



Books Change Lives

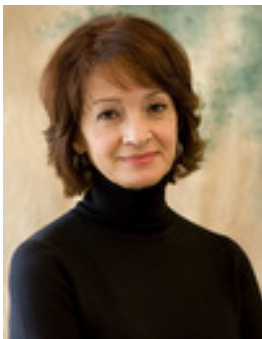
ANNUAL REPORT 2007-2008



Promoting Early Literacy Since 1998

In our complex society, the ability to read is critical: It is the foundation for success in school and, later, in the workplace; it is key for developing self-esteem and a sense of mastery; it is a necessity for communicating effectively and for understanding, learning about and exploring our world.

Developing early literacy can help prevent school failure, delinquency, teen pregnancy, poverty, and unemployment. Children who grow up with books of their own and parents who take an active role in their child's literacy development have the best chance at becoming productive, competent adults.



From the Executive Director

Dear Friends of Read to Grow,

Every day we hear about the enormous toll the lack of literacy skills takes on our children, our families, our economy. At Read to Grow, we work to improve early literacy by educating parents about the importance of reading to their children from birth, and we provide books to help them do so. Now more than ever, we understand that parents play a critical role in their child's language and literacy development, and that the process begins at birth.

Governor Rell's Early Childhood Cabinet makes this point in its report, which focuses on what all children need in their first 1,000 days of life to prepare them for success in school. It concludes that: "Literacy begins in the earliest months of life as infants become familiar with the sounds of language. Frequent and consistent exposure to words and text are the precursors to literacy development and must start in infancy." This is the message Read to Grow carries to parents, to health care and child care providers, and to our partners and supporters in our communities; it is why our services are a wise investment, especially during this time of economic and social distress.

This has been a significant year for Read to Grow, our 10th anniversary year. With the addition of Hartford Hospital as our eighth hospital partner, we now serve 50% of all Connecticut newborns. We were recognized for our expertise and experience in promoting early literacy in several ways: We were invited by the State of Connecticut Children's Trust Fund to work with the Nurturing Families Network, which serves first-time parents starting at the birth of their child; were honored by the New Haven Free Public Library; and were inducted into the Community Hall of Fame sponsored by the Community Advisory Boards of Channel Thirteen/WNET New York and WLIW21.

In the coming year, we will continue our work, pursuing prevention strategies, strong community collaborations and measurable results. With more than 48% of our third graders already behind, failing to reach the state reading goals, there is no time to waste. If we really want all children to reach their full potential, we must give each child a good start by making reading part of everyday family life, beginning at birth.

With your continued support, I am confident that we will succeed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Susanne Santangelo". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized 'S' at the beginning.

Susanne Santangelo
Executive Director

A Message from Our Board Chair

This year, as Read to Grow celebrates our 10th anniversary, I find myself reflecting on all that has been accomplished since the seeds of Read to Grow were first planted.

Ten years ago, a small group of us got together to address an appalling, unacceptable reality: there were children, right here in Connecticut, one of the most affluent states in the country, who did not have books of their own. I knew from first-hand experience that books have the power to change lives. All children need books they can call their own. Something had to be done. And so Read to Grow was born.

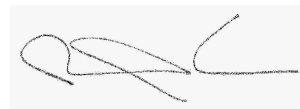
When we began our Books for Babies program at Yale-New Haven Hospital in 1998, we served about 4,000 New Haven area families, making sure every newborn went home with a new children's book, and parents who understood that it was important to start reading to their baby right away. At the end of our first decade, we now partner with eight birthing hospitals that are serving families throughout New Haven, Hartford, New London and Fairfield counties. Today, a remarkable 21,000 newborns — 50% of all new Connecticut babies — receive a brand new book from Read to Grow through our Books for Babies program.

Early on, we envisioned a continuum of services, one that would promote early literacy, support developing literacy, and provide access to books for children of all ages. It seemed logical, and necessary, to make books available to children through their first dozen years. So we started our Books for Kids program, “recycling” and redistributing donated gently used books to children who otherwise might not have books of their own.

This year alone, Read to Grow gave out an astounding 100,000 new and gently used books and we continue to grow and touch the lives of more Connecticut families each year. Our stellar staff, committed Board of Directors, and generous donors make it possible for our children to get a good start in life. We've accomplished so much in the last ten years; and there is still so much more we can do.

For countless Connecticut children, their first book is a gift from Read to Grow: for many it is the first book they hold, the first story they hear. For many, a book from Read to Grow is a window to a different world, a doorway to a brighter future.

Please take a few minutes to read through the pages that follow. I hope you will be moved to continue your support of our work on behalf of our youngest citizens.



Roxanne J. Coady
Founder and Chair

Books Change Lives.

**Every day, for 10 years,
Read to Grow has changed
lives — one book, one child,
one family at a time.**

**In helping parents take an
active role in their child’s
literacy development right
from the first days of life, we
work towards preventing
low literacy and preparing
all children for later success
in school and in life.**



*Amalia is one of thousands of Connecticut children
benefitting from Read to Grow and our commitment to
preventing low literacy.*

OUR MISSION is to improve
early literacy for all
Connecticut children by
providing books, helping
families share books with their
babies beginning at birth,
encouraging language
development, and promoting
an awareness of existing
literacy resources.

**Join us in looking back at all we
have accomplished, with the
support of our donors, our
volunteers, and our communities.**

**Look ahead with us as we share
our vision for the future and move
forward into our second decade of
changing lives.**

***“Every child gets one
chance at their first
1,000 days. We don’t
want to squander that.”***

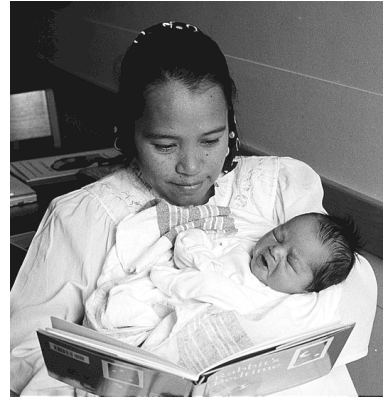
— Governor M. Jodi Rell

Building Children's Literacy

Read to Grow is a statewide nonprofit organization that works to prevent low literacy and give all Connecticut children a good start in life by providing free books and literacy guidance to families.

Research shows that a child's literacy development begins at birth, long before the start of formal instruction in school. Developing early language skills is the foundation for later literacy and success in school. Studies show that the richest language exposure occurs when parents read to a child, and children's books are the essential tools for providing developmentally appropriate language to use with children.

Book exposure among infants and toddlers also promotes the development of early literacy skills. Infant brain development research also shows that children learn through a "give and take" within the context of warm, loving relationships with adults.



Working with parents in the hospital when a baby is born, Read to Grow links good health to the importance of early literacy, language development and attachment, preparing parents for their important role in their child's literacy development, and motivating them to read aloud to their babies right from birth.

“The single most important activity for building the knowledge required for eventual success in reading is reading aloud to children.”

~National Commission on Reading

By providing a continuum of programs, Read to Grow has become a vital resource for families and communities throughout Connecticut.

- 50% of the state's newborns and their families received a new, free children's book and literacy guidance from Read to Grow, through our partnerships with eight Connecticut birthing hospitals.
- 110,000 books were given by Read to Grow to children across the state this year.

**With the help of our donors, our volunteers and our partners,
Read to Grow is making a difference in the lives of children.**

Providing a Continuum of Services

- **Books for Babies** — provides new children's books for babies through the first year of life, and information for parents on how children develop early literacy skills and what they can do to help. Partner hospitals, and approximate annual births, are:

Yale-New Haven Hospital — 4,600

Hospital of Saint Raphael, New Haven — 1,200

Lawrence & Memorial Hospital,
New London — 1,800

Saint Francis Hospital and
Medical Center, Hartford — 3,300

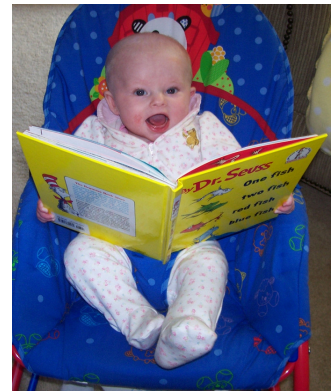
Bridgeport Hospital — 2,600

St. Vincent's Hospital, Bridgeport — 1,350

Manchester Hospital — 1,000

Hartford Hospital — 4,000

- **Books for Kids** — provides free new and gently used books for children who need them from birth through middle-school age.
- **Connecticut Library Hotline** — a toll-free number that provides callers with information about each of our state's 200 libraries.
- **Motheread/Fatheread Classes** — use a nationally recognized curriculum to promote parent-child bonding by combining the teaching of literacy skills with child development, and focusing on child-rearing issues relevant to all families. This year, Read to Grow presented two Motheread sessions for the women at York Correctional Institution.



10th Anniversary Year Highlights

- In September, we kicked off our 10th anniversary year with a weekend of house parties around the state, each featuring a Connecticut author.
- In January, Hartford Hospital became our eighth hospital partner. Now, Books for Babies reaches 50% of all Connecticut newborns with a literacy bag and literacy guidance for their parents.
- To accommodate program growth, we expanded our office and warehouse space, updating our look with a generous gift of “gently used” furniture from Pitney Bowes.
- In June, an Open House for supporters showed off our renovated space and increased capabilities. Attendees included Senator Edward Meyer.
- This year, we printed our *First Guide for Parents of Newborns* in Spanish, to increase bilingual families’ access to literacy guidance information.
- In April, 16-year-old Alexandra Bailin received the Youth Volunteer of the Year award from the Greater New Haven Association of Volunteer Administrators for her service to Read to Grow.



Jacques Pepin was the guest author at a 10th anniversary dinner party hosted by Francine Sears.

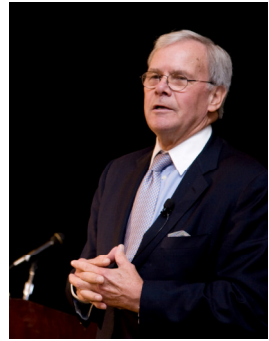


Children’s author Nancy Wallace, Susanne Santangelo and Roxanne Coady with Senator Ed Meyer at Read to Grow’s Open House.



Read to Grow Development Director Jean Caron presented the Youth Volunteer Award to Alexandra Bailin from the Greater New Haven AVA for her work with Read to Grow.

- Our annual fundraising luncheons in Hartford and New Haven attracted record-breaking crowds in support of our programs.
- Read to Grow received two awards this year. We were inducted into the Community Hall of Fame, sponsored by the Community Advisory Boards of Channel Thirteen/WNET New York and WLIW21. Read to Grow also received the Mary B. Ives award from the New Haven Free Public Library at the annual Mardi Gras celebration.
- Yale-New Haven Hospital's Pediatric Primary Care Center became the fifth site for our community outreach effort, aimed at families with two-month-old babies.
- In June, Books for Babies hospital volunteers from around the state came together for an educational session and roundtable discussion on brain development and early literacy—part of the in-service training we provide for volunteers and hospital staff.
- Read to Grow was invited by the State of Connecticut Children's Trust Fund to work with the Nurturing Families Network, which serves first-time parents beginning at a baby's birth.



Tom Brokaw spoke to more than 400 attendees in November at our New Haven luncheon.



Executive Director Susanne Santangelo accepted the Community Hall of Fame award from Channel 13/WNET.



Lawrence & Memorial Hospital Books for Babies volunteers were among those who attended the educational session on brain development and early literacy for our hospital volunteers.

Books for Babies: Practicing Prevention

Early on, Books for Babies took root as a research-based program of low literacy prevention, viewing literacy development as an essential part of a child's overall good health. Our unique approach begins at birth, on the hospital maternity unit, with a literacy bag for families and a visit from a volunteer trained by Read to Grow. Given the health, social and economic consequences of low literacy, promoting literacy is practicing preventive medicine.

Through our hospital partnerships, Books for Babies becomes incorporated into the services delivered to families on the maternity unit. Priscilla Russo, Books for Babies coordinator, a former neonatal nurse and patient educator, emphasizes the strong collaborative relationship between the hospital and Read to Grow. "It really works from the top down and bottom up," involving a commitment from administration, medical and nursing staff, and the hospital volunteer department, she explains. "They reinforce our message all the time."



In starting up a hospital program, Read to Grow follows a protocol that brings together Books for Babies staff, hospital staff, and volunteers from the community. In-service training for nursing staff reviews how Books for Babies works, and the research on which our



Books for Babies volunteer at Hartford Hospital, our newest partner, visits with parents of a newborn at bedside on the maternity unit.

message to families is based. Volunteers are recruited and trained jointly by Read to Grow staff and hospital volunteer services, with our training focusing on infant brain development, how literacy skills are acquired, and how parents can begin building their baby's literacy skills from birth.

Once the program is up and running, maternity staff makes sure each family receives a literacy bag, reinforces parents' role in developing their baby's language, and offers books from Read to Grow to siblings of newborns. Volunteers visit with families to discuss the importance of early childhood literacy and encourage parents to sign up with us for additional books and literacy guidance during baby's first year.

Through our Books for Babies program, newborns leave the hospital with a brand new book and parents who understand that reading aloud to children, right from the start, can help build a solid foundation for learning, and prevent the devastating effects of low literacy.



Read to Grow's Books for Babies team: Hospital Coordinator Priscilla Russo, center, joined by Christine Mace, left, Hartford regional coordinator, and Erin Spanliding, right, onsite coordinator at Yale-New Haven Hospital.

This year's addition of Hartford Hospital has brought Read to Grow one step closer to fulfilling founder Roxanne Coady's vision of providing every newborn in the state — about 42,000 births each year — with a book to start on the road to literacy.

“Thank you for informing me that even a newborn could be read to. It has given my baby a head start to the learning process. Now I borrow books from the local library to read to my baby.”

~From a Hartford area parent

“My child has enjoyed receiving the books from you all. She loves reading now. I am due in November with my son and I hope he loves to read like his sister. I really like your program and would love to keep getting books and your service.”

~From a New Haven area mother

Getting Books into Children's Homes

Phone calls from children like Chinanu remind us of how important books are to those we serve. Chinanu is nine years old and lives in New Haven. She loves to read and called us several times this year to ask for books, thanking us each time before requesting more. Over the years, Read to Grow has grown into a place that children, parents and providers can rely on for free books and information. This year, Books for Kids showed a 9% increase over the previous year in the number of books distributed, making sure developmentally appropriate books are accessible to those with limited means. With each book we provide, we are helping to shrink the opportunity gap and build children's literacy skills.



In keeping with our mission to partner with existing organizations that promote literacy, we collaborate with a wide range of health care, educational, social service and child care providers to get books into children's homes. We answered requests from more than 300 different sites around the state, as well as directly from countless families, many contacting us for books multiple times during the year.

Continuing the link between health care and literacy, Books for Kids regularly delivered books to the maternity units and pediatric waiting rooms in our partner hospitals, and to community health centers, where thousands of books were taken home by children at the end of their doctor's visits.

We are a small nonprofit cooperative preschool on a very limited budget. Your donation allowed me to present each student with a book and add five new books to our classroom library...Your program touches "little lives" and enriches their childhood through book "ownership."

*~Judy Tatem, Director,
Rocky Hill Congregational Cooperative
Nursery School*

Books for Kids is supported by book donations from schools, businesses, publishers, community groups and individuals — a cost-effective way to shrink the opportunity gap and to meet the needs of the increasing numbers of children and underserved programs in our communities.

The Joy of Receiving

Below is sample of the range of programs we gave books to this year. A list of more than 300 sites that received books from Read to Grow appears at the end of this report.

- 1,200 books were delivered to the Young Designers Youth Service Organization: Carmella Ricciardelli brought arts and crafts projects to all New Haven police substations each week during the summer, and gave out books to children that participated.
- Judy Marella drove 30 miles from Bridgeport to Branford and back again, her van filled with 860 books for the city's Lighthouse Program, an after school and summer program with 20 sites.
- "Minding the Baby Home Visiting Program for Young Families," a New Haven-based program that visits teen mothers weekly until a child is two years old, received 80 books to use in encouraging healthy attachment.
- More than 1,000 books were given to Malta House of Care, a mobile medical van that serves uninsured Hartford residents, to distribute to children.
- Whale's Tales Children's Book Bank, a New London resource Read to Grow helped establish several years ago, received 1,400 books to help fill its bookshelves.
- All Our Kin in New Haven, a resource for family child care providers, received more than 700 books.



Michelle: A Catalyst for Change



Michelle Randolph gathers a few friends and relatives to check out a couple of boxes of books, a recent delivery from Read to Grow. Michelle has become a community leader for literacy, working to help change children's lives.

Six months ago, Michelle Randolph's address was York Correctional Institution in Niantic. These days, she is making a difference in children's lives, by getting books into their homes and encouraging parents to read with their children. Folks in Michelle's New Haven community know her today as "The Book Lady" because she gives kids books of their own, books she gets from Read to Grow.

It was at York that Michelle learned about the importance of sharing books with children, and about Read to Grow as a community resource for free books and literacy advice.

We first met Michelle when she took part in a Motherhead group at York. For ten weeks, Michelle attended the classes conducted by two of our staff members, Books for Babies coordinator Priscilla Russo and Books for Kids coordinator Linda Sylvester, both trained in the nationally recognized Motherhead curriculum. Read to Grow brought Motherhead to York in 2006 as part of York's parenting program.

Michelle does not have children of her own, but she helps take care of her two-year-old godson, and he was her inspiration for attending the Motherhead classes at York. "I love kids and love kids to read," Michelle says. The time she spends reading with her godson "helps me to grow closer to him."

Once back in New Haven, Michelle called on us. At first she asked for books for several children she knew; then she expanded her reach, taking on the mission of getting books

to as many children as she can by bringing them right into the neighborhoods and onto families' doorsteps. Having books and reading, she says, "gives kids a chance to elevate their minds, and to feel the joy of books."

**"I'm doing something I enjoy,
working to keep kids focused
and stretch their minds."**

Michelle makes announcements at neighborhood community meetings to let families know that she can get books for their children, and takes books to her church for children who attend Sunday school classes. News of Michelle's work has traveled by word of mouth, and now both children and parents seek her out. "When I bring books, they want more," she says proudly.

Book ownership is key to getting children to read more, Michelle has found. "Libraries are great," she says, "but kids want to keep books and to cherish them. They don't want to have to give them back."

Michelle dreams about having an apartment large enough for shelves of books, a place where children could go to browse for books to take home to keep—a mini-distribution center right in her home. In the meantime, she regularly calls Linda Sylvester for children's books and to share her ideas about how she can spread the message of the importance of books, literacy and family reading to her community.

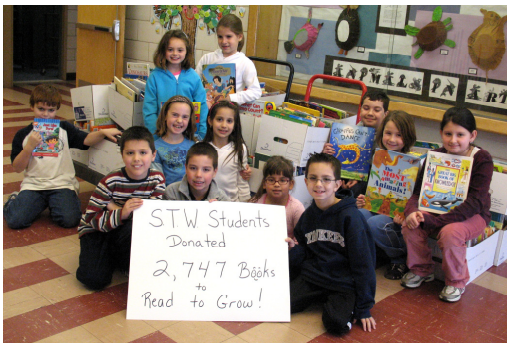
Motherhead at York is funded by a grant from J. Walton Bissell Foundation.

The Joy of Giving

This year more than 70,000 new and gently used donated books came into our warehouse to be sorted by topic and grade level, labeled with our Read to Grow sticker, and distributed to children, families and underserved programs in our communities.

Each of the following donated more than 500 books this year.

Jane Baker, Bat Mitzvah book drive
 Branford Early Childhood Collaborative
 Church of Saint Dunstan Confirmation Class,
 Glastonbury
 Congregation Simchat Yisrael, West Haven
 Deer Run Elementary School, East Haven
 Fraser-Woods School, Newtown
 Jordan Glassman, Bar Mitzvah book drive



Girl Scout Troop # 6214, Baldwin Middle School, Guilford
 Girl Scout Troop # 3839, Simon Lake School and West Shore Middle School, Milford
 Guilford Lakes School
 Lori Hoffer, Woodbridge
 Hopkins School, Read to Grow Club, New Haven
 Independent Day School, Middlefield
 Island Avenue Elementary School, Madison
 James Blackstone Memorial Library, Branford
 Jared Eliot Middle School, Clinton
 Jewish Community Center, Woodbridge
 Kathleen H. Ryerson School, Madison
 Kiwanis Club of Fairfield
 Learning Village of Madison
 Masonic Healthcare Center, Wallingford



News Channel 8
 North Branford Intermediate School
 Orange Avenue School, Milford
 Our Lady of Mercy School, Madison
 The Pine Brook School, Branford
 R.J. Julia Booksellers, Madison
 Raymour & Flanigan Furniture
 Red Barn Children's Center, Clinton
 Stamford Jewish Community Center
 Stanley T. Williams Elementary School, Northford
 Starbucks - New Haven area stores
 Totoket Valley Elementary School, Northford
 United Way of Greater New Haven with
 Quinnipiac University, Albertus Magnus,
 Gateway Community College, and University of New Haven
 Melanie Ward and Karen Seligson, Holiday Lunch for Literacy
 Washington School, East Haven



Bringing a Town Together

His Jeep was nearly scraping the road from the sheer volume of books that had been packed in, but Bob Sussman of the Kiwanis Club of Fairfield didn't mind. He was thrilled with the success of the club's second annual community-wide book drive for Read to Grow. In just two weeks, the Kiwanis Club, in partnership with the town's schools and libraries, collected 9,000 books for Connecticut children in need.

Last year the Kiwanis Club collected 6,000 books, setting a record for the most books collected by a single drive in our history. For its outstanding contribution, the organization received a Community Partner award at Read to Grow's fall luncheon fundraiser in New Haven. Months later, the club beat its own record.

"We are so pleased that this service project allows us to encourage community-wide support for literacy while involving many of our Kiwanis members, as well as entire families," says Sussman.

Community groups, such as the Kiwanis Club, take action because they believe in our mission and in our ability to get books to children who need them.

"After attending Read to Grow's fundraiser last November and listening to the speakers talk about how many children benefit from Read to Grow and its programs, I was very motivated to run another book drive."

—Bob Sussman, Kiwanis Club of Fairfield



Fairfield students joined with the Kiwanis Club to help collect books for Read to Grow.



Susanne Santangelo presented the Community Partner award to Fairfield Kiwanis Club book drive coordinator Bob Sussman at the 2007 New Haven luncheon.

Cultivating Collaborations

Through collaborations, Read to Grow can share our expertise in literacy, expand our reach and connect with our communities. Here are a few of the ways we worked with other organizations around the state this year.

- Read to Grow was invited by the State of Connecticut Children's Trust Fund to work with the Nurturing Families Network (NFN), which serves first-time parents beginning at baby's birth. We started our work by selecting developmentally appropriate books for all 42 NFN sites for home visitors to use with parents in encouraging shared reading. In phase two, Read to Grow staff conducted training sessions for NFN staff, who will integrate the early literacy education into their work with families.
- Teen volunteer Alexandra Bailin conceived of and initiated the state's first Read to Grow Club at Hopkins School in New Haven, an active group that collects books and raises funds for RTG. To help others form their own successful RTG Club chapters, Alexandra developed and published a guide that outlines how schools and community groups can get started.
- Read to Grow staffed an informational table and distributed early literacy materials to 100 child care providers at All Our Kin's Annual Conference. All Our Kin is a New Haven organization that helps train low-income women to be early childhood educators.
- At a Help Me Grow networking breakfast for 50 community providers, Read to Grow staff made a presentation about encouraging families to promote healthy parent-child bonding and attachment through early literacy. Educational resources were distributed.
- Yale-New Haven Hospital's Pediatric Primary Care Center became the fifth site for our community outreach effort. At the two-month well-child visit, pediatric staff remind parents about their role in building their child's early literacy skills, provide families with another developmentally appropriate book from Read to Grow, and encourage parents to sign up for more free books and literacy guidance.

Diane Ariker: A Donor Story

“One of my earliest memories is of going to the library with my mother to get books,” Diane Ariker reminisces. “I can still picture it. It was better than going to a toy store.” There were books in her childhood home, but no budget to buy all the books she wanted. “And there was no organization like Read to Grow then,” she adds.

Diane met Read to Grow several years ago when her granddaughter was born. The baby received a literacy bag, and Diane was impressed. “I thought you were doing things in literacy that no one else was doing,” she recalls.

In 2006, Diane attended a Read to Grow event and learned more about us. Following that, she and her husband, Walter, chose one of the many ways to donate to Read to Grow and made a multi-year pledge.

Diane loves the idea of multi-year pledges for its benefits to both the donor and the organization. By becoming a multi-year donor, gifts can be more meaningful, she says. “You can plan ahead and incorporate that gift into your total philanthropic plan, maybe making a larger gift because you spread it out over time,” she explains.

Drawing on her years of working in development with nonprofits, she says, “It’s helpful for ongoing strategic planning to be able to look beyond a gift to a commitment over a number of years...It also gives the organization an opportunity to continue to inform and engage donors...in turn, they become a power even beyond the amount of money they give; they become advocates.”

Diane has, indeed, become an advocate for Read to Grow. Since joining our development committee in 2006, she has stepped to the plate time after time, seeking

new donors and spreading the word about Read to Grow. By volunteering, she’s also carrying on a family tradition passed on to her by her parents; they led by example and taught their only child about giving her voice, money and time to others. And Diane does all that, and more, for Read to Grow.

The Arikers are passing on their philosophy of philanthropy to their children, in part, through a donor-advised fund they established at the Community Foundation for Greater New Haven, in conjunction with their strategic giving plan. “I love the idea of endowment,” Diane says. “Part of the money stays and grows, and after we’re gone, the fund will go on giving.”

Before a career as a management consultant and human resources professional, Diane was a classroom teacher and guidance counselor; becoming a grandmother upped her concern about a child’s early years. “That’s where my passion is and that’s what Read to Grow does. The early start right from birth is thrilling to me. There’s a kind of yield that nothing else can compare to when you start that early.”



Sharon Davis: A Corporate Voice



“I was looking for an organization that we could become involved with and when I heard about Read to Grow...I jumped at the chance.”

—Sharon Davis, Director,
Human Resources, Alcoa Howmet

When Sharon Davis took a job at local manufacturer Alcoa Howmet, she began searching for an area nonprofit to get behind, carrying out Alcoa’s corporate principle to serve its communities. Through an article in a weekly newspaper, she found Read to Grow right in her Branford “backyard.”

“I was looking for an organization that we could become involved with and when I heard about Read to Grow, with literacy being one of my pet projects, I jumped at the chance. We wanted to get involved in something where we could be of the most help,” Sharon says. “They really sparked my interest and I knew I had to get with them.”



Alcoa Howmet employees spent a day working for children’s literacy by spending a day at Read to Grow. The team, led by Davis, seated, center, donated more than 80 hours collectively, assembling hundreds of literacy packets for Books for Babies and labeling thousands of new and gently used books for Books for Kids to distribute to children around the state.

Sharon was drawn to our Books for Babies program: sending children and parents home from the hospital with a book and information so they can continue to access material is a unique way to make a positive impact, she says.

The process brings families closer and helps expand both the parents' and child's world with access to books and literacy reinforcement.

"Knowing they leave just days after being born with their first book is special," Sharon says. "The parents will read and explore and expand their knowledge as well. Literacy is so important in so many aspects, it is exciting to be part of an effort like Read to Grow."

Sharon says some of her fellow employees at Howmet helped inspire her to choose RTG as their community project. With a predominantly Hispanic work force, Sharon says she saw the need for literacy in everyday, practical terms.

"Our employee base is mainly Hispanic here and for some of our employees English is a second language, so literacy is something that we understand. We stress that if employees want to take English as a second language, we will get them in classes. We want people to succeed," Sharon says.

Sharon was instrumental in recommending RTG to the Alcoa Foundation for funding,



Alcoa Howmet presents a \$45,000 check to Read to Grow from the Alcoa Foundation for Books for Babies.

which resulted in a \$45,000 grant awarded by the foundation to support our Books for Babies program.

The mother of two girls, Sharon was touched personally by our mission as well. "It inspired me to read to my daughters even more. Books are in abundance in our home. I want my daughters to experience different cultures and ideas."

Sharon's community activities were so well received at RTG that she was asked to serve on its board, another opportunity she jumped at.

"I was truly honored to be asked to be on the board," Sharon says. "I just wanted to volunteer and help. Being on the board is a great honor."

Ben Raynor, The Sound, contributed to this article.

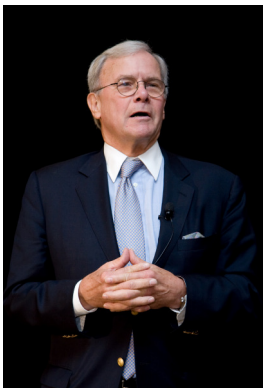
Celebrating the Power of Literacy

Read to Grow has celebrated the power of early literacy for the past 10 years with annual luncheons in New Haven; three years ago, we began holding annual Hartford area luncheons as well. These popular events attract hundreds of individuals who attend to hear well-known authors and personalities speak and to support our mission.

This year, Alan Alda was the guest speaker at the Hartford event, and broadcast journalist Tom Brokaw spoke at the New Haven event. Both luncheons were co-hosted by Citizens Bank, long-time Read to Grow supporter.

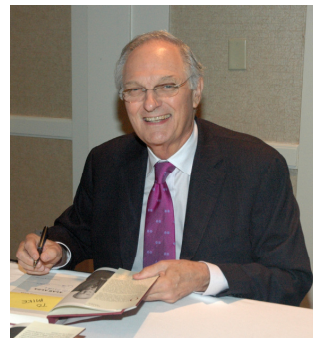
Honorary chair of the luncheon in Hartford was Senate Pro Tempore Donald Williams; Speaker of the House James A. Amann was honorary chair of the New Haven luncheon.

Annual Luncheons



“The single biggest problem we have is people who can’t read so they can’t follow simple instructions, and they can’t keep a job.”

~Tom Brokaw,
New Haven luncheon



“What an extraordinary thing [Read to Grow is] doing...giving children a chance for their brains to develop so whatever genius is there will come out and give them the ability to live a good life.”

~Alan Alda,
Hartford luncheon



*Richard M. Barry,
president of
Citizens Bank,
greet Senator
Williams, honorary
event chair.*



10th Anniversary Celebration

Elegant settings, intimate gatherings, and conversations with guest authors...Read to Grow kicked off our 10th anniversary year celebration with a weekend of house parties. Generous hosts around the state opened their homes to the “friend and fund raising” event under our theme of “Books Change Lives,” and guest authors such as Wally Lamb, Lary Bloom and Amy Chua entertained and enlightened guests. Board member Donna Lechner-Gruskay led a sterling volunteer planning committee, and Citizens Bank sponsored the celebration.



Professor, writer and humorist Gina Barreca signs a copy of her book for a 10th anniversary party guest.



Wally Lamb and wife Christine, left, with 10th anniversary party hosts Meg and George Knight.



Author Dorie Greenspan and husband Michael, left, with Roxanne Coady and Nicole Vitano of Updike, Kelly & Spellacy law firm.



Citizens Bank's Richard Barry and wife Deborah attended a party in Hartford hosted by Mary Kay Curtiss, right.

Patrons Events

Read to Grow hosts an annual special event to acknowledge our patrons and share our progress. In January, the Yale British Art Museum was the venue for “A Royal Evening” with author Domenick Dunne interviewing Tina Brown about her new book about the life of Princess Diana.

A Decade of Growth and Service

1998

Read to Grow begins with the vision that all children should have books of their own

1999

Kick-off fundraising luncheon features Peter Jennings as guest speaker

Yale-New Haven Hospital signs on as first Books for Babies hospital partner



RTG founder Roxanne Coady and Peter Jennings at our first fundraising luncheon.

2000

First books for newborns are distributed through Books for Babies at Yale-New Haven Hospital

Former president Jimmy Carter speaks at second New Haven fundraising luncheon

2001

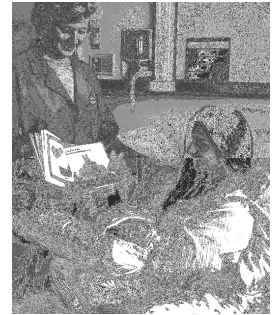
Hospital of Saint Raphael: our second partner
Julie Andrews is New Haven luncheon speaker

2002

Third hospital partner is Lawrence & Memorial in New London

Books for Kids program is created to provide gently used books for children through middle-school age

Caroline Kennedy: New Haven luncheon speaker



Books for Babies volunteer visits a new mom at Yale-New Haven Hospital, our first partner.

2003

Peter Jennings returns to New Haven to speak at annual fundraising luncheon

Books for Kids distributes 26,000 new and gently used books to children

2004

Expanding into Hartford, Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center becomes fourth partner

Madeleine Albright speaks in New Haven



In 2004, RTG welcomed Madeleine Albright as luncheon speaker.



YALE-NEW HAVEN
CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL



Saint Raphael
Healthcare System





This year, we published a Spanish version of our First Guide for Parents of Newborns.



Caroline Kennedy spoke in Hartford in 2006.



Children pose with books they received from Read to Grow.

2005

Read to Grow expands into Fairfield county: Bridgeport Hospital becomes fifth hospital partner

Books for Kids distributes 64,000 new and gently used books to Connecticut children

Jack Welch, former General Electric CEO, speaks at New Haven luncheon

RTG publishes *First Guide for Parents* to be included in Books for Babies literacy bags

2006

Sixth and seventh hospital partners come on board: Manchester Memorial Hospital and Bridgeport's St. Vincent's Medical Center

Senator John McCain speaks at New Haven luncheon

Caroline Kennedy returns to Read to Grow as first Hartford area luncheon speaker

2007

RTG forms partnership with York Correctional Institution: staff members conduct Motherread workshops for women of York, and inmates assemble literacy bags for Hartford Books for Babies

Outreach prevention initiative for families of two-month-olds launched in several primary care centers

Author/sports writer Mitch Albom speaks at Hartford luncheon

2008

Hartford Hospital is eighth hospital partner

First Guide for Parents of Newborns published in Spanish

Read to Grow distributes more than 110,000 books in one year



Our Volunteers: The Backbone of Read to Grow

Read to Grow is fortunate to have a pool of committed volunteers who donate their time and skills to carrying out our mission. Our volunteers work in the hospitals, in our office, and on special events, always willing to do whatever is needed. We could not do what we do without them.

Susan Adams
Darlene Adler
Lindsey Anderson
Alexandra Bailin
Jane Baker
Betsy Ballenger
Cara Baruzzi
Linda Brites
Susan Brown
Nora Brugueras
Grace Callejo
Judith Case
Dottie Cavanaugh
Monica Cavender
Robin Charney
Sandra Cosman
Yanina Daigle
Maria Decker
Ashley Equi
Theresa Finkel
Alyssa Fleischman
Jo-Ann Fleischman
Joan Foster
Jane Fox
Armida Funaro
Tina Garrity
Mary Geary
Angeliki Georgalopoulos
Genevieve Goff
Denise Grosskopf
Elaine Grossman
Maryanne Hall
Nancy Hare
Miriam Hart
Margie Healy

Katherine Hersey
Page Heslin
Lois Hobby
Mary Beth Jacobs
Eleanor Juliannelle
Anne Karas
Donna Kazmercyk
Deb Kelly
Ian Knisely
Evelyn Krevolin
Lynne Krupa
Kate Lee
Allison Lex
Rosemarie McDowell
Kristen McKay
Maureen McNamara
Kim Meuse
Shirley Minnier
Shannon Mooney
Christine Morgan
Karen Murray
Carmella Nahary
Lynn Nathan
Fran Oliver
Janie Pressley
Marian Pronskey
Cecile Reid
Calla Riccio
Pat Riley
Nora Romano
Fran Rukus
Barbara Scaramozza
Adrienne Sharon
David Sheehan
Jean Silverstein

Dot Simon
Linda Smith Cohen
Cassidy Snider
Linda Srebnik
Pam Stanton
Eve Stone
Kate Sylvester
Vilma Thompson
Jennifer Torello
Nancy Vagnini
Laurel Van Wilgen
Barbara Vance
Anna Vescovi
Laura Vescovi
Maryellen Vincent
Molly Visnic
Donna Wadstrup
Nancy Wallace
Constance Walsh
John Weber
Helen White
Kathy White

Read to Grow partners with several Connecticut agencies to provide job training activities for clients, and in turn, we benefit from their volunteer services. We gratefully acknowledge the following for their donated hours:

Acord
Benhaven
Branford High School
Sarah, Inc.
Vista Vocational Life Skills
York Correctional Institution



Volunteers donated
\$192,000-worth of
service to Read to
Grow this year.*

**Based on figures from the Bureau of
Labor Statistics*



Treasurer's Report

Fiscal year 2007-2008 was a year of continued growth and expansion in our programs. We received our first state grant this year, and gifts from special events increased by \$22,061 over last year. As pledge payments are recorded in the year in which they are received, a \$51,977 decrease in the net assets occurred despite growth in overall cash receipts this year.

The addition of our eighth hospital partner and expansion of program services increased book expenses by \$26,346 over the previous year. Conservative fiscal management this year allowed us to under spend our overall expense budget by \$65,450.

Read to Grow received an unqualified or clean audit opinion from our external auditors Murphy, Sloman & Company.

Respectfully submitted by,

Stacy Ruwe, *Treasurer*

Statement of Activities for the Year Ended June 30, 2008

Income:

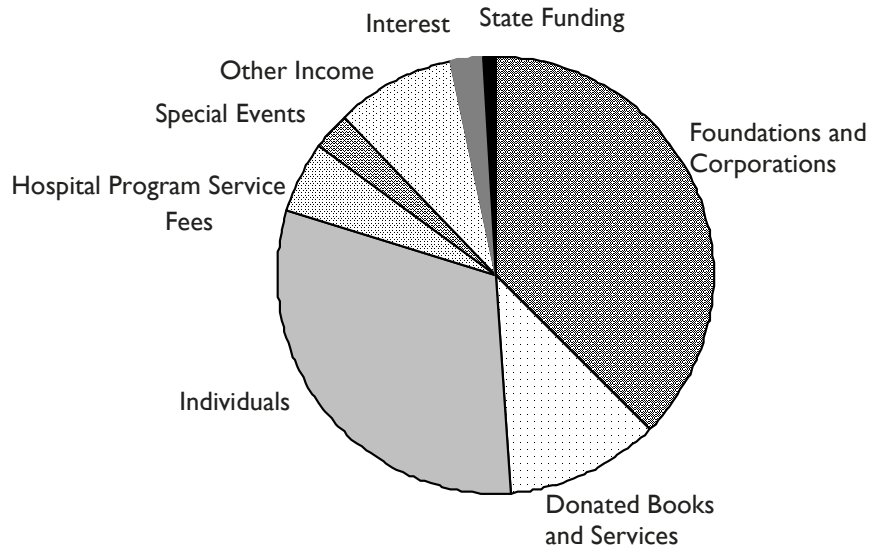
Foundations and Corporate Grants	\$ 281,196
Individual Contributions	85,080
Donated Books and Services	232,345
Hospital Program Service Fees	40,000
Other Program Services	20,000
Special Events	67,041
Other Income	17,900
Interest	<u>7,062</u>
Total Income	750,624

Expenses:

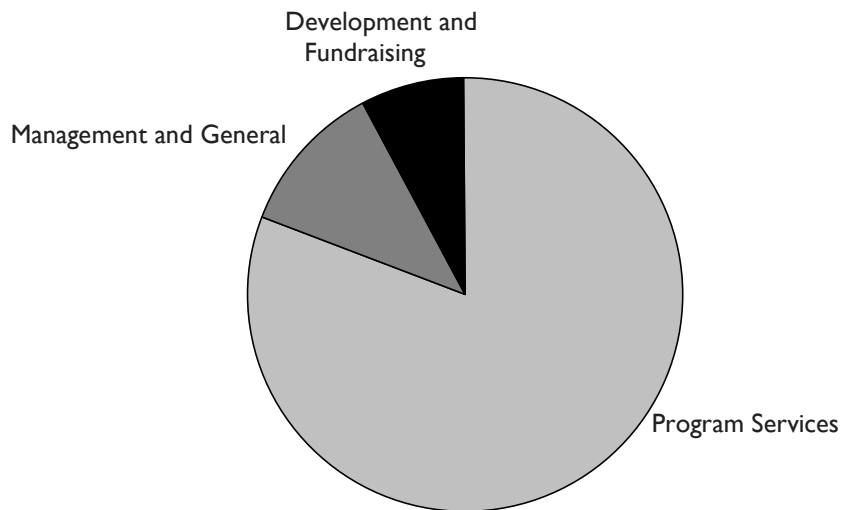
Program Services	648,839
Support Services:	
Management and General	90,372
Development and Fundraising	<u>63,390</u>
Total Expenses	802,601

Increase in Net Assets	(51,977)
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	<u>810,357</u>
Net Assets, End of Year	<u>758,380</u>

Income



Expenses



Our Donors: Investing in the Future

July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008

Founding Patrons

Terri and Bruce Alpert
Jennifer and William Aniskovich
Susannah and David Bailin
Ellen W. Bell
Marna and Eric Borgstrom
Mary Jane Burt
Christine and Vin Chiocchio
Roxanne and Kevin Coady
Chris and Ed Dowling
Karen and Lawrence Ellman
Kim Healey
Susan Katz
Donna Lechner-Gruskay
Roberta and Bruce Lockhart
Linda Lorimer and Charley Ellis
Lisa and David Maass
Sharon and Daniel Milikowsky
Diane and Thanasis Molokotos
Barbara Pearce and Norman Fleming
Karen Pritzker and Michael Vlock
Audrey and Albert Ratner
Stacy and Patrick Ruwe
Robin and Lance Sauerteig
Jodi and Marc Schneider
Joanne and James Staten
Celeste Suggs and Joel Zackin
Molly and Kevin Visnic
Peter and Pamela Werth
Tanya and Randy Wingate
Kate and Jef Wolter
Sue and Joseph Zaccagnino

Nobel (\$25,000 and up)

David and Susannah Bailin*
Kevin and Roxanne Coady*
Jeff Gruskay and Donna Lechner-Gruskay*
Michael Vlock and Karen Pritzker*

Pulitzer (\$10,000 - \$24,999)

Alan and Linda Landis*

Caldecott (\$3,000 - \$9,999)

Robert and Beverly Bartner*
Gerald Kahn and Barbara Stark*
Jonathan and Susan Katz*
Jerome and Roslyn Meyer
Patrick and Stacy Ruwe*
Jef and Kate Wolter*

Newbery (\$1,000 - \$2,999)

William and Jennifer Aniskovich*
Walter and Diane Ariker*
Richard and Jean Caron*
Ed and Chris Dowling
Andrew and Eileen Eder
Charley Ellis and Linda Lorimer
Mark and Janet Levy
Terry and Martha Maguire
Paul Michaelson and Jan Weiswasser
Michaelson*
Daniel and Sharon Milikowsky
Doyle and Bridget Queally
Bob and Maggie Rotanz
Marc and Jodi Schneider
Joel and Tina Silidker*
Jeffrey and Robyn Teplitzky*
Michael and Anna Vranos
James and Penny Welbourne*
Peter and Pamela Werth
Randy and Tanya Wingate
Joseph and Susan Zaccagnino

Nutmeg (\$500 - \$999)

John and Margaret Brewer
Brian and Melanie Cameron
Michael and Beth Fascitelli
Kevin and Tina Garrity
David and Joanne Goldblum
Einar Gudjohnsen and Jane Frey-Gudjohnsen
Henry Harrison and Ruth Lambert
Anthony and Karen Izzo
George and Meg Knight
William and Kate Lee

* denotes multi-year pledge

Bruce and Roberta Lockhart
 David and Lisa Maass
 Gerald Rosenberg and Cheryl Wiesenfeld
 Bonnie and Jonathan Rothberg
 Rick Smilow and Debi Berger
 Caroline Wharton

Page Turner (\$250 - \$499)

Chris Balestracci
 Ellen Bell
 George Brencher and Bonnie Patten
 Robert and Robin Charney
 William and Corinna Clendenon
 Jack and Helen Davis
 Sharon Davis*
 Alex Dorato and Kathleen Brown-Dorato
 Ray Fair and Sharon Oster
 Barbara and Jacob Feigenbaum
 Stanley Greenberg and Rosa DeLauro
 Maryanne Hall
 Robert and Carla Horwitz*
 David and Amy Jaffe
 Ben Arthur Ledbetter and Deborah
 Freedman
 Donald Margulies and Lynn Street
 Andrew and Sharon Moss
 Herbert Pearce and Martha Wood
 Mark and Kelly Ryan
 Joel Sable
 Clifford and Laura Skolnick
 Charles and Maureen Steele
 Polly Steinway
 Jim Vlock and Gail Brekke
 Alexine Wallace
 Nancy Elizabeth Wallace and Peter Banks

Friends (\$249 and under)

Anonymous
 Victor and Laura Altshul
 Robert Alvine
 Bonnie Ammer
 G. Ernest and Patricia Anderson
 Jeffrey and Kristin Anderson
 James and Margaret Andreassi
 Rick and Nancy Antle
 Christopher and Virginia Antonelli
 Peter Aronson and Marie Landry
 Mary Elizabeth Attebery



Christine Aulicino
 Bahman and Andrea Azarm
 Eleanor Barnes
 Paul and Edith Baron
 Harold and Barbara Barringham
 Michael Barrios and Lisa Silberstein
 William and Donna Batsford
 Elizabeth Becker
 Rita Berkson
 Lawrence and Deborah Berliner
 Gary and Michelle Bernardi
 Anne Bingham Pierson
 Charles and Jane Bishop
 Betty Lou Blumberg
 Edward and Lynne Bradstreet
 Myron and Sandra Brand
 William and Vivian Briggs
 Jay and Lynn Brotman
 Marilyn Buel
 Josephine Bush
 Krista Bush
 Judge Guido and Anne Calabresi
 Richard and Anne Calvert
 Karen Cammarota
 Louise Belknap Carter
 Owen and Lynne Charles
 Joan Chetrick
 Vin and Christine Chiocchio
 Thomas and Janet Christie
 Jason and Nealie Cirino
 John and Carole Clark
 Thomas and Mary Ellen Cody
 Gordon and Marjorie Cohen
 Leslie Congdon
 Jeff and Betsy Cooley
 Josh and Alix Copel

Patricia Curran
 Peter and Elizabeth Demir
 Theresa DeSapio
 Vincent and Mary Kay DeVita
 Katherine DiGiulio
 Colm and Melissa Dobbyn
 John and Betty Anne Donegan
 Matthew Ellman and Laurie Ruderfer
 Anne Elvgren
 Lane English
 Steve and Amy Eppler-Epstein
 William and Katie Ewen
 Kenneth and Susan Fellows
 Mike Ferraro
 Christine Festa
 James Fiora and Laura Barr
 Julie Flagg
 Geraldine Foster
 Caryl Frankenberger
 Lawrence and Constance Gavrich
 Mary Geary
 Laura Gibson
 Susan Glantz
 Elizabeth Goff
 Joseph and Cynthia Goldberg
 Seth and Indy Goldberg
 Rick Goodwin and Rachel Lampert
 Joseph and Donna Grace
 Alva G. Greenberg
 James Greenfield
 Jane Griffin
 William and Paula Grimm
 Richard and Norma Grossi
 Jay and Elaine Grossman
 Roberta Grossman
 Frank and Bette Gruskay
 Robert and Wendy Gunn
 Frederick J. and Astrid T. Hanzalek
 Robert and Carol Harlan
 Lawrence and Roberta Harris
 Gabe and Jennie Hathorn
 Erin Healer
 Peter and Maureen Herbert
 Gail Hughes
 Jim Irzyk and Jody Abzug
 Ann Johnson
 Myra Josephson
 Winnifred Judge

Robert and Eleanor Julianelle
 David Kaminsky and Rochelle Schreibman
 Steven Kaplan and Anemone Schweizer
 William Kaplan and Lise Dondy
 Frank and Julie Keating
 Joan Kemler
 Stuart and Mary Klarman
 Jon Knisley and Mary Hu
 Mary Knowlton
 Robert and Sarah Kyrzcz
 John and Carol Lang
 Emily Lessner
 Vincent Leto and Janice Muirhead
 Robert and Stacy Lewis
 Sam and Naomi Lindberg
 John and Julie Livingstone
 Jeffrey C. and Judy Lovelace
 Jeffrey Lustman and Diane Saslow
 Vinod and Sangeeta Makhijani
 Jack and Beth Mariotti
 Donald Mazzacane and Rosalyn Cama
 Bruce and Renee McIntyre
 Mark and Stacy Milner
 Francis and Sally Morrison
 Edna Newman
 Gary and Barbara Novick
 Michael and Andrea Nygren
 Julia Parker
 William and Elizabeth Pasioka
 Emily Peel
 Harry and Stacy Perkins
 Sarah Petela
 Alan Plattus and Nancy Berliner
 Reed Risteen
 Rosalie Roth
 Harvey and Diane Ruben
 Richard and Elizabeth Rubin
 Susanne Santangelo
 Gary and Lauren Santos
 Robert and Ilene Saulsbury
 Paula Schiller
 Kurt Schumann
 James and Barbara Segaloff
 Susan Shapiro
 Joseph and Marjorie Shapiro
 Belinda Shepard
 Robert and Leslie Sherwin
 Robert Shulman and Stephanie Spangler

Lois Siegal
 Walter and Penny Simmers
 Jerome and Dorothy Singer
 Angela Small
 Pam Stanton
 Lawrence and Betsy Stern
 Archie and Barbara Stone
 Stedman and Patricia Sweet
 Glenn and Janet Swenson
 Rosemary Swiatkiewicz
 Natalie Tenney
 Nancy Thompson
 Samuel Thorpe
 Tyler Thorpe and Jeannette Ickovics



Henry and Shavaun Towers
 Charles & Marcia Turner
 Charles and Margaret Walden
 Rex and Wendy Walden
 David and Jan Walzer
 Melanie Ward
 Lawrence and Sheila Wartel
 Donald and Beverly Waters
 Timothy and Suzanne Waters
 Steven and Anna Webersen
 Judith White
 Judith Brooks Wiley
 Edward and Mary Lou Winnick
 Steven Wolfson and Elsa Stone
 Robert and Carolyn Young
 Edward and Doris Zelinsky
 Joseph and Myra Zelson
 Jerry Zinser and Pamela Tatge
 Michael Zirkel and Erin Regnier
 Jon Zonderman and Laurel Shader

Corporations, Foundations, Small Businesses and Organizations

Alcoa Foundation
 Amphenol Corporation
 AT&T Excelsior Grants Program
 J. Walton Bissell Foundation
 Blum Shapiro Foundation
 Branford Rotary Foundation
 Bridgeport Hospital Foundation
 Citizens Bank
 Citizens Bank Foundation
 The Community Foundation for Greater
 New Haven
 The Community Foundation of
 Southeastern Connecticut
 The Daniell Family Foundation
 Discover Re Managers, Inc.
 The Sidney and Arthur Eder Foundation*
 Thomas and Jeanne Elmezz
 Private Foundation
 Mr. and Mrs. William Foulds
 Family Foundation
 Helen I. Graham Charitable Foundation
 Greenwich Academy and Brunswick
 Parents' Association
 Hartford Hospital
 Hartford Hospital Auxiliary
 Hopkins School Read to Grow Club
 Kiwanis Club of West Hartford
 The Ethel and Abe Lapides Foundation, Inc.
 The George A. and Grace L. Long
 Foundation
 Mary T. Murphy School Student Council
 Mattel Children's Foundation
 Neubert, Pepe & Monteith, PC
 People's United Community Foundation
 R.J. Julia Booksellers
 Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center
 Satin American Corporation
 SBM Charitable Foundation, Inc.
 Seedlings Foundation*
 The Shelby Cullom Davis Foundation
 The Sherwood School
 Shoreline Pediatrics and Adolescent
 Medicine, PC
 Shredding Source
 Sound Portfolios

Spring Glen School, Library Media Center
Temple Beth Tikvah
United Way of Eastern Fairfield County
United Way of Greater New Haven
University Church at Yale
The Vlock Family Foundation
Werth Family Foundation

Government Agency

The Children's Trust Fund, *An Agency of
the State of Connecticut*

In-Kind Donations

Chris Balestracci
Tricia Bohan Photography
L.A. Darling Company
Duby McDowell Communications, Inc.
Myers Florist
Paul Buettner Florist
Pitney Bowes Inc.
Deneen Seifel
Stop & Shop Supermarket Company, LLC
Updike, Kelly & Spellacy, PC
Michael Vlock and Karen Pritzker

Tribute Gifts: In Honor/In Memory Of

Anonymous
Mr. and Mrs. Ian Ashken
Dr. & Mrs. Robert Auerbach
Mr. and Mrs. Skipwith Banker
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Barna
Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Berman
Mr. and Mrs. John Bradley
Mr. John Chu
Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas Daifotis
Ms. Diane Driscoll
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Durham
Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Hart
Mr. Michael Kaplan and Ms. Susan Sawyer
Ms. Beverly Leighton
Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Lustbader
Mr. and Mrs. Joe MacDougald
Mr. Robert Mayer
Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Pantalea
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Proctor
Mr. and Mrs. Manuel Pun
Mr. and Mrs. James Reidy

Ms. Elise Rosenstock
Mr. Craig Schiavone
Mr. and Mrs. Art Stengel
Mrs. Cynthia Stretch
Mr. and Mrs. Edward Teplitz
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Tupper
Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell Weseley
Chunzhong Ying and Xiaomei Pan
in honor of Isabel Bailin

Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Alpert
in honor of Roxanne Coady and Robin Baker
Dr. and Mrs. Walter Ariker
in memory of David Bud
Dr. and Mrs. Walter Ariker
in honor of Alan Grossman
Mr. and Mrs. Chester Brodnicki
in honor of Susan Laughlin
Mr. Richard Caron
*in honor of Jean Caron, Barbara Caron and
Cindy Mulvey*
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Caron
in memory of Phyllis Silidker
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Caron
in honor of Janet Brown
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Charney
in honor of Eva Simone
Ellen Dion
in honor of Diana Kunkel
Mr. and Mrs. Ed Dowling
in honor of Richard DelVecchio
Amy Eppler-Epstein
in honor of A.C.E. Bauer's No Castles Here
Mr. and Mrs. Barry Gray
in honor of Shelly Foreman
Ms. Maryanne Hall
in honor of her family
Drs. Craig and Suzanne Hecht
in honor of Robyn and Jeff Teplitzky
Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Kanter
in honor of Mary Hoffman
Mr. and Mrs. Ben Kaplan
in honor of Thanasis and Diane Molokotos
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Kassen
in honor of Mary Hoffman
Bruce and Roberta Lockhart
in honor of Peyton Patterson

Ms. Kristen McKay
in honor of Brenda, Carol, and May
 Lynn Nathan
in honor of Ellie and Kebba's new baby
 Orange Chamber of Commerce
in honor of Roxanne Coady
 Mr. Glenn Reilly
in honor of Hudson Sullivan Dew
 Kristen Russo
in honor of Priscilla Russo
 Mr. and Mrs. Mark Ryan
in honor of Alyssa Harris
 Mr. and Mrs. Mark Ryan
in honor of Lawrence Huether
 Mr. and Mrs. Mark Ryan
in honor of Ian Thomas MacDougald
 Mr. and Mrs. Mark Ryan
in honor of Spencer Martin
 Mr. and Mrs. Mark Ryan
in honor of Jenna Wingate
 Mr. and Mrs. Gary Santos
*in honor of Bonny Butkiewicz, Debby Szajnberg, Sue
 Manion, June Roberts, Martina Cravedi, Ellen
 Conturso, Traci Romeo, Jocelyn Bruton*

Mr. and Mrs. Martin Birks
 Mr. and Mrs. John DeNicola
 Department of Social Service , Bridgeport
 Pamela Doolittle
 Mr. and Mrs. John Dunn
 Mr. Harold Feeley
 Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm Gill
 Mrs. Paul Hunt
 Mr. and Mrs. Ward Hunt
 Mr. and Mrs. Robert Jess
 Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Lonkoski
 Mr. William Metcalf and Ms. Jane Salinger
 Mr. and Mrs. Robert Mobeck
 Ms. Denise Ragozzino
 Mr. and Mrs. Robert Schreck
 Mrs. Jean Strawson
 Woodmont Fire Company
in memory of Charles Schreck

Ms. Blythe Smith
in honor of Robin Charney
 Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey Sonnenfeld
in honor of Jennifer Aniskovich

Mr. and Mrs. David Stone
in memory of Todd and Martin King
 Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey Teplitzky
in memory of Phyllis Silidker
 Mr. and Mrs. Tommy Thomas
in honor of Susan Laughlin
 Mr. and Mrs. Michael Tucker
in honor of David and Trina Learned
 Mr. and Mrs. Michael Tucker
in honor of Martha Murray and John Gambell
 Mr. and Mrs. Jason Tumlinson
in honor of Owen and Grady Tumlinson
 Mr. and Mrs. Herbert van Wyngaarden
in honor of Kate Weber
 University of Hartford, ASB Department, Hillyer
 College
in memory of Helen Wolfe
 Ms. Barbara Gibbons Walsh
in honor of Paul Goodin



*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.*

Reaching Across the State

In addition to the countless families who contacted us for books each year, more than 300 organizations that serve children — schools, child care and health care settings, social service agencies and others — have received books from Read to Grow, many on an ongoing basis, each one our partner in promoting literacy and healthy development of our children.

A.B. Skane School, Bridgeport
 ABCD Inc., Jamie Hulley Childcare Center, Bridgeport
 ACES Family Resource Center, North Haven
 Action for Bridgeport Community Development, Bridgeport
 Advance Child Care Center, New Haven
 Agency on Aging of South Central Connecticut, Experience Corps, New Haven
 Alexis Hill Montessori School, New Haven
 All Our Kin, New Haven
 Apple Tree Children's Center, Avon
 Apple Tree Children's Center, East Granby
 Apple Tree Children's Center, Granby
 Apple Tree Children's Center, Hamden
 Apple Tree Children's Center, Middletown
 Baby Cottage II, Stamford
 Ballestrini Child Care Toddler Program, Salem
 Ballestrini Child Care Toddler Program, Waterford
 Barnard Environmental Studies Magnet School, New Haven
 Beecher School, New Haven
 Beginning Years Children's Center, Sharon
 Benjamin Jepson Magnet School, New Haven
 Bishop Woods School, New Haven
 Bradley Elementary School, Derby
 Branford Family Resource Center, Branford
 Branford Harbor Health, Branford
 Bridgeport Board of Education, E.C. Department
 Bridgeport Board of Education, Parent Center
 Bridgeport Department of Health
 Bridgeport Hospital, Pediatric Waiting Room
 Bridgeport Hospital, Sibling Program
 Bridgeport Public Schools, KIDS Project
 Bridgeport School-Based Health Centers
 Bristol Hospital, Parent and Child Center
 Bryant School, Bridgeport
 Bulls Head Hollow Head Start, Bridgeport
 Child Guidance Clinic of Greater Waterbury, Nurturing Families Network
 Connecticut Association of Foster and Adoptive Parents, Hartford
 Connecticut Association of Foster and Adoptive Parents, New Haven
 Connecticut Association of Foster and Adoptive Parents, Rocky Hill
 Connecticut Association of Foster and Adoptive Parents, Waterbury
 Career Resources, Inc., Bridgeport



Caroline House, Bridgeport
 Catholic Charities Child Development Center, Wethersfield
 CCCYMCA, Bridgeport Branch
 Celentano Museum Academy, New Haven
 Center for Counseling and Psychotherapy, Milford
 Cesar Batalla Family Resource Center, Bridgeport
 Chalk Hill School, Monroe
 Chapel Haven, New Haven
 Chapel Street Pediatric Group, P.C., New Haven
 Cheshire Correctional Institution, Cheshire
 Children's Center of Hamden
 Children's Community Programs, New Haven
 Christopher Columbus Family Academy, New Haven
 Circle of Friends Day Care, West Haven
 Clifford Beers Guidance Clinic, West Haven
 Clinton Avenue Elementary School, New Haven
 Clinton Public Schools, Best Beginnings
 Columbus School, Bridgeport
 Community Dining Room, Branford
 Community Foundation of Greater New Haven, New Haven Healthy Start
 Coordinating Council for Children in Crisis, New Haven
 Cornerstone Christian Center, Milford
 Cradles 2 Crayons Day Care, Bridgeport
 CT Lifespan Respite Coalition, Rocky Hill
 Curiale Elementary School, Bridgeport
 D.C. Moore Elementary School, Family Resource Center, East Haven
 Danbury Even Start
 David Wooster Middle School, After School Program, Stratford

David Wooster Middle School, Stratford
 Davis Street 21st Century Magnet School, New Haven
 Deer Run Elementary School, East Haven
 Department of Children and Families, Meriden
 Department of Social Services, State of Connecticut, Middletown
 Doodles of Fun Home Day Care, Derby
 Duck Pond Day Care, Inc., Hamden
 Dunbar School, Family Resource Center, Bridgeport
 E.C. Goodwin Technical High School, New Britain
 Early Learning Center, New Haven
 Early Learning Center, West Hartford
 East Haven Public School
 East Rock Global Magnet School, New Haven
 East Rock Summer Academy, New Haven
 EastConn Head Start, Dayville
 EastConn Head Start, Vernon
 Edith B. Jackson Child Care Program, Inc., New Haven
 Enfield Child Development Center
 Every Child Ahead, New Haven
 Fair Haven Community Health Center, Nurturing Families, New Haven
 Fair Haven Community Health Center
 Fair Haven Middle School, New Haven
 Faith Tabernacle Ministries, Hamden
 Families in Crisis, Inc., New Haven
 Families Network of Western Connecticut, Danbury
 Family Centers Inc., Stamford
 Family Resource Center, West Haven
 Florence E. Blackham School, Bridgeport
 For Beginners, Danbury
 Forest Elementary School, West Haven
 Fun Learning Home, New Haven
 Got Books, Inc., North Reading, MA
 Grandma's House, Union
 GTFDC Inc., Future Foundations, Torrington
 Guilford Parks and Recreation Department
 Hall Neighborhood House, Care Around the Clock, Bridgeport
 Hamden Youth Services
 Happy Face Family Home Care, East Haven
 Hartford Hospital, Sibling Program
 Hartford Hospital, Pediatric Waiting Room
 Hartford Neighborhood Centers, Inc.
 Heidi's Day Care and Preschool, East Hampton
 Helene Grant School, Head Start, New Haven
 Help Me Grow, Rocky Hill
 Hemingway Academy, New Haven
 Higher Heights Youth Empowerment Programs, Inc., New Haven
 Hill Central Music Academy, New Haven
 Hill Health Center, New Haven
 Hill Health Corporation, Birth to Three Provider, New Haven
 Honey Bear Learning Center, Inc., Stratford

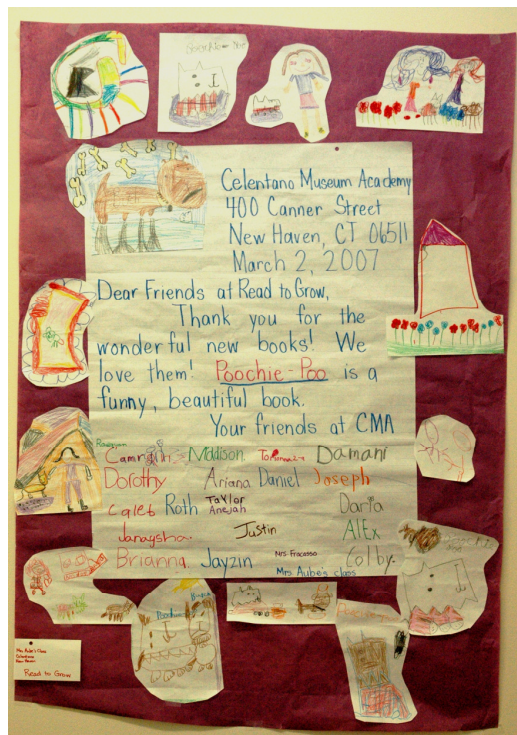
Hospital of St. Raphael, Family-Based Recovery, Waiting Room, New Haven
 Hospital of St. Raphael, Nurturing Families, New Haven
 Hospital of St. Raphael, Pediatric Waiting Room, New Haven
 Hospital of St. Raphael, Sibling Program, New Haven
 HRA of New Britain, Head Start, New Britain
 Iglesia de Dios La Peurta Estrecha, New Haven
 Indian Neck School, Branford Family Resource Center
 Integrated Refugee & Immigrant Services (IRIS), New Haven
 Irving School, Derby
 Israel Putnam Elementary School, Meriden
 Jennings Elementary School, Family Resource Center, New London
 John C. Daniels School, New Haven
 John F. Kennedy School
 John S. Martinez Head Start, New Haven
 Joseph Melillo Middle School, East Haven
 Junior League of Greater New Haven, New Haven
 Katherine Brennan School, New Haven
 Keri's Kids, Hamden
 Kids Care Child Development Center, Inc., Wallingford
 Kid's Club, Simsbury
 Kids Country Day Care, Bolton
 Kids Paradise Day Care, New Haven
 Killingly Head Start, Dayville
 Kindercare Learning Center, Monroe
 Kingdom's Little Ones Day Care, Bridgeport
 Kris & Kay's of Zion, Bridgeport
 L.E.A.P., New Haven
 Lawrence & Memorial Hospital, Pediatric Waiting Room, New London
 Lawrence & Memorial Hospital, Sibling Program, New London
 Lighthouse After School Programs, City of Bridgeport
 Lincoln Bassett School, Title I District Wide Parent Advisory Council, New Haven
 Literacy Volunteers of Greater Waterbury



Little Angel Day Care Home, Hamden
 Little Blessings Home Day Care, East Haven
 Little Superstars Family Day Care, West Haven
 Little Theatre of Manchester
 Live Oaks School, Milford
 Longfellow Middle School, Bridgeport
 Love a Lot Child Care, Brooklyn
 Love Christian Academy, Bridgeport
 Lovin Little Ones Home Day Care, Moosup
 Lower Naugatuck Valley Parent Child Resource Center, Derby
 Luis Muniz Marin School, Bridgeport
 LULAC Head Start, Inc., New Haven
 Malta House of Care, Malta Care Van, Hartford
 Manchester Memorial Hospital, Community Baby Shower
 Manchester Memorial Hospital, Family Development Center
 Manchester Memorial Hospital, Sibling Program
 Manchester Memorial Hospital, Waiting Rooms
 Maplewood Annex, Bridgeport
 Margaret Egan Head Start, Milford
 Meadowside School, Milford
 Meriden Family Resource Center
 Micro Society Magnet School, New Haven
 Middlesex Hospital, Waiting Room, Essex
 Milford Cooperative Preschool Learning Center
 Milford Hospital, Young Parent Program of Milford
 Milford Pediatric Group, Waiting Room, Milford
 Mill Ridge School Readiness, Danbury
 Minding the Baby Home Visit Program for Young Families, New Haven
 Miss Mel's Day Care, Bridgeport
 Momauguin School, East Haven
 Mom's Street School, Danbury
 Montessori School on Edgewood, New Haven
 Morning Glory Infant Toddler Care Center, New Haven
 Morris Street School Family Resource Center, Danbury
 Motherhead Focus Group, New Haven
 Mothers and More, Greater New Haven Chapter, Hamden
 My First Letters Family Day Care, New Haven
 Nana's Day Care, Hamden
 Nancy's Nursery Rhymes, Stamford
 Nathan Hale School, New Haven
 Naugatuck Early Childhood Development Center
 New Haven Board of Education
 New Haven Correctional Center
 New Haven Early Childhood Council
 New Haven Family Alliance, Male Involvement Network
 New Haven Family Resource Center
 New Haven Health Department
 New Haven Home Recovery
 New Haven Legal Assistance Association
 New Haven Parks Department
 New Haven Public Schools, Head Start
 New Haven Public Schools
 New Haven Public Schools, Physical Activity Integration & Wellness Initiative
 New Haven Reads Community Book Bank
 New Haven School Readiness Council
 Newhallville Police Substation, New Haven
 Nichols Elementary School, Stratford
 Noah's Park Preschool Academy, New Haven
 North Haven Community Service Day Care
 Norwich Family Resource Center, Taftville
 Nurturing Families Network, New Haven
 Nurturing Families Network, UConn Health Center, Farmington
 Oak Hill Birth to Three, Hartford
 Optimus Healthcare, Stamford
 Overbrook Early Learning Center, East Haven
 Oxford Health Plans School of Hope Initiative, Trumbull
 Pagels School, West Haven
 Parent-Child Playgroup, New Haven
 Parents and Communities for Kids (PACK), New Haven
 Peace of Mind Family Child Care, West Haven
 Pine Brook School, Branford
 Poppin's Day Care, Wauregan
 Primary Learning Academy, New Haven
 Psychotherapy Center for Children, Adults and Families, Milford
 Ridge Hill School, Hamden
 RKM All Souls Family Home Day Care, Stratford
 Robert W. Carbone School, East Haven
 Roberto Clemente Leadership Academy, New Haven
 Rocky Hill Congregational Cooperative Nursery School
 Roosevelt School, Bridgeport
 Ross Woodward School, New Haven
 Saint Martin of Porres Day Care, New Haven
 Sarah, Inc., New Haven
 Saugatuck Outreach Nutrition Program, Westport
 Savin Rock Community School, School-Based Health Center, West Haven
 Sayles School, Baltic
 Seaton Women's Health, Pediatric Waiting Room, Bridgeport
 Seth G. Haley Elementary School, West Haven
 Shepherd Glen Elementary School, Hamden
 Six to Six Magnet School, Bridgeport
 Smalley School, New Britain
 Southern Connecticut Hebrew Academy, Orange
 Southfield Children's Center, Inc., Newington
 Southwest Community Health Care Centers, Bridgeport
 Spring Glen School, Hamden
 St. Francis Hospital and Medical Center, Pediatric Waiting Room, Hartford
 St. Francis Hospital and Medical Center, Sibling Program, Hartford
 St. Mark's Day Care Center, Inc., Bridgeport

St. Mary's Day School, Manchester
 St. Paul's Child Development Center, Bridgeport
 St. Vincent's Medical Center, Parent Support Group, Bridgeport
 St. Vincent's Medical Center, Parenting Group, Bridgeport
 St. Vincent's Medical Center, Pediatric Waiting Room, Bridgeport
 St. Vincent's Medical Center, Sibling Program, Bridgeport
 Stacy's Family Day Care, Plainfield
 Star of Jacob Christian Church, New Haven
 Stay-N-Play Day Care, Seymour
 Stetson Branch Library, New Haven
 Student Parenting and Family Services, Inc., Milford
 Team Inc. Child Care Services, Head Start, Ansonia
 Team Inc. Child Care Services, Head Start, Milford
 The Right Place, Meriden
 Thompson Elementary School, West Haven
 Timothy Dwight School, New Haven
 Title One Parent Training Academy, New Haven
 Touch of Hope Ministry, New Haven
 Town of Enfield Child Development Center
 Trinity Episcopal Church, Branford
 Trinity Family Day Care, New Haven
 Troup Magnet Academy of Science, Hamden
 Tutor Time Learning Center, West Haven
 UConn Health Center, Nurturing Families Network, Farmington
 Verplanck Elementary School, Manchester
 Vincent Mauro Magnet School, School-Based Health Center, New Haven
 Vincent Mauro Math Science and Technology Magnet School, New Haven
 VNA Community Health Care, Guilford
 VNA of South Central Connecticut, New Haven
 Washington School, Waterbury
 Washington School, West Haven
 Washington School Early Childhood Education, Waterbury
 Watch Me Grow Day Care, Orange
 Waterbury Hospital Health Center
 Waterbury Hospital, Outpatient Testing
 West Haven Child Development Center
 West Haven Community House, Head Start
 Westbrook Public Schools, Westbrook Early Childhood Council
 Wexler/Grant Community School, East Haven
 Whale's Tales Children's Book Bank, Office of Youth Affairs, New London
 Whitehall Apartments, Parent-Child Playgroup, New Haven
 Wilbur Cross High School, Head Start, New Haven
 Wilbur Cross High School, New Haven
 Winthrop School, Bridgeport
 Willowbrook Early Childhood Center, East Hartford
 Worthington Hooker School, New Haven

Yale Child Study Center, New Haven
 Yale-New Haven Hospital, Bright Beginnings
 Yale-New Haven Hospital, Lead Program
 Yale-New Haven Hospital, Parenting Programs
 Yale-New Haven Hospital, Pediatric Dentistry Center
 Yale-New Haven Hospital, Pediatric Primary Care Center
 Yale-New Haven Hospital, Primary Care Center
 Yale-New Haven Hospital, Women's Center
 Yale-New Haven Hospital, Reach Out and Read
 Yale-New Haven Hospital, Sibling Program
 YMCA, After School Program, Hamden
 YMCA After School Program, Wallingford
 YMCA, New Britain
 YMCA PALS, Bridgeport
 York Correctional Institution, Niantic
 Young Designer Youth Service, West Haven
 Zigler Head Start, New Haven



Read to Grow Board of Directors 2007-2008



Front row, from left: Jennifer Aniskovich, Vice Chair; Mary Kay Curtiss; Stacy Runne, Treasurer; Roxanne Coady, Chair. Second row: Lisa Maass; Jan Weisswasser Michaelson. Third row: Carla Horvitz; Susan Katz; John Wolter. Fourth row: Mary Kay Long; Susannah Bailin. Missing from photo: Karen Pritzker Vlock, Secretary; Sharon Davis; Donna Lechner-Gruskay; Marc Schneider; Rev. Dr. Frederick Streets; James Welbourne.

Read to Grow is governed by an active, dedicated Board of Directors, whose expertise in a wide range of key areas guides our organization. Our board members are passionate about the importance of promoting early literacy and committed to giving all children a good start in life. They come from the fields of business and finance, early childhood education, health, nonprofit fundraising and development, and law.

Board meetings are held monthly, with executive sessions as called. Each board member sits on at least one committee during his or her term of office, and much of the work of the Board is accomplished by the committees. Committee membership is also drawn from the community at large.

Read to Grow operates and develops programs, policies and procedures according to a three-year strategic plan researched, written and adopted by the Board of Directors in 2006.

2007-2008 Board Committees

Executive Committee: Composed of the officers and the executive director as a non-voting member. Exercises routine powers in the business and affairs of Read to Grow during the interval between board meetings.

Development Committee: Assists in meeting Read to Grow's fundraising goals by creating annual development plan, facilitating special events and initiatives, and reviewing the budget as requested by the Finance Committee.

Audit Committee: Oversees internal and risk control procedures and regulatory compliance; monitors independent auditors.

Finance Committee: Oversees responsibilities relating to fiscal management, reviewing and recommending annual budget and financial results, and management and investment of the corporation's financial assets and resources.

Governance Committee: Responsible for nominating officers and prospective new board members. The committee has overall responsibilities with respect to governance of the corporation as to bylaws, committees and composition of the board.

Program Committee: Working with staff, the Program Committee supports the development of educational materials and assists in the review of service delivery.

Executive

Jennifer Anksoyich
Roxanne Coady
Karen Pritzker
Stacy Ruwe
Susanne Santangelo

Development

Jennifer Aniskovich
Diane Ariker
Jean Caron
Chris Dowling
Wes Eder
Lisa Maass
Karen Pritzker, Chair
Tina Silidker
Robyn Teplitzky
Jan Weiswasser Michaelson
Sue Zaccagnino

Audit

Marc Schneider, Chair

Finance

Mary Kay Curtiss
Sharon Davis
Lisa Maass
Stacy Ruwe, Chair
James Welbourne
Jef Wolter

Governance

Jennifer Aniskovich
Susan Katz
Lisa Maass
Karen Pritzker
Jef Wolter, Chair

Program

Carla Horwitz
Susan Katz
Donna Lechner-Gruskay,
Chair
Jessica Sager
Susanne Santangelo
Jan Weiswasser Michaelson
James Welbourne

Read to Grow Staff

Susanne Santangelo, *Executive Director*

Robin Baker, *Office Manager*

Jean Caron, *Director of Development*

Gary Gavigan, *Driver*

Cindy Gerstl, *Communications Coordinator*

Tina Silidker, *Development Associate*

Christine Mace, *Hartford Regional Coordinator*

Priscilla Russo, *Books for Babies Coordinator*

Erin Spaulding, *Onsite Coordinator, Yale-New Haven Hospital*

Kim Spencer LaManna, *Product Coordinator*

Linda Sylvester, *Books for Kids Coordinator*

Every day the staff members of Read to Grow go above and beyond expectations to ensure that Connecticut children have books of their own and take an active interest in reading. They bring a passion and dedication to carrying out our mission, and to helping all families discover the wonder and the power of books.

Our Books for Babies coordinators start their early literacy work right from a child's first days of life, encouraging families to make reading part of daily infant care. Our Books for Kids coordinator selects just the right books for every request, sending out 1,500 books weekly to children around the state. A stellar team of communications, development and office management professionals strengthens the foundation of all our work.

Through the commitment, caring and competence of our staff, Read to Grow will continue to provide the promise of literacy for all Connecticut children.



53 School Ground Road

Unit 3

Branford, CT 06405

Phone: 203-488-6800

Email: readtogrow@readtogrow.org

www.readtogrow.org