health care, educational, child care, social service and literacy providers that share our goals.
2011 ACCOMPLISHMENTS
~ AT A GLANCE ~

• **18,000 NEWBORNS AND THEIR PARENTS SERVED — 50% OF ALL CT BIRTHS**

• **10 HOSPITAL PARTNERSHIPS — 8 ESTABLISHED, 2 MORE SIGNED ON FOR 2012**

• **39% MORE PARENTS OF NEWBORNS SIGNED UP FOR FOLLOW-UP BOOKS AND GUIDANCE THAN IN 2010**

• **136,000 BOOKS DISTRIBUTED ACROSS THE STATE — UP 32% FROM 2010**
  
  • **134,000 BOOKS DONATED TO RTG — UP 50% FROM 2010**

• **87% OF ALL EXPENDITURES WENT TO PROGRAM SERVICES**

• **70 VOLUNTEERS DONATED THOUSANDS OF HOURS OF SERVICE**

• **NEW 5-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN IN PROCESS**
RECORD-BREAKING 136,000 NEW AND GENTLY USED BOOKS WERE PROVIDED TO CONNECTICUT CHILDREN IN 2011

WE TAKE A TEAM APPROACH to providing our services: books are distributed to parents of newborns in collaboration with hospital partners and through a network of more than 300 organizations, including a wide range of community-based education, health care and social service agencies that interact with infants, toddlers and school-aged children and their families.

WHO DID WE SERVE?

• Newborns, their siblings and their parents in partner hospitals through Books for Babies.

• Families with limited means who contacted us to request books.

• Community health centers and primary care center waiting rooms, in particular those in the cities of Hartford, Bridgeport, New Haven and New London that serve our most vulnerable children and families.

• Early childhood programs such as Head Start, school readiness programs, and in-home and center-based child care programs.

• Home visiting and parenting support programs that serve at-risk families, such as Nurturing Families Network.

• Community organizations and schools in areas where resources are scarce and literacy rates are low.

Books from RTG Keep Rodney Reading

Rodney's mother says he's a “go-getter” so she wasn’t surprised to learn that her 11-year-old son called Read to Grow to ask for books. He saw our sticker on a book he received at school and hoped we could help him.

Rodney loves to read but money is tight; his mother works two jobs and isn’t able to get him to the library, and he can’t go by himself. When Rodney called, we answered, and it was the start of a special partnership.

Rodney became a “regular,” calling us for books not only for himself but also for friends, neighbors and cousins too shy to call for themselves. He encouraged others to read, and spread the word about Read to Grow.

We provided books for Rodney and his friends to read through the year and into the summer, keeping them on the track to literacy and helping prevent the “summer slide” that can occur during the months when school is not in session.
PARTNERSHIP SUPPORT CONTINUES AND GROWS

UNITED WAY FUNDED SECOND YEAR OF READ AT HOME INITIATIVE FOLLOWING SUCCESSFUL FIRST YEAR

Read to Grow received a $38,600 award from United Way of Coastal Fairfield County to fund year two of our “Books for Kids Read at Home Initiative,” a partnership with United Way, created to ensure that children in United Way’s 12-town region (comprised of Greater Bridgeport and Greater Norwalk areas) have age-appropriate books to read at home.

More than 20,000 books were distributed to children in the partnership service area through collaborations with child care programs, health care facilities, school and community organizations, such as the South End Community Center in Bridgeport and the Norwalk Housing Authority. About 46,000 books were collected through donations and book drives. Of special note was the Junior League of Eastern Fairfield County (JLEFC), which donated more than 10,000 children’s books to support the Read at Home Initiative through a year-long project to support early literacy.

ALCOA DONATED DOLLARS AND TIME FOR FOURTH YEAR

The Alcoa Foundation continued its support of Books for Babies with a $15,000 award. Over the past four years, Alcoa has provided more than $80,000 in funding for RTG programs.

Alcoa employees also have a chance to make a difference by volunteering. Since 2007, staff from Branford’s Alcoa Howmet roll up their shirtsleeves and spend a day with us, labeling, counting and sorting books and making deliveries during the company’s “Month of Service” to the community in October.

PILGRIM FURNITURE CITY HELPS SPREAD THE WORD

For the third year, Pilgrim Furniture City sponsored the airing of Read to Grow’s public service announcement on WTNH/WCTX. The PSA encourages parents to read aloud to their children from birth, and uses clips from a video that was created in partnership with Southern Connecticut State University. The Pilgrim spot is shown five times weekly and is valued at $130,000.
Town Fair Tire Foundation donated $10,000 for the purchase of a new “gently used” cargo van, replacing our old passenger minivan. With this larger vehicle, we have boosted our efficiency in delivering books to hospitals, schools and other partners around the state and in picking up books collected through book drives run by children, schools, organizations, civic groups and so many others that help support our programs.

Town Fair Tire employees also supported our programs by running a book drive at the East Haven headquarters.

This year, Read to Grow created and printed an instructional poster to remind parents that they are their baby’s first teachers, funded by the Tyler L. Rigg Memorial Foundation. The poster encourages parents to give their babies a variety of experiences with language, starting at birth, in the context of loving relationships.

The posters were distributed to our partner hospitals and to pediatric primary care centers, and will also be sent to pediatricians’ offices and other service providers across the state that serve families with infants who may be at risk for low literacy.

This year, Read to Grow created and printed an instructional poster to remind parents that they are their baby’s first teachers, funded by the Tyler L. Rigg Memorial Foundation. The poster encourages parents to give their babies a variety of experiences with language, starting at birth, in the context of loving relationships.

The posters were distributed to our partner hospitals and to pediatric primary care centers, and will also be sent to pediatricians’ offices and other service providers across the state that serve families with infants who may be at risk for low literacy.

Town Fair Tire funded new delivery van

Citizens Bank sponsored event & hospital program

Citizens Bank, a long-time supporter and founding sponsor of RTG, sponsored “A Conversation with Nora Ephron” at Long Wharf Theatre in December. Representing Citizens Bank at the fundraiser is Chris Riley, left, pictured with Ms. Ephron, center, and RTG Board Chair Roxanne Coady.

Citizens Bank Foundation also provides $15,000 to support Books for Babies at Lawrence & Memorial Hospital, which serves families in the New London area.

Citizens Bank has been committed to supporting our work since 1998.

“I can't think of anything more important than having children learn to love reading.”

~ Town Fair Tire employee

Tyler Rigg Foundation provided grant for posters to educate parents

Citizens Bank funded new delivery van

Town Fair Tire funded new delivery van

This year, Read to Grow created and printed an instructional poster to remind parents that they are their baby’s first teachers, funded by the Tyler L. Rigg Memorial Foundation. The poster encourages parents to give their babies a variety of experiences with language, starting at birth, in the context of loving relationships.

The posters were distributed to our partner hospitals and to pediatric primary care centers, and will also be sent to pediatricians’ offices and other service providers across the state that serve families with infants who may be at risk for low literacy.

Town Fair Tire Foundation donated $10,000 for the purchase of a new “gently used” cargo van, replacing our old passenger minivan. With this larger vehicle, we have boosted our efficiency in delivering books to hospitals, schools and other partners around the state and in picking up books collected through book drives run by children, schools, organizations, civic groups and so many others that help support our programs.

Town Fair Tire employees also supported our programs by running a book drive at the East Haven headquarters.

Citizens Bank sponsored event & hospital program

Citizens Bank, a long-time supporter and founding sponsor of RTG, sponsored “A Conversation with Nora Ephron” at Long Wharf Theatre in December. Representing Citizens Bank at the fundraiser is Chris Riley, left, pictured with Ms. Ephron, center, and RTG Board Chair Roxanne Coady.

Citizens Bank Foundation also provides $15,000 to support Books for Babies at Lawrence & Memorial Hospital, which serves families in the New London area.

Citizens Bank has been committed to supporting our work since 1998.

“I can't think of anything more important than having children learn to love reading.”

~ Town Fair Tire employee

Tyler Rigg Foundation provided grant for posters to educate parents

Citizens Bank sponsored event & hospital program

Town Fair Tire funded new delivery van

This year, Read to Grow created and printed an instructional poster to remind parents that they are their baby’s first teachers, funded by the Tyler L. Rigg Memorial Foundation. The poster encourages parents to give their babies a variety of experiences with language, starting at birth, in the context of loving relationships.

The posters were distributed to our partner hospitals and to pediatric primary care centers, and will also be sent to pediatricians’ offices and other service providers across the state that serve families with infants who may be at risk for low literacy.

Town Fair Tire Foundation donated $10,000 for the purchase of a new “gently used” cargo van, replacing our old passenger minivan. With this larger vehicle, we have boosted our efficiency in delivering books to hospitals, schools and other partners around the state and in picking up books collected through book drives run by children, schools, organizations, civic groups and so many others that help support our programs.

Town Fair Tire employees also supported our programs by running a book drive at the East Haven headquarters.

Citizens Bank, a long-time supporter and founding sponsor of RTG, sponsored “A Conversation with Nora Ephron” at Long Wharf Theatre in December. Representing Citizens Bank at the fundraiser is Chris Riley, left, pictured with Ms. Ephron, center, and RTG Board Chair Roxanne Coady.

Citizens Bank Foundation also provides $15,000 to support Books for Babies at Lawrence & Memorial Hospital, which serves families in the New London area.

Citizens Bank has been committed to supporting our work since 1998.

“I can't think of anything more important than having children learn to love reading.”

~ Town Fair Tire employee
Michelle Randolph of New Haven has single-handedly distributed nearly 3,000 books to children in and around her neighborhood, reminding parents that it is important to have books at home and to read to their children.

Hopkins School distinguished itself this year as the first school to donate 300 new children’s books written in Spanish. Seniors Mary Reidy, left, and Juliet Bailin ran the Libros Para Ninos (Books for Kids) campaign through the school’s Read to Grow Club, which Juliet’s sister, Alexandra, started in 2007.

The club raised $500 through various fundraisers, allowing them to purchase the books for RTG. The school group also set up a permanent collection box at Hopkins School where members of the school community donate gently used children’s books throughout the year.

To celebrate the Week of the Young Child, and to highlight the importance of establishing an early foundation for success, Girl Scouts of Connecticut ran a statewide book drive to support Read to Grow. Girl Scout Service Centers in Bridgeport, Middletown, North Haven, North Windham, Torrington, Waterbury and Wilton served as collection sites for new and gently used children’s books. More than 10,000 books were collected.

High school student Dionne Parker helped get more than 1,600 books into the hands of Waterbury children through Young Ladies Empowered and Driven (LEAD) — a group she founded to help girls grades eight through 11 create future goals and achieve high scores on the SATs.

Dionne’s group donated a book cart to the North End Recreation Center (N.E.R.C.), and partnered with Read to Grow to help stock the cart with books for children to take home. Young LEAD members also read to children on a weekly basis.

The Kiwanis Club of Fairfield brought the town together again for its fifth annual book drive for Read to Grow and collected 8,158 books.

Through the club’s cumulative efforts, the town of Fairfield has donated a total of 36,000 books to RTG.
Despite the continued lagging economy, fiscal year 2010-2011 was robust and exciting for Read to Grow. Significant increases in both foundation and corporate grants and in hospital support allowed Read to Grow's program services to grow and the organization to flourish overall.

The value of donated books and services increased this year, primarily driven by the value of television commercial spots that market our programs. Costs in the management line covered the Board-initiated strategic planning process that will set the direction for Read to Grow's growth for the next five years.

We continue to run the organization efficiently, with 87% of our costs spent directly on program expenses.

RTG received an unqualified or clean audit opinion from our external auditors, Bailey, Murphy and Scarano, CPA.

**Income**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Foundations/Corporations</td>
<td>$486,337</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donated books/services</td>
<td>$287,844</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual donations</td>
<td>$83,543</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospital fees</td>
<td>$74,576</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Events</td>
<td>$20,979</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest</td>
<td>$1594</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>$405</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$955,278</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Expenses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenses</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program</td>
<td>$772,204</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management</td>
<td>$75,561</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development</td>
<td>$38,850</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$886,615</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net</td>
<td>$68,663</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Beginning – $714,728
End Balance – $783,391

87% of total expenditures went to program services

**EXPENSES**

- Management & General (9%)
- Development & Fundraising (4%)
- Program Services (87%)

**INCOME**

- Foundations & Corporate Grants (51%)
- Donated Books & Services (30%)
- Events (2%)
- Hospital Program Service Fees (8%)
- Interest & Other (0%)
- Individuals (9%)

87% of total expenditures went to program services
THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS
July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011

NOBEL (*$25,000 & up*)
- David & Susanah Bailin
- Kevin & Roxanne Coady
- Jeff Gruskay & Donna Lechner-Gruskay
- Michael Vlock & Karen Pritzker

PULITZER (*$10,000 - $24,999*)
- Alan & Linda Landis

CALDECOTT (*$3,000 - $9,999*)
- Anonymous (1)
- Sharon Davis
- Carlton & Letamarie Highsmith
- Daniel & Sharon Milikowsky
- Patrick & Stacy Ruwe
- John & Martha Wolf
- Jef & Kate Wolter

NEWBERY (*$1,000 - $2,999*)
- Walter & Diane Ariker
- Chris & Katie Balestracci
- Ellen Bell
- Charles & Belinda Bralver
- David Carabetta
- Ed & Chris Dowling
- Wes & Sarah Eder
- William & Jean Graustein
- Jacqueline Koral
- William & Kate Lee
- David & Lisa Maass
- Jerome & Roslyn Meyer
- Paul Michaelson & Jan Weiswasser
- Marian Weiswasser
- Marc & Jodi Schneider
- Jeffrey & Robyn Teplitzky
- Joe & Sue Zaccagnino

PAGE TURNER (*$250 - $499*)
- Anonymous (2)
- James & Margaret Andreassi
- Robert & Robin Charney
- Jack & Helen Davis
- Virginia Dean
- Kenneth & Susan Fellows
- Kevin & Tina Garrity
- Jeff Hartmann
- David & Amy Jaffe
- Gary Kraut & Bettie McCarthy-Kraut
- Stuart & Myra Low
- Larry & Anna McCurdy
- Bruce & Renee McIntyre
- Jennifer Pelletier
- Maurice & Joanie Reznik
- Susanne Santangelo
- Robert & Ilene Saulsbury
- Robert Shulman & Stephanie Spangler
- Joel & Tina Silidker
- Walter & Penny Simmers
- Richard Sussman & Nina Horowitz
- Joel Zackin & Celeste Suggs

FRIENDS (*$249 & under*)
- Anonymous (6)
- Charles & Deborah Ahern
- Jonathan & Rachel Albert
- Lucille Alderman
- Bonnie Ammer
- Chip & Barbara Angle
- Rick & Nancy Antle
- Katherine & Rob Armstrong
- Marjory Aronson
- Peter Aronson & Marie Landry
- David & Karen Astrachan
- Mary Elizabeth Attebery
- Melinda Audet
- Christine Aulicino
- Jane Bachand
- Marlene Marcus Bacher
- Ben & Robin Baker
- Robert & Barbara Ballard
- Peter Banks & Nancy Elizabeth Wallace
- Larry & Rachel Barnett
- Michael Barrios & Lisa Silverstein
- William & Donna Batsford
- Anne Bingham Pierson
- Jeffrey & Helen Block
- William & Shelly Blunt White
- Patricia Bourne
- Maryann Bracken
- Edward & Lynne Bradstreet
- Sarah Briggs
- S. Gregory Briggs
- William & Vivian Briggs
- James & Holly Brink
- Chester & Glenna Brodnicki
- Nathaniel & Joanne Bronson
- Josiah Brown
- Judge & Mrs. Calabresi
- Linda Calarco
- Jill Campbell
- Louise Bell
- Joan Chetrick
- Lauren Ciccone
- Gordon & Marjorie Cohen
- Arlene Cohen
- Gregory Colodner & Lisa Stanger
- Crystal Mata
- Josh & Alix Copel
- Joanne Cunard
- Jean Davis
- Anne Delo
- George & Mikell Deputa
- Howard & Eden Diamond
- Norma Diamond
- Marjorie Dill
- Dr. & Mrs. Seth Dodds
- Bonnie Dombrowski
- Ellen Downes
- Myron & Carol Dworken
- John & Elizabeth Edelglass
- Howard Reiter & Judy Ellant
- William & Katie Ewen
- Stephen & Loredana Falcone
- Diane Farrell
- Paul & Susan Fiedler
- Donald Filer & Alisa Masterson
- Bennie Finch
- Geraldine Foster
- Tracy Frankel
- Friday Night Book Club
- Keith & Judy Frey
- Carol Giardi
- Barbara Gibson
- Susan Glantz
- Joseph & Cynthia Goldberg
- Judith Gordon
- Robert & Mary Grande
- David & Cynthia Greenblatt
- Arthur & Zadelle Krasow Greenblatt
- Heather Graysen
- William & Paula Grimm
- Roberta Grossman
- Jay & Elaine Grossman
- Herbert & Janice Gruendel

NUTMEG (*$500 - $999*)
- Mary Arnstein
- John & Margaret Brewer
- Charley Ellis & Linda Lorimer
- David & Joanne Goldblum
- Maryanne Hall
- Robert & Carla Horwitz
- Julia Irwin
- Jonathan & Susan Katz
- Ben Arthur Ledbetter & Deborah Freedman
- Francis & Sally Morrison
- Gerald Rosenberg & Cheryl Wiesenfeld
- John & Cathy Seibyl
- Donald & Beverly Waters
- Randy & Tanya Wingate
Frank & Bette Gruskay
Einar Gudjohnsen & Jane Frey-Gudjohnsen
Larry & Roberta Harris
Myra Healy
Pamela Heard
Peter & Maureen Herbert
Cathryn Holinger
Holly Hopkins
Elizabeth Hoskins
Jean Hunnicutt
Brian & Heather Inyart
Sesha Kumar Jaladanki
Nancy Janicki
Richard & Susan Johns
David & Lyla Johnson
Leo & Marlies Kamin
David Kaminsky & Rochelle Schreibman
Bill Kaplan & Lise Dondy
Ann Katz
William & Paulette Kaufman
Frank & Julie Keating
Kristi Keil
Elliot & Sandra Kerzner
Jon Knisley & Mary Hu
Arthur & Nancy Knowlton
Anthony Kronman & Nancy Greenberg
Deana Leikin
Robert & Ruth Lesser
Arlene Levine
Dr. Jonathan D. Levine & Dr. Suzanne G. Frisch
Diane Lewis
Grace Lyall
Joe & Lisa MacDougald
James & Kaye Maggart
Terry & Martha Maguire
Donald Margulies & Lynn Street
Barbara Massey
Mark & April Maybee
Lynn McCartin
Tom & Jamie McCauley
Samir Mehta
Joan Merlis
Estelle Meyer
Thanasis & Diane Molokotos
Gwendolyn Moraski
Alden & Jaimie Murphy
Robert & Mary Patricia Nardino
Scott & Lauren Nelson
Bryan & Beth Nesteriak
Edmund & Mary Ellen Nocera
Eric & Stefanie Novak
George O’Hara
Sarah Parsons
Elizabeth Pasieka
Michael & Patricia Patrikios
Emily Peel
Alan Plattus & Nancy Berliner

Madeline Potash
Janie Pressley
Rozanne Price
Daniel Quigley & Jenny Minton Quigley
Cecile Reid
Elisa Rice
Warren & Ann Richards
Scott & Karen Ripa
Kristine Romaniw
Robin Roncari
Sheila Rostow
Rachel Rudnick
Salvatore & Priscilla Russo
Kert & Karen Sabbath
Joel Sable
Susan Santamauro
Joseph & Phyllis Satin
David Schaefer & Janet Hall
William & Toni Schmitt
Diantha Schull
Jim & Cis Serling
Marcia Shea
Margot Sheehan
Barbara Sicherman
Clifford & Laura Skolnick
Heidi Smith
Anita Soos
Walter Spigelman & Susan Richman
Pam Stanton
Ana Marie Stern
Stedman & Patricia Sweet
Glenn & Janet Swenson
Ian & Christine Taylor
Natalie Tenney
Paul & Agnes Tokarski
Janice Toukoukian
Charles & Marcia Turner
Susan Ungar
Mary Vanvalkenburg
Joan Venditto
Barry & Hyla Vine
Diana Wakerley
Ed & Laury Walker
Mark Walker
Alexine Wallace
David & Melanie Ward

Timothy & Suzanne Waters
Denise Webb
Paul Wehner
Diana Weller
John Whalen
Caroline Wharton
Christopher & Priscilla Wildeman
Judith Brooks Wiley
Gary Wilson
Richard & Marcia Witten
Steven Wolfson & Elsa Stone
Joseph & Myra Zelson
Jon Zonderman & Laurel Shader

FOUNDATIONS, FAMILY FOUNDATIONS, HOSPITAL SUPPORT
Alcoa Foundation
Bodenwein Public Benevolent Foundation
Branford Rotary Foundation
Carolyn Foundation
Chester Kitchings Family Foundation
Citizens Bank Foundation
The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven
Diana Davis Spencer Foundation
Education Foundation of America
Elizabeth Carse Foundation
The Eder Family Foundation
The Ernest & Joan Trefz Foundation
Foulds Family Foundation
Frank Loomis Palmer Fund
Frederick A. DeLuca Foundation
The Fund for Greater Hartford
The Hagani Foundation
Hartford Hospital & Hartford Hospital Auxiliary
J. Walton Bissell Foundation
NewAlliance Foundation
People’s United Community Foundation
Pitney Bowes Literacy & Education Fund
Richard & Amy Lipton Family Fund
St. Francis Hospital & Medical Center
SBM Charitable Foundation, Inc.
Seedlings Foundation
Seymour Lustman Memorial Fund
The Schneider Foundation
The Shack Sackler Foundation
The Sidney & Arthur Eder Foundation
The Simmons Family Foundation
Town Fair Tire Foundation
Tyler L. Rigg Memorial Foundation
United Way of Coastal Fairfield County

ORGANIZATIONS, CORPORATIONS, SMALL BUSINESSES & SCHOOLS
AT&T IT Employees
Alcoa Donor Advised Fund
Bristol Public Library Children’s Dept.
Benjamin Jepson Magnet School
Chartered Property Casualty Underwriters
Claire’s Corner Copia
Community Health Charities of New England
Connecticut Association of Boards of Education
Dutch Point Credit Union
East Hartford High School
Fairfield College Preparatory School
Guilford Savings Bank
Hopkins School Read to Grow Club
Jerome Harrison Elementary School
Lenny & Joe’s Fish Tale Restaurants
Melissa Jones Elementary School PTO
NewAlliance Bank
New Haven Association for Education of Young Children
One for All Fund at St. Raphael’s Pita Communications
Shoreline Community Women
Shoreline Pediatrics & Adolescent Medicine
Southern Connecticut State University
Temple Beth Tikvah
Wallingford Public School Staff
Women’s Law Society at Quinnipiac University

MATCHING GIFTS
Aetna Foundation
Energizer
The GE Foundation
Nationwide Foundation
Pfizer Foundation Matching Gifts Program
United Illuminating Employee Giving Program

TRIBUTE GIFTS
in memory of Kurt Koral
Dr. and Mrs. Walter Ariker
in honor of Liz Rosbon
Mr. and Mrs. Ellis Baker
in memory of Florence Wasserman
Mr. and Mrs. Gary J. Balsam
Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence A. Baye
Mr. and Mrs. Steven Burch
Eythe L. Cohen
Denise M. Daye
Dr. and Mrs. Neal Hammer
The Healey, Kaplan and Wagner Families
New Jersey Academy of General Dentistry
Dr. and Mrs. Ira Singer
Tobi Tesoriero
Mr. and Mrs. Harry Weisenfeld
Barbara S. Wolff
in honor of Aaron Sledge
Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence A. Baye
in honor of Sadie Noonan
Ms. Caitlyn Bradburn
in honor of Robin Baker
Mary Ellen Bushnell
in memory of Paul Michaelson
Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Cheerman
in honor of Patricia MacDonald
Sharon DePonte
in memory of Ray Crane
Mr. and Mrs. Howard Diamond
in memory of Ian Nicol
Mr. and Mrs. Howard Diamond
in memory of the Landsdale’s mother and grandmother Betty
Mr. and Mrs. Howard Diamond
in memory of George Lastomirsky
Mr. and Mrs. Howard Diamond
in memory of Charles Wills
Mr. and Mrs. Howard Diamond
in memory of Mrs. Spivack
Mr. and Mrs. Howard Diamond
in memory of Celia Phan’s mother
Mr. and Mrs. Howard Diamond
in memory of Selena Pina “Perry” Pereira
Mr. and Mrs. Howard Diamond
in memory of Anita Griffith’s father
Mr. and Mrs. Howard Diamond
in memory of mother and grandmother of Carole Lerner and Kim Lerner Diamond
Mr. and Mrs. Howard Diamond
in memory of Theresa Kennedy
Mr. and Mrs. Howard Diamond
in memory of Mary Reynolds
Mr. and Mrs. Howard Diamond
in memory of Mary Ellen Bolton’s father
Mr. and Mrs. Howard Diamond
in memory of Al Kelly’s grandmother
Mr. and Mrs. Howard Diamond
in honor of William Matthes
Marilyn Fappiano
in memory of Patricia Campbell
Mr. and Mrs. Gary Gavigan
in honor of Betty Lou Blumberg
Frances Hack
in honor of Elaine Sneiderman
Evelyn Krevoine
in honor of Stuart A. McCormack
Mr. & Mrs. William Lee
in honor of the 13th birthdays of Emma Banks, R.J. Pantalina and Sophie Cappello
Edward W. Lovejoy
in honor of R.J. Pantalena
Robert Maison & Dr. Eugenia Vining
in memory of Dorothy Champion
Linda A. Mathews
in honor of Matthew Cairns
Mr. & Mrs. Frederick Murphy
in honor of Stephen Keating
Mr. & Mrs. Frederick Murphy
in honor of Mr. and Mrs. F. Tyler Morrison
Mr. & Mrs. Frederick Murphy
in honor of Marissa Fiester
Lynne Nathan
in honor of Jake Madnick
Lynne Nathan
in honor of Donna & Pat
Lynne Nathan
in honor of Sadie Noonan
Erin B. Noonan
in honor of Evelyn Krevolin
Mr. and Mrs. Francis O’Mara
in honor of the 5 day 4s teachers
Jodi Palmieri
in honor of Roxanne Coody
Karen Pritzker & Michael Vlock
in memory of Earlene Seelig
Melanie Seelig
in honor of Max Schwartz
Steven Snow & Jennifer Krasnow
in honor of John Ewen
Mr. and Mrs. David Stone
in honor of Chitarkalekha Ramanan
Mr. and Mrs. David Stone
in memory of Imogene Carpenter
Mr. and Mrs. David Stone
in memory of Harriet Northrop Cressy
The Happy Bookers
in memory of Earl & Addie Pike
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Turner
in honor of Mrs. Forte & Ms. Maria
Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey Youngquist
in honor of Melissa Norell
Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey Youngquist

IN-KIND DONATIONS
Snehal Naik
Pilgrim Furniture City
Tricia Bohan Photography
Updike, Kelly & Spellacy
Nancy Elizabeth Wallace

BOOK DRIVE HONOR ROLL
Donations of 500 books or more
Abraham Pierson Elementary School, Clinton
Baldwin Middle School, Guilford
Bedford Middle School Student Council, Westport
Branchville Elementary School
Breakthrough Elementary School, Hartford
Christian Heritage School, Trumbull Courtyard by Marriott Orange
Deer Run School, East Haven
Emma Hart Willard School, Berlin
Fairfield Preparatory School
Betsy Farrell, Bethany
Fraser Woods School, Newtown
Girl Scout Troop 38318, Milford
Girls Scouts of Connecticut: Bridgeport, Hartford, North Haven, North Windham, Torrington, Waterbury and Wilton Service Centers
Haddam-Killingworth Middle School
Hall Memorial School, Willington
Hopkins School Read to Grow Club, New Haven
Independent Day School, Middlefield
James Blackstone Memorial Library, Branford
Jared Eliot School, Clinton
Junior League of Eastern Fairfield County
Killingworth Elementary School
Kiwanis Club of Fairfield
Ana Kyrcz and Leah Salzano, Madison
Mary R. Tisko School, Branford
Mary T. Murphy School, Branford
Mary Taylor Memorial United Methodist Church, Milford
Memorial Elementary School, East Hampton
Michael Kim, DDS, Dental Office, Newtown
Middlebrook School, Wilton
New Haven County Bar Association
New Haven Home Recovery
R.J. Julia Booksellers, Madison
RBS, Bridgeport
Red Barn Children’s Center, Clinton
Patricia Shea House Party, Hartford
Shoreline School of Montessori, Branford
Stanley T. Williams School, Northford
Stratford Academy
Suffield Middle School
Totoket Valley Elementary School, North Branford
United Way of Coastal Fairfield County
Melanie Ward and Karen Seligson House Party, Madison
Westport Country Playhouse
Yes Club, Nathan Hale-Ray School, East Haddam
Delaney Yule, Southbury

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

Read to Grow is so fortunate to have a steady flow of volunteers, all of whom demonstrate a generosity of spirit that unites them in a common cause. Volunteers gave more than 10,000 hours this year and served in a variety of ways: visiting parents on the hospital maternity units; entering data and preparing mailings in our office; sorting, labeling and packing books; making deliveries; and helping out at events. We could not do all we do without them. Their donations of time and talents impact the lives of Connecticut children and their families every day.

ACORD
Deborah Ahern
Marjory Aronson
Faith Barrington
Anne Berman
Belinda Bralver
Carol Burke
Grace Callejo
Monica Cavender
Robin Charney
Martha Clark
Noreen Cosgrove
Janet Crouse
Gabriel Davis
Letty Dunn
Kate Flanders
Jane Fox
Maureen Gagliano
Mary Geary
Genevieve Goff
Traci Grigg
Denise Grosskopf
Elaine Grossman
Maryanne Hall
Margie Healy
Page Heslin
Faye Hnath
Lois Hobby
Karen Izzo
Mary Beth Jacobs
Bhavani Jaladanki
Eleanor Julanelle
Donna Kazmeryck
Deborah Kelly
Evelyn Krevelin
Lynne Krupa
Miolle LaPlante
Susan Larsen
Kate Lee
Deana Leikin
Carol Lutes
Barbara Massey
Rosemarie McDowell
Maureen McNamara
Shirley Minnier
Jenny Minton Quigley
Ann Marie Mironick
Christine Morgan
Karen Murch
Lynne Nathan
Pat Petrelli
Janie Pressley
Pat Riley
Margot Sheehan
Barbara Shuckra
Heidi Smith
Chris Taylor
Vilma Thompson
Susan Ungar
Nancy Vagnini
Laura Vescovi
Mary Ellen Vincent
Linda Von Ancken
Constance Walsh
Helen White

If we have inadvertently omitted a name, printed a name incorrectly, or categorized anyone incorrectly, please accept our sincere apologies. Please call us at 203.488.6800 to advise us of any error so that we may correct our records.
READ TO GROW BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2011

Roxanne J. Coady, Chair
Founder and Chair, Owner, R. J. Julia Booksellers, Madison

Carla Horwitz, Ed.D.
Director, Calvin Hill Day Care Center; Lecturer, Yale Child Study Center

John F. Wolter, J.D., Secretary
Shareholder, Updike, Kelly & Spellacy, P.C., Hartford

Donna Lechner-Gruskay*
Woodbridge

Stacy Ruwe, Treasurer
Branford

Julia Irwin, Ph.D.
Senior Scientist, Haskins Laboratories, New Haven

Jennifer Aniskovich, J.D.*
Branford

Susan Katz, J.D.*
Branford

Susannah Bailin,
Woodbridge

Lisa Maass
Senior Vice President, Corporate Banking, Citizens Bank, New Haven

Joanne Cunard, Ph.D.
Professor of Child Study/Education, St. Joseph’s College, West Hartford

Karen Pritzker, Board Emeritus
Branford

Mary Kay Curtiss
Manager, Blum, Shapiro & Co., P.C., West Hartford

Janet Weiswasser Michaelson
Shelton

Sharon Davis
Human Resource Manager, Alcoa Howmet Castings, Branford

James Welbourne*
City Librarian, retired, New Haven

* retired from the board as of June 30, 2011

IN MEMORIAM: JAMES WELBOURNE

We mourn the passing of James Welbourne, beloved board member and former New Haven City Librarian, in 2011.

During his eight years of service to Read to Grow, Jim shared his expertise, his wisdom and his vision, and provided leadership to the Board and staff as well as to the greater community.

Through Jim’s commitment to Read to Grow and his passion to foster literacy development, he made a meaningful difference in the lives of Connecticut children and their families in communities across the state.

Jim was a gentle, wonderful man and we miss him.
Since 1998, Read to Grow has been working to help Connecticut parents stimulate their children’s early literacy development, and to provide free books for children of all ages.

53 School Ground Rd.
Branford, CT 06405
www.readtogrow.org
readtogrow@readtogrow.org