



ANNUAL REPORT 2009-2010

Since 1998



*Many things we need can wait. The child cannot. Now is the time
his bones are formed, his mind developed. To him we cannot say
tomorrow, his name is today.*

Gabriela Mistral, Nobel Prize in Literature, 1945

In our complex society, literacy is critical. The ability to read is the foundation for success in school and later, in the workplace; it is necessary for communicating effectively, and for understanding and improving our world.

Developing early literacy is key to preparing children to enter school ready to learn and to learn to read. In the long term, it 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 successful students who grow into productive, competent adults. This is the work of Read to Grow.

Table of Contents

Message from the Chair	2
Who we Are	3
Why We Matter	4
Our Programs	5
Who We Serve	6
Highlights of the Year	7-8
Collaborations	9-10
Book Drives	11
Volunteers	12
Board of Directors	13
Treasurer's Report	14
Donors	15-17
Staff	18

A Message from the Board Chair

Dear Friends,

For 12 years, Read to Grow has been dedicated to promoting early literacy for Connecticut children. Through our programs, we help prepare parents to take an active role in their child's literacy development beginning at birth, and provide the guidance, encouragement and books they need to do so. Our goal is to give all children the opportunity to develop a solid foundation for success in school and in life.

The fiscal year 2009-2010 was an important one for Read to Grow. At a time when many nonprofits were forced to let staff go, cut back on services, or close their doors, Read to Grow remained strong; in fact, we grew, with new partnerships and a new staff position among the year's achievements.

The lagging economy caused economic distress for many who previously were thriving. For others, a tough road became even tougher. We know that first hand from families, educators and organizations that turned to us this year because of diminished resources. Books, parents told us, become luxury items when food, shelter and utility bills need to be paid. Yet, in study after study, books in the home are shown to be critical ingredients for fostering early language development and for preparing children for school.

More than ever, Read to Grow proved to be a vital resource for families and for Connecticut communities. Thanks to support from our donors and volunteers, Read to Grow continued distributing children's books to newborns and parents in our partner hospitals, and to families and organizations with limited resources.

Moreover, we were able to impact a greater number of families with children at-risk through collaborations with home visiting programs such as the statewide Nurturing Families Network, whose workers coach parents on reading to their children from birth and encourage them to contact Read to Grow for more books. We entered into a new partnership with St. Agnes Family Center in West Hartford, where Read to Grow volunteers, trained in the renowned Family Read curriculum, began presenting literacy workshops to the teen mothers served by the center.

A significant new partnership with the United Way of Coastal Fairfield County created a new staff position this year, and expanded services in the Greater Bridgeport and Greater Norwalk areas. The Books for Kids Read at Home Initiative successfully concentrated on boosting awareness and support, and on developing new collaborative relationships to increase both collection and distribution of books in the region.

Read to Grow accomplished much this year; however, our work is far from finished. With Connecticut's achievement gap one of the highest in the nation, our message is more imperative now than ever. We remain committed to ensuring that all Connecticut children have access to books and can start school with the early literacy skills they need to learn and to learn to read.

Thank you to our donors for supporting our work.



Roxanne J. Coady, *Founder and Chair*

Who We Are

Read to Grow is a nonprofit organization that builds Connecticut children's literacy beginning at birth when literacy development begins. We work to prevent low literacy and its devastating effects, addressing Connecticut's literacy crisis and its ever-widening achievement gap, by engaging parents as their child's first teachers and by providing children's books.

We are the **only** statewide organization that connects with parents **in the hospital setting** and prepares them to take an active role in their children's literacy development from day one.

We provide free books to families whose access to children's books is limited, and to organizations and programs that interact with children of all ages to help parents create language-rich homes in which important early skills can develop.



With support from our donors, volunteers and partners, this year Read to Grow:

- **Provided 18,000 babies and their parents — 50% of the state's newborns and their families — with a free new children's book and literacy guidance, through our partnerships with eight Connecticut birthing hospitals.**
- **Distributed more than 100,000 books to infants, preschoolers and school-age children across the state.**

Our Hospital Partners

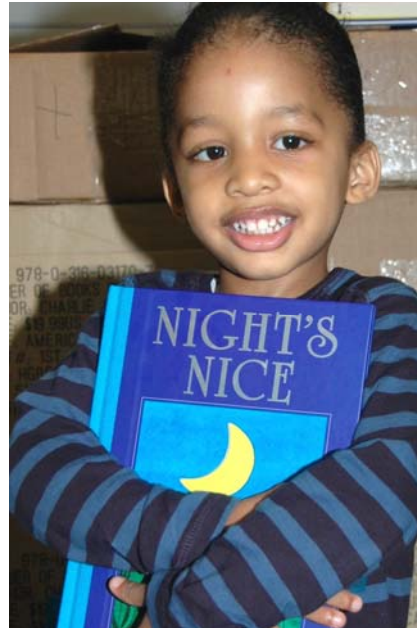
Bridgeport Hospital
Hartford Hospital
Hospital of Saint Raphael, New Haven
Lawrence & Memorial Hospital, New London
Manchester Memorial Hospital
St. Francis Hospital and Medical Center, Hartford
St. Vincent's Hospital, Bridgeport
Yale-New Haven Hospital

Why Read to Grow Matters

- **Connecticut's achievement gap is the widest in the nation. That gap begins before children walk through the kindergarten door, and exists in every school in every town in our state.**
- **Half the children from the state's poorest districts do not have the skills they need to enter kindergarten.**
- **When children are unprepared for kindergarten, they are more likely to continue to fall behind and academic success becomes more difficult to attain as they get older.**
- **Of every 100 children who leave first grade as poor readers, 88 will still be poor readers at the end of third grade.**
- **Sixty-one percent of low-income families don't have children's books in the home.**

While many organizations address reading and literacy needs once they become problems, through tutoring, mentoring, and remedial programs, Read to Grow engages parents in their child's literacy development **immediately** after birth to prevent those problems from developing.

Supporting parents as their child's first teachers, we help them understand the impact they can have on their child's early literacy skills and school readiness, and provide children's books to build home libraries and help foster family reading.



Recent research upholds our approach, showing that the earlier children are exposed to language and books, the greater the impact. Children who are read to from birth do better in school: they have larger vocabularies, know how to use books, and have background knowledge they need to begin learning when they enter school instead of trying to catch up.

A 2009 survey* reveals that:

- 95% of Americans consider early childhood literacy an important problem, but do not know that reading to children under age 5 has long-term benefits for academic achievement and life-long success.
- 73% percent of Americans wrongly believe that if children enter kindergarten unprepared, they will catch up in elementary school.
- 75% of the population is unaware that nearly 61% of low-income families do not have any age-appropriate books in their homes.

* Pearson Foundation, 2009

"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
Books for Babies parent**

Our Programs Work to Prevent Low Literacy

Books for Babies, our flagship program, views literacy development as an essential part of a child's overall good health. Our unique approach begins at birth, in the hospital setting, where we connect with parents of newborns, encouraging them to make reading aloud to their baby part of every day routine care. Trained volunteers visit with parents on the hospital maternity units to talk about early literacy development. This one-to-one contact is key to conveying our message; it may be the first time a parent hears about the benefits of reading to babies and the importance of creating a language-rich home.

Before discharge, every family receives a "literacy bag" with a new children's book and a parent guide, and the opportunity to sign up to receive two more books and helpful hints during the first year. Our goal is for newborns to leave the hospital with a children's book and parents who understand how reading aloud to children from day one can help build critical early literacy skills and prepare them to enter school ready to learn.

A Volunteer Shares Her Experience

Karen is a former librarian and a mother of three daughters. She believes strongly in a parent's obligation to encourage literacy and a love of education and learning. After finding out about Read to Grow and our work to engage parents in their child's literacy development, Karen knew she had to get involved. She presently volunteers at Bridgeport Hospital and visits parents of newborns on the maternity unit.

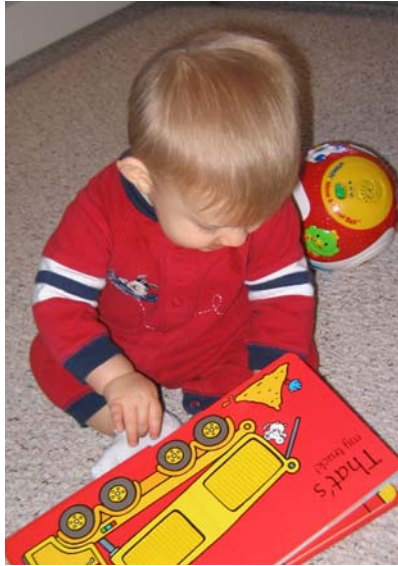
Karen estimated that about 70% of the parents she has met did not know how important early literacy is to a child's future development before her volunteer contact. Almost all of the families responded positively to her visit.

Books for Kids, our book distribution program, aims to ensure that all children have books of their own, regardless of income. Books for Kids provides free books—the necessary tools for developing literacy—to underserved children and families, and to children's programs and services in Connecticut communities.

Our partner hospitals regularly receive books for siblings of newborns on the maternity units, and for pediatric patients in clinic waiting rooms; books are provided to community health centers as well, to ensure that developmentally appropriate books are available for families with limited means. Agency staff collaborate with staff of Nurturing Families programs as well, which provide in-home support to young families.



Who We Serve



Some examples:

Cesar Batalla and Dunbar School Family Resource Centers in Bridgeport received hundreds of books this year, many of them for infants and preschoolers to promote early development and school readiness. Books were given to families in Thanksgiving baskets, through the Parents As Teachers program, and to youngsters in child care programs.

Everybody Wins! Hartford, a reading enrichment program serving inner-city students, grades 1 through 7, requested 500 books to “read to students and then give to them to increase their home libraries.”

- **Newborns, their siblings and parents in eight urban hospital maternity units.**
- **Families with limited access to books.**
- **Community health centers and primary care center waiting rooms.**
- **Early childhood programs such as Head Start, school readiness programs, Nurturing Families programs, and home- and center-based child care.**
- **Home visiting and parenting support programs that serve at risk families.**
- **Organizations that serve our most vulnerable children and communities where resources are scarce and literacy rates are low.**

Young Parents Program, Child and Family Agency, New London, serves at risk pregnant and parenting teens, requested books to give to pregnant and parenting teens to encourage them to read to their children.



“I have 26 students. Many parents have told me that they do not have any books to read to their children at night,” wrote a New Haven kindergarten teacher who requested books for her students to take home.

Highlights of the Year



Books for Babies coordinator Priscilla Russo reviews our parent education materials with David Weber, one of a dozen REACH residents to learn about the important role pediatricians play in promoting early literacy.



Above: Wes Eder, center, and friends supported RTG at Pilgrim Furniture City's benefit golf tournament.

Right: Ted Kennedy, Jr. with his son, Teddy III, who charmed the crowd with characteristic Kennedy ease and personality when he joined his dad onstage during our fall luncheon.

July: Read to Grow began educating young doctors about early literacy through a new rotation for Yale pediatric senior residents.

August: Alcoa Howmet staff volunteered in our office for a day, counting and labeling thousands of books, led by Sharon Davis, Alcoa human resource specialist and RTG board member.

September: Golfers teed off to help support Read to Grow in Pilgrim Furniture City's benefit golf tournament. The furniture company sponsors our public service announcement on WTNH, long-time Read to Grow partner.

October: Read to Grow and the United Way of Coastal Fairfield County came together in a Books for Kids Read at Home Initiative to ensure that children in the United Way's 12-town region have age-appropriate books at home.



November: Ted Kennedy Jr., spoke at our 11th annual New Haven luncheon sponsored by Citizens Bank, and shared memories of his father, the late Senator Kennedy, with 500 guests.

The Clifford W. Beers Guidance Clinic honored Roxanne Coady and Read to Grow with the "Kids Are Our Business" Service Award for "commitment to enriching the lives of children and families in the Greater New Haven and Shoreline communities."

December: Jamie Palazzo and Brooke Mackno, long-time friends and fellow students at Fairfield Ludlowe High School, collected over 2,000 books for RTG.



Jamie Palazzo and Brook Mackno collected over 2,000 books at their Fairfield school.



Roxanne Coady and Susanne Santangelo accept the Clifford Beers Award from Lou Stone.



First Book grantee Kinsella Magnet School in Hartford serves a 95% minority population, 80% from low income households. Students display pocket dictionaries, sponsored by Dutch Point Credit Union, one of our First Book funders.



RTG board member Sharon Davis joined a group of Alcoa Howmet employees, where she is human resource manager, for a day of volunteer service at RTG.

January: Reaching out to donors and volunteers on the regional levels, a Fairfield County advisory group was launched at an “informational coffee” held at the Westport home of Belinda Bralver to expand local involvement.

February: Delaney Yule collected 1,500 books at her Southbury school in a Valentine’s Day book drive, with the slogan, “Have a heart...do your part.”

March: As regional coordinator for First Book grants for the Greater Hartford community, RTG approved six First Book applications to support a continuum of services to help build children's literacy starting at birth.

April: It was standing room only at Long Wharf Theatre’s Stage II for an “Intimate evening with Anna Quindlen.”

Comcast Foundation awarded a \$12,000 grant to support RTG’s Books for Kids program in New Haven and provide 10,000 books to children of limited means. To celebrate the announcement, books were distributed to every student at a special event at Fair Haven School .

May: Read to Grow received a \$15,000 grant from The Citizens Bank Foundation to support our Books for Babies program at Lawrence and Memorial Hospital in New London and serve 1,800 new babies and their parents.

June: New board members bring their child development expertise to the next fiscal year: Dr. Julia Irwin, senior scientist at Haskins Laboratories, explores the development of communication and language; and Dr. Joanne Cunard, professor of Child Study/Education at St. Joseph’s College in Hartford.

Right: The children were all smiles when Comcast and Read to Grow came together to hand out books to Fair Haven School students. Each of the school’s 632 students received a book to take home to build their personal libraries. “Many of our students don’t have access to books at home,” said school principal Kim Johnsky.



Collaborations Extend our Reach

Part of Read to Grow's mission is to work with other organizations and individuals that promote literacy to create a greater impact than we could achieve alone. This year, in addition to providing books directly to thousands of families in need, we collaborated with more than 300 health care, educational, social service and child care providers to get books into children's homes.

18,000 books to newborns — 50% of all babies born in Connecticut — through eight Books for Babies hospital partnerships.

2,450 books to home visiting and parent education programs for new and young parents.

Organizations such as the statewide Nurturing Families Network, Minding the Baby (New Haven), Dunbar School Family Resource Center (Bridgeport), and Madonna Place (Norwich), used books to help strengthen parent-child bonding and to build early literacy and home libraries for children at risk.

20,000 books to health care resources.

We provided books to our partner hospitals for siblings of newborns and to pediatric waiting rooms, community health centers, and school-based health centers in Bridgeport, New Haven, Hartford, Waterbury and other areas where our children received health care.

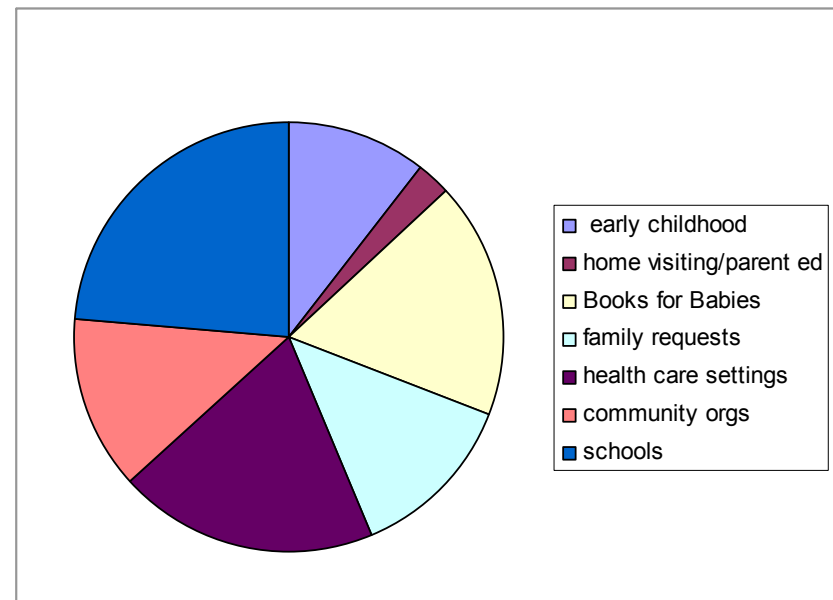
10,800 books to early childhood programs, primarily birth to five.

Books were provided to early childhood programs, such as Head Start, in-home and center-based child care programs, and school readiness programs in our cities and underserved towns to increase access and early literacy development and to encourage family reading.

24,000 books to schools, including Title I schools, for students to take home to build their own libraries and to encourage parents to read to their children.

12,000 to other community organizations such as book banks, legal aid, family service agencies, community dining rooms, and churches in areas where resources are scarce and literacy rates are low to get books into children's hands.

13,000 books to families who made requests directly to RTG.



New Partnerships Advance Our Mission

Read to Grow partners with hundreds of organizations throughout the state to share our expertise, expand our reach and connect with our communities. Two programs that were developed this year through new partnerships are serving our most vulnerable children.

St. Agnes Family Center Family Read Program, West Hartford

Early in the year, Read to Grow and the **St. Agnes Family Center** came together to bring the Family Read literacy program to the young mothers served at the West Hartford center. Family Read uses the power of sharing stories within the family setting to encourage parents to develop reading, discussion, listening and parenting skills.

Three Read to Grow volunteers — Deana Leikin, Susan Ungar and Marjory Aronson — completed the certified Family Read training sponsored by the

Connecticut Humanities Council, and conducted their first eight-week session in the spring for the young mothers, ages 14 to 21, with children from newborn to age 3. The literacy program is integrated into the Parents as Teachers parenting curriculum, a requirement for the young mothers, and will be conducted again in the fall. New books are provided by the Humanities Council's Urban Literacy Initiative.

A young mom at St. Agnes Family Center learned how important it is to share books with her youngster through the Family Read component of the Parents



Books for Kids Read at Home Initiative, Coastal Fairfield County

The United Way of Coastal Fairfield County invested in Read to Grow this year to create the Books for Kids Read at Home Initiative, to ensure that the home environments of children in the United Way's 12-town region are literacy-rich, containing age-appropriate books.

Through this project we share the goal of the UWCFC's Early Literacy Initiative, which is to have all children reading at grade level by grade three.

A new staff position was created and Myra Healy was hired as project

coordinator, responsible for managing regional book drives, developing community collaborations and building awareness of resources serving Bridgeport, Darien, Easton, Fairfield, Monroe, New Canaan, Norwalk, Stratford, Trumbull, Westport, Weston and Wilton.

In the first few months of the partnership, approximately 16,000 books were collected, and 8,500 books were distributed.



Myra Healy, coordinator for the Read at Home Initiative, a partnership of United Way of Coastal Fairfield County and Read to Grow, models reading aloud with a mom and her little boy.

Communities Pitch In to Build Literacy

One of the important ways people support Read to Grow is by collecting and donating books. . More than 70,000 new and gently used donated books came into our warehouse this year, thanks to the generosity and initiative of Connecticut citizens of all ages and organizations from all corners of the state..

Children especially seem to relate to our mission and be moved to take action. School, church groups and scouts collected books; kids ran book drives for b'nai mitzvot and confirmation projects; and youngsters asked birthday partygoers to bring a book for RTG.

Book donations help us maintain our standing as a cost-effectiveness nonprofit as we redistribute these donated books to families and organizations through our Books for Kids program.

We are grateful to *all* who ran book drives and donated books this year, and acknowledge here the efforts of those whose donations amassed 500 books or more.



Thanks to the following for establishing permanent collection sites where members of the community may drop off books:

James Blackstone Memorial Library, Branford
Pilgrim Furniture City, Milford and Southington
R.J. Julia Booksellers, Madison
Willoughby Wallace Library, Branford

“Read to Grow’s “500 Club”

Andover Elementary School, Read Across America Day Celebration
Brittany Chwicki, Orange: Club Mom & Tots of Fun
Convent of the Sacred Heart, Greenwich
Den 3, Webelos Cub Scouts, Durham
East Haven Academy
Fairfield Preparatory School, Fairfield: Boy's Book Club
Fraser Woods School, Newtown
Girl Scout project with Tisko & Walsh Schools & All That Jazz, Branford
Independent Day School, Middlefield
Emily Jerris & Sandy Hook School, Bat Mitzvah project
Kiwanis Club of Fairfield
Maddie Leonard, Pelham, NY
Live Oaks School, Kid's Care afterschool program, Milford
Brooke Mackno & Jaime Palazzo, Fairfield Ludlowe High School
Sam Mahler, Fairfield: Bar Mitzvah project
Mary Murphy School, Branford
Mary Taylor Memorial Methodist Church, Milford
North Guilford Nursery School & Melissa Jones School, Guilford
North Madison Congregational Church
Dylan Piepul, Enfield: Eagle Scout project
Prince of Peace Church, Brookfield
St. George Church 5th grade CCD Class, Guilford
Karen Seligson & Melanie Ward, Madison: Third Annual Holiday Luncheon for Literacy
Stratford Academy Dr. Seuss' Birthday
Josh Teplitzky, Woodbridge: Bar Mitzvah project
Emma Tucker, Rachel Hodes, Emily Boulis, Woodbridge: Bat Mitzvah project
Unitarian Universalist Church, Stratford
United Illuminating Company, New Haven
Yale-New Haven Hospital
Delaney Yule, Southbury: Valentine's Day book drive



Volunteers Commit Their Time and Talents

Read to Grow volunteer corps collectively donated more than 10,000 hours promoting early literacy and carrying out our program services. Our volunteers meet with parents in our partner hospitals, work in our office, and help out with special events. They give their time and their talents to Read to Grow because they believe in our mission and in their ability to make a difference in the lives of children. And the difference they make is immeasurable. Thanks to them, we can keep our operating costs down and accomplish far more than we ever could without them. We honor them for their service and commitment.

Susan Adams
Deborah Ahern
Joan Ayr
Mary Bagley
Rachel Baker
Betsy Ballenger
Carol Becker
Anne Berman
Muriel Berson
Dawn Biondello
Mary Ellen Blaney
Paula Braga
Grace Callejo
Dottie Cavanaugh
Monica Cavender
Mary Jane Celentano
Robin Charney
Pilar Ciravolo
Alicia Dolce
Letty Dunn
Maegan Faitsch
JoAnn Fleischman
Jane Fox
Mary Geary
Carol Giardi
Genevieve Goff
Traci Grigg
Elaine Grossman
Maryanne Hall
Margie Healy
Page Heslin
Faye Hnath

Lois Hobby
Jennifer Horner
Karen Izzo
Mary Beth Jacobs
Christina Jennette
Eleanor Julianelle
Donna Kazmercyk
Deborah Kelly
Evelyn Krevolin
Lynne Krupa
Susan Larsen
Kate Lee
Mark Lex
Dawn Love
Maureen McNamara
Jennifer May
Rosemarie McDowell
Jessica Mele
Shirley Minnick
Jane Morante
Christine Morgan
Karen Murray
Lynne Nathan
Pat Petrelli
Sandy Pottinger
Janie Pressley
Cecile Reid
Pat Riley
Fran Rukus
Barbara Shuckra
Jean Silverstein
Mike Spaulding



Vilma Thompson
Valerie Traummuller
Nancy Vagnini
Barbara Vance
Anna Vescovi
Laura Vescovi
Mary Ellen Vincent
Molly Visnic
Linda Von Ancken
Nancy Elizabeth Wallace
Constance Walsh
Marie Watson
Kathleen White
Helen White
Linda Williams
Joy Wolke
Susan Zasciurinskas



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 work:

*Acord
Branford High School
Vista Vocational Life Skills
York Correctional Institution*



Read to Grow Board of Directors 2009-2010



Front row, from left: Stacy Ruwe, Treasurer; Roxanne Coady, Chair; Donna Lechner-Gruskay. Back row: Mary Kay Curtiss; incoming board members Julia Irvin and Joanne Cunard, Susannah Bailin, Karen Pritzker, board member emeritus; and Sharon Davis. Missing from photo: Carla Horwitz, Susan Katz, Secretary John F. Wolter, James Welbourne, Vice Chair Jennifer Aniskovich, Lisa Maass, and Jan Weisswasser Michaelson.

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.

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. A new strategic plan will be developed by the board in the next fiscal year.

Board Committees 2009-2010

Development

Jennifer Aniskovich
Diane Ariker
Susannah Bailin, Chair
Anne Berman
Chris Dowling
Jody Ellant
Diantha Schull
Tina Silidker
Chuck Swirsky
Robyn Teplitzky
Jan Weisswasser Michaelson

Audit

James Barra
Jef Wolter, Chair

Finance

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

Governance

Jennifer Aniskovich
Susan Katz
Lisa Maass
Jef Wolter, Chair

Program

Susannah Bailin
Carla Horwitz
Susan Katz
Donna Lechner-Gruskay, Chair
Karen Pritzker
Jessica Sager
Susanne Santangelo
Jan Weisswasser Michaelson
James Welbourne

Treasurer's Report

Despite the lagging economy, fiscal year 2009-2010 was a robust one for Read to Grow. Program service delivery growth was supported by increases in foundation and corporate giving and individual contributions. A new staff position was created and funded by a grant from the United Way of Coastal Fairfield County to enable us to expand program services in that region.

The value of donated books increased by \$75,947 over last year, primarily due to a sizable donation from R. J. Julia Booksellers of new books from publishers.

We continued to run the organization efficiently, with 85% of all money raised spent on programs.

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

Stacy Ruwe, Treasurer

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES: July 1, 2009 - June 30, 2010

Income:

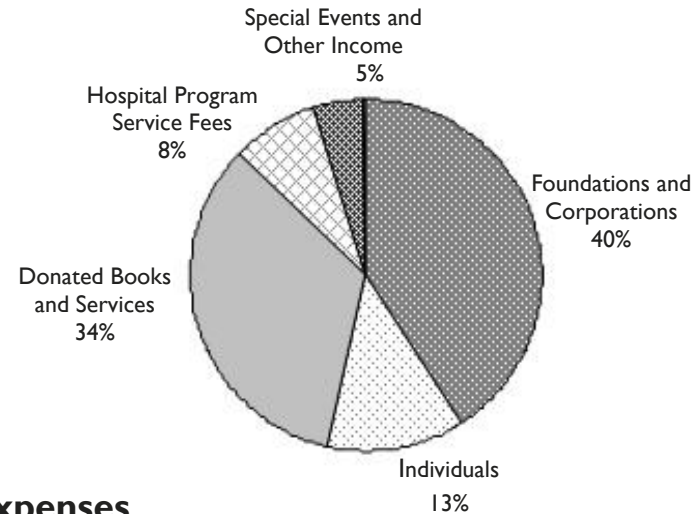
Foundations and Corporate Grants	\$ 316,098
Donated Books and Services	260,216
Individual Contributions	100,307
Hospital Program Service Fees	60,000
Special Events	35,984
Other Income	615
Interest	<u>2,262</u>
Total Income	775,482

Expenses:

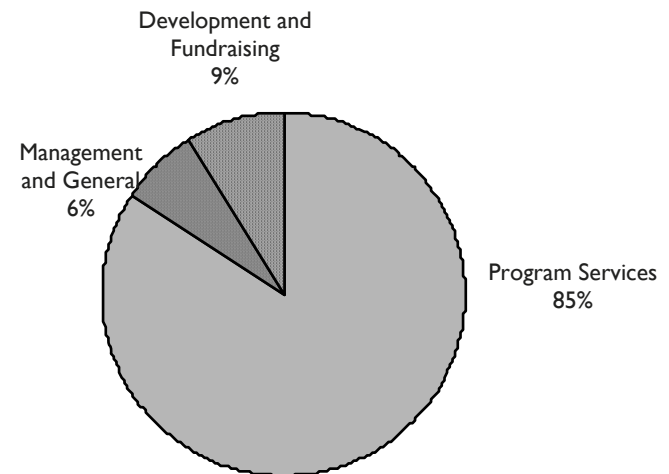
Program Services	579,620
Support Services:	
Management and General	46,806
Development and Fundraising	<u>61,128</u>
Total Expenses	687,554

Increase in Net Assets	87,928
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	<u>626,800</u>
Net Assets, End of Year	<u>714,728</u>

Income



Expenses



Thank You to Our Donors for Investing in the Future - July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010

Nobel (\$25,000 and up)

David & Susannah Bailin*
Kevin & Roxanne Coady*
Jeff Gruskay & Donna Lechner-Gruskay*
Carlton & Letamarie Highsmith
Michael Vlock & Karen Pritzker

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

Alan and Linda Landis*

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

Sharon Davis*
Jonathan & Susan Katz*
Daniel & Sharon Milikowsky
Patrick & Stacy Ruwe*
Jef & Kate Wolter*

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

Anonymous
Bruce & Terri Alpert
William & Jennifer Aniskovich*
Walter & Diane Ariker*
Chris & Katie Balestracci*
Charles & Belinda Bralver
Richard & Jean Caron*
Joanne Cunard
Ed & Chris Dowling
Wes & Sarah Eder*
William & Jean Graustein
Kurt & Jacqueline Koral*
David & Lisa Maass*
Paul Michaelson &
Jan Weiswasser Michaelson*
Joel & Tina Silidker*
Jeffrey & Robyn Teplitzky*
James & Penny Welbourne*
Randy & Tanya Wingate
Joe & Sue Zaccagnino

* denotes multi-year pledge

**denotes First Book funder

Nutmeg (\$500 - \$999)

Mary Arnstein
Charles & Kathleen Berg
John & Margaret Brewer
Robert Buckholz & Anne Fontaine
Jack & Helen Davis
Cathleen Devlin
Charley Ellis & Linda Lorimer
David & Joanne Goldblum
Ted & Kiki Kennedy
Ben Arthur Ledbetter &
Deborah Freedman
William & Kate Lee
Gerald Rosenberg & Cheryl Wiesenfeld
Joseph & Phyllis Satin
Donald & Beverly Waters
Joel Zackin & Celeste Suggs

Page Turner (\$250 - \$499)

Charles & Lisa Andriole
Rick & Nancy Antle
George Brencher & Bonnie Patten
Robert & Robin Charney
John & Erin Connelly
Jill Eder
Ray Fair & Sharon Oster
Stanley Greenberg & Rosa DeLauro
Roberta Grossman
Henry Harrison & Ruth Lambert
Robert & Carla Horwitz*
David & Amy Jaffe
Gary Kraut & Bettie McCarthy-Kraut
Bernard Kyle & Angela Kyle
Jonathan D. Levine & Suzanne G. Frisch
Stuart & Myra Low
Bruce & Renee McIntyre
Thanasis & Diane Molokotos
Francis & Sally Morrison
James & Dorleen Reidy
Stephen & Carol Ross
Susanne Santangelo
Clifford & Laura Skolnick
State Employees Campaign

Friends (\$249 and under)

Anonymous
Josef & Cecle Adler
Deborah Ahern
Michael & Debbie Albert
Jonathan & Rachel Albert
Scott & Vicki Anderson
Patricia Andriole
Chip & Barbara Angle
Marjory Aronson
Peter Aronson & Marie Landry
AT&T IT Employees
Mary Elizabeth Attebery
Amelia Audette
Randall & Shelly Backus
Ben & Robin Baker
Robert & Barbara Ballard
Peter Banks & Nancy Elizabeth
Wallace
Harold & Barbara Barringham
Faith Barrington
Michael Barrrios & Lisa Silberstein
Dominic & Nancy Barrone
William & Donna Batsford
Catherine Beardsley
Tom Beggins & Anne Hartford
Rita Berkson
Lawrence & Deborah Berliner
David & Rhoda Berman
Gary & Michelle Bernardi
Lois Bernardi
Lori Biega
Big Y Employees
Judy Birke
Taffy Bowes
John & Marguerite Bowes
Barbara Bowser
Edward & Lynne Bradstreet
Heidi Breckheimer
S. Gregory Briggs
Nathaniel & Joanne Bronson
Angela & Antonino Buccheri
Marilyn Buel
Judge Guido & Anne Calabresi

Amy Calandriello
Christopher & Penny Canny
Brian & Romona Carlow
Louise Belknap Carter
Anne Cassidy
Anthony Castellon
Barbara Cavallaro
Joan Chetrick
Rita Christopher
Lauren Ciccone
Jason & Nealie Cirino
Erik Clemons
Jay Cohen & Joan Giunco
Gordon & Marjorie Cohen
Christine Collins
Alfred & Carol Covello
Andrew & Mary Kay Curtiss
Anthony & Kathleen Da Ros
Theresa DeSapio
Kathleen Dess
Vincent & Mary Kay DeVita
Norma Diamond
Carol Dieringer
Susan Dobuler
Dr. & Mrs. Seth Dodds
Ann Doolittle
Ellen Downes
Mary Lee Duff
Michele Duval
Myron & Carol Dworken
Lane English
Eppler-Epstein Family
Kimberly Escalera
William & Katie Ewen
Stephen & Loredana Falcigno
Deborah Farbrother
Diane Farrell
Donald Filer & Alisa Masterson
Gerald & Marilyn Fishbone
Caird Forbes-Cockell &
Lynne R. Hyman
Raye & Gareth Forsey
Geraldine Foster
Mary Geary

Aaron Gershenberg
 Barbara Gibson
 Susan Glantz
 Joseph & Cynthia Goldberg
 Matthew & Leigh Grande
 Robert & Mary Grande
 Carole Greenbaum
 David & Cynthia Greenblatt
 William & Paula Grimm
 Richard & Norma Grossi
 Jay & Elaine Grossman
 Frank & Bette Gruskay
 Pam Halligan
 Robert & Carol Harlan
 Charles Harper
 Lawrence & Roberta Harris
 Gabe & Jennie Hathorn
 Margie Healy
 Wilfred & Jessie Hoyt
 Jean Hunnicutt
 John Hussey
 Brian & Heather Inyart
 David & Lyla Johnson
 Ann Johnson
 Benedict & Denise Joiner
 Elizabeth Jonas
 Myra Josephson
 Leo & Marlies Kamin
 David Kaminsky & Rochelle
 Schreibman
 Bill Kaplan & Lise Dondy
 Matthew & Amy Katz
 William & Paulette Kaufman
 Frank & Julie Keating
 Maureen Kelleher
 Susan Kennedy
 Andrea Kevrick
 Jon Knisley & Mary Hu
 Harlan & Leslie Krumholz
 Michael Kurs & Bonnie Roswig
 Richard & Kim LaManna
 Susan Lamar
 Cathering LaMarr
 Kimmy Leaf
 Deana Leikin
 Adam & Jennifer Leiser
 Gary & Nancy Leonard
 Diane Lewis
 Robert & Stacy Lewis

John & Ellie Lindquist
 William & Vicki Littell
 John & Julie Livingstone
 Lindalea Ludwick
 Jeffrey Lustman & Diane Saslow
 James & Kaye Maggart
 John & Nancy Marano
 Donald Margulies & Lynn Street
 Jennifer May
 Tom & Jamie McCauley
 Kjeldy McGoldrick
 Senator Edward Meyer
 Marc & Tanya Michaelson
 David & Susan Millan
 Daniel & Jenny Minton Quigley
 Ariel Morriar
 Frederick & Pauline Murphy
 Elizabeth Napolitano
 Jennifer Nordlund
 Michael & Andrea Nygren
 George O'Hara
 Nancy Paradis
 Randall & Paula Pasioka
 Michael & Patricia Patrikios
 Emily Peel
 Jennifer Pelletier
 Martha Picone
 Alan Plattus & Nancy Berliner
 Cynthia Popoli
 Employees of Pullman &
 Comley, LLC
 Mr. & Mrs. Quinn
 Matthew & Laura Radulski
 Jennifer Rannestad
 Sean, Kristen & Connor Rayball
 Cecile Reid
 Nancy Reuben
 Maurice & Joanie Reznik
 Warren & Ann Richards
 Scott & Karen Ripa
 Kathleen Robertson
 Kristine Romaniw
 Daniel & Jeanne Rowe
 Harvey & Diane Ruben
 Rachel Rudnick
 Mark & Kelly Ryan

Kert & Karen Sabbath
 Joel Sable
 Wilner Samson & Michelle Smedley
 Mary Sanders
 Brenda Santos
 Robert & Ilene Saulsbury
 Linda Savitsky
 William & Toni Schmitt
 Diantha Schull
 Jim & Cis Serling
 Susan Shapiro
 Joseph & Marjorie Shapiro
 Marcia Shea
 Margaret Sheahan
 Barbara Shuckra
 Walter & Penny Simmers
 Steven & Susan Smith
 Donald Smith
 Joel Cohen & Linda Smith Cohen
 Beverly Somers
 Ethel Sorokin
 Clayton & Susan Spencer
 William Spreckelmeier
 Pam Stanton
 Jay Stein
 Ana Marie Stern
 Stop & Shop Employees
 Marianne Stowell
 Stedman & Patricia Sweet
 Nancy Thompson
 Paul & Agnes Tokarski
 Michael & Susan Tucker
 Susan Ungar
 Joan Venditto
 Barry & Hyla Vine
 Kimberly Virgo
 Diana Wakerley
 Alexine Wallace
 Scott & Dawn Walsh
 David & Melanie Ward
 Lawrence & Sheila Wartel
 Timothy & Suzanne Waters
 Peter Webster & Mary Lou Aleskie
 Marian Wexler
 Kathleen White

Judith Brooks Wiley
 Bill Williams
 Richard & Marcia Witten
 Steven Wolfson & Elsa Stone
 Lisa Ruth Wright
 Katherine Yee
 Joseph & Myra Zelson
 Jerry Zinser & Pamela Tatge
 Jon Zonderman & Laurel Shader

Organizations, Corporations, Small Businesses, Schools

Association of Legal Administrators
 Bear Path Elementary School
 Blakeslee Prestress
 Bridgeport Child Advocacy
 Bristol Public Library Children's
 Department
 Chartered Property Casualty
 Underwriters
 Cohen and Wolf, PC
 Congregation Mishkan Israel
 Dutch Point Credit Union **
 Guilford Savings Bank
 Hammarskold Social Committee
 Hartford Courant
 Jewish Federation of Greater
 New Haven
 Killingworth Elementary School
 Kiwanis Club of West Hartford
 Lenny & Joe's Fish Tale Restaurants
 Lipper International
 New Fairfield Middle School
 NewAlliance Bank
 Newman Architects
 Parish of Trinity Church **
 Pilgrim Furniture City
 Quota Club of New Haven
 Shoreline Community Women
 St. James's Church **
 Temple Beth Tikvah
 Trinity Episcopal Church **
 United Oil Recovery
 Whiffenpoofs of Yale
 Wilton Library Association
 Yalesville Elementary School

Foundations, Family Foundations & Hospital Support

Bodenwein Public Benevolent Foundation
Chester Kitchings Family Foundation
Citizens Bank Foundation
Comcast Foundation
The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven
The Community Foundation of Southeastern Connecticut
The Diana Davis Spencer Foundation
Educational Foundation of America
Elizabeth Carse Foundation
Ensworth Charitable Foundation;
Bank of America, Trustee
The Ernest & Joan Trefz Foundation
Foulds Family Foundation
Frank Loomis Palmer Fund
George A. & Grace L. Long Foundation
Hagani Foundation
Hartford Hospital & Hartford Hospital Auxiliary
Helen I. Graham Charitable Foundation
Inner-City Foundation for Charity & Education
J. Walton Bissell Foundation
Jack Silberberg Charitable Foundation
Lamb Family Foundation
Lipton Family Fund
Lyman B. Brainerd Jr. Family Foundation
The Maximilian E. & Marion O. Hoffman Foundation
NewAlliance Bank Foundation
Pitney Bowes Literacy & Education Fund
SBM Charitable Foundation
Seedlings Foundation
Seymour Lustman Memorial Fund
St. Francis Hospital Foundation
Target
Tyler L. Rigg Memorial Foundation
United Way of Coastal Fairfield County
United Way of Greater New Haven

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.

Matching Gifts

Aetna Foundation
Alcoa Donor Advised Fund
Energiizer
The GE Foundation
Nationwide Foundation
Pfizer Foundation Matching Gifts Program
United Illuminating Employee Giving Campaign

Tribute Gifts

Marilyn Buel
in honor of Kevin & Roxanne Coady
Sue Cohen
in honor of Ruth Sachs
Mr. & Mrs. Ric H. Fox
in honor of Kevin & Roxanne Coady
Mr. & Mrs. Barry Gray
in honor of Arthur Tinn
Maryanne Hall
in honor of the Family of Maryanne Hall
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Hoffman
in honor of William Vranos
Evelyn Krevolin
in honor of Ruth Sachs
Mr. & Mrs. Donald Kulberg
in honor of Cara & Sabrina Korn
Mr. & Mrs. Donald Kulberg
in honor of Jakob Ziemann
Lipton Family Fund
in honor of Susannah Bailin
Cindy J. Luciano
in honor of Mr. & Mrs. Edward Lindsay
Lynne Nathan
in honor of Georgie Dallas
Lynne Nathan
in honor of Rachel Greenspan
Mr. & Mrs. Albert Ratner
in honor of Karen Pritzker
Mrs. Kathleen Rossi
in honor of Richard DeBellis, Donna Laitinen, & Lynn Lynch at Ruth L. Chaffee School
Lucy Smith
in honor of Rabbi Rachel Goldenberg
Mr. & Mrs. Jack Srebnik
in honor of Roslyn Friedman

Bruce & Marjorie Thompson
in honor of Shannon Tracey & Peter Jarausch
Mr. & Mrs. John C. Wakerley
in honor of Emilia P. Adams
Mr. & Mrs. Scott Walsh
in honor of Helen Lester
Mr. & Mrs. Scott Walsh
in honor of Karen Pritzker
Laurie Witkin
in honor of Belinda Bralver
YPO Connecticut Chapter
in honor of Roxanne Coady
Dr. & Mrs. Joseph Zelson
in honor of Ruth Sachs
Mr. & Mrs. Howard Diamond
in memory of Genevieve Homenick
Mr. & Mrs. Howard Diamond
in memory of Ian Nicol, & in memory of Landsdale mother & grandmother, Betty
Mr. & Mrs. Howard Diamond
in memory of Carol Hofflich, Ann Davenport, Henry Goodale
Mr. & Mrs. Howard Diamond
in memory of Nancy Trapp
Mr. & Mrs. Barry Gray
in memory of Sharon Glasky & Alvin Cutler
Mr. & Mrs. David Stone
in memory of Natalie O'Brien
Mr. & Mrs. David Stone
in memory of Lynda Resony
Tyler Thorpe
in memory of Rachel Ickovics
Jane M. Whalen
in memory of Margaret Dunleavy

In-Kind Donations

Jim Bleeker
Gateway Community College
Myers Florist
Pilgrim Furniture City
Salesforce.com
Tricia Bohan Photography
Updike, Kelly & Spellacy

Publisher Donations

All About Books
Hatchette Book Group, R. J. Julia Book Giveaway
Heinemann Raintree
Houghton Mifflin Harcourt
Borders Books & Music, Meriden
Connelly 3 Publishing Group
Little Brown, R. J. Julia Book Giveaway
Penguin Group
Random House

Fall Fundraiser Sponsors Event Sponsor

Citizens Bank

Table Sponsorship

Platinum Table - \$5,000

Roz & Jerry Meyer
The Safety Zone

Gold Table - \$2,500

United Way of Greater New Haven
Updike, Kelly & Spellacy, PC
Yale-New Haven Hospital

Silver Table - \$1,500

AT&T
Lawrence & Memorial Hospital
Konowitz, Kahn & Company, PC
Susannah & David Bailin

Literacy Angels - \$750

Blum Shapiro & Company, PC
The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven
Eder Brothers, Inc.
Hospital of Saint Raphael
Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven
Susan & Jonathan Katz
Merrill Lynch
NewAlliance Bank

Read to Grow Staff 2009-2010

Susanne Santangelo, Executive Director

Robin Baker, Office Manager

Gary Gavigan, Driver

Cindy Gerstl, Communications Coordinator

Freddy Guevara, Driver

Myra Healy, Books for Kids, Read at Home Initiative Project Coordinator

Christine Mace, Books for Babies, Hartford Regional Coordinator

Priscilla Russo, Books for Babies Coordinator

Diantha Schull, Director of Development

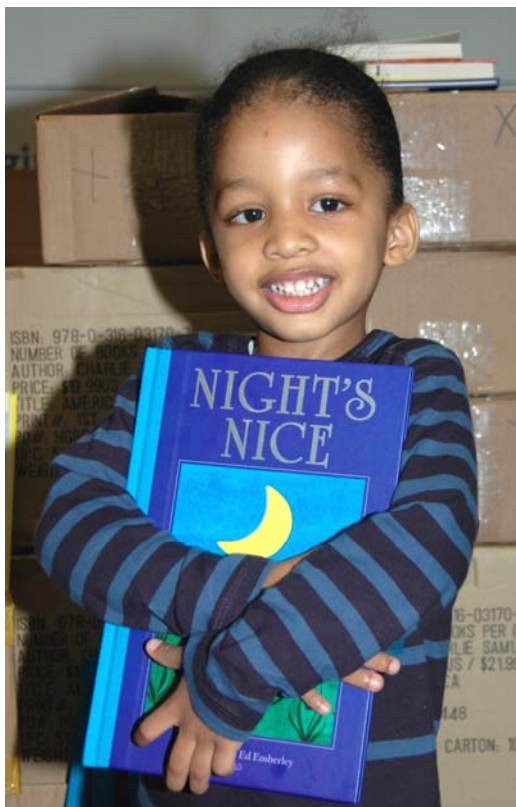
Tina Silidker, Development Associate

Erin Spaulding, Onsite Coordinator, Yale-New Haven Hospital

Kim Spencer LaManna, Packet Processing

Linda Sylvester, Books for Kids Coordinator

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.



Do you share our vision?

If you share our vision of a Connecticut where all children have the opportunity to reach their full potential, you can have an impact. Your support can help make sure that all children have books in their homes beginning at birth, and parents who understand the power of early literacy.

Donate your time, your books, and your dollars to Read to Grow.



53 School Ground Road, Unit 3

Branford, CT 06405

203.488.6800

www.readtogrow.org

readtogrow@readtogrow.org