

# LITERACY BEGINS AT BIRTH



ANNUAL REPORT 2011

## FROM BOARD CHAIR ROXANNE J. COADY

**DEAR FRIENDS OF READ TO GROW,**

**T**HE YEAR MAY HAVE COME TO A CLOSE, but Read to Grow's mission remains the same: to promote early literacy for all Connecticut children. With Connecticut's achievement gap the widest in the nation, our work is more critical than ever before.



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

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

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

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

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Roxanne J. Coady'.

Roxanne J. Coady  
*Founder and Board Chair*

## READ TO GROW AND OUR MISSION

**T**O improve early literacy for all Connecticut children by providing books, by helping families share books with their babies starting at birth, by encouraging language development, and by promoting awareness of literacy services.

### Our Vision

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

### Our Values

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

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

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

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

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

**~ Economist James Heckman,  
Nobel laureate**



**Read to Grow is the only statewide organization that prepares parents to start building their babies' literacy from birth and provides free books to children of all ages to support their literacy development.**

## READ TO GROW PROGRAMS PROMOTE EARLY LANGUAGE AND LITERACY SKILLS THAT BEGIN DEVELOPING AT BIRTH AND ARE CRITICAL TO SCHOOL AND READING READINESS.

### OUR PROGRAMS

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



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

### HOSPITAL PARTNERS

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



**Two more hospital partners in early 2012:**

- **Middlesex Hospital, Middletown** ~ 1,600 babies annually
- **Sharon Hospital** ~ 250 babies

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

## **2011 ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

### **~ AT A GLANCE ~**

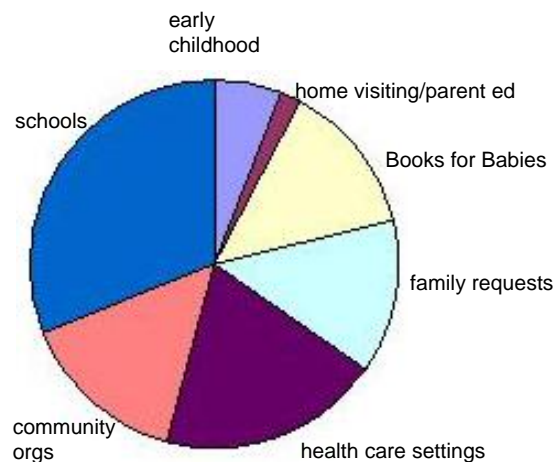
- **18,000 NEWBORNS AND THEIR PARENTS SERVED —  
50% OF ALL CT BIRTHS**
- **10 HOSPITAL PARTNERSHIPS — 8 ESTABLISHED,  
2 MORE SIGNED ON FOR 2012**
- **39% MORE PARENTS OF NEWBORNS SIGNED UP FOR  
FOLLOW-UP BOOKS AND GUIDANCE THAN IN 2010**
- **136,000 BOOKS DISTRIBUTED ACROSS THE STATE —  
UP 32% FROM 2010**
  - **134,000 BOOKS DONATED TO RTG —  
UP 50% FROM 2010**
- **87% OF ALL EXPENDITURES WENT TO PROGRAM  
SERVICES**
- **70 VOLUNTEERS DONATED THOUSANDS OF HOURS  
OF SERVICE**
  - **NEW 5-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN IN PROCESS**

## RECORD-BREAKING 136,000 NEW AND GENTLY USED BOOKS WERE PROVIDED TO CONNECTICUT CHILDREN IN 2011

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

### WHO DID WE SERVE?

- Newborns, their siblings and their parents in partner hospitals through Books for Babies.
- Families with limited means who contacted us to request books.
- Community health centers and primary care center waiting rooms, in particular those in the cities of Hartford, Bridgeport, New Haven and New London that serve our most vulnerable children and families.
- Early childhood programs such as Head Start, school readiness programs, and in-home and center-based child care programs.
- Home visiting and parenting support programs that serve at-risk families, such as Nurturing Families Network.
- Community organizations and schools in areas where resources are scarce and literacy rates are low.



### Books from RTG Keep Rodney Reading



*Rodney with an armful of books he shared with friends and neighbors.*

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

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

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

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

## PARTNERSHIP SUPPORT CONTINUES AND GROWS

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



Read to Grow received a \$38,600 award from United Way of Coastal Fairfield County to fund year two of our “Books for Kids Read at Home Initiative,” a partnership with United Way, created to ensure that children in United

Way's 12-town region (comprised of Greater Bridgeport and Greater Norwalk areas) have age-appropriate books to read at home.

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



Myra Healy, left, coordinates the Books for Kids Read at Home Initiative. Pictured with Genevieve Halloran, president of Junior League of Eastern Fairfield County and Jim Crispino, United Way.

### ALCOA DONATED DOLLARS AND TIME FOR FOURTH YEAR

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

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



On left: Tom Slavin, Engineering Manager, left, and Sharon Davis, Human Resource Manager, right, presented a check for \$15,000 to Chester Brodnicki, center, Read to Grow's Interim Executive Director. On right: A group of Alcoa Howmet employees donated a day of service to RTG.

### PILGRIM FURNITURE CITY HELPS SPREAD THE WORD



For the third year, Pilgrim Furniture City sponsored the airing of Read to Grow's public service announcement on WTNH/WCTX. The PSA encourages parents to read aloud to their children from birth, and uses clips from a video that was created in partnership with Southern Connecticut State University. The Pilgrim spot is shown five times weekly and is valued at \$130,000.

## TYLER RIGG FOUNDATION PROVIDED GRANT FOR POSTERS TO EDUCATE PARENTS



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

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

## TOWN FAIR TIRE FUNDED NEW DELIVERY VAN



**Town Fair Tire Foundation** donated \$10,000 for the purchase of a new "gently used" cargo van, replacing our old passenger minivan. With this larger vehicle, we have boosted our efficiency in delivering books to hospitals, schools and other partners around the state and in picking up books collected through

book drives run by children, schools, organizations, civic groups and so many others that help support our programs.

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

## CITIZENS BANK SPONSORED EVENT & HOSPITAL PROGRAM



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

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

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

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

~Town Fair Tire employee



## ENGAGING INDIVIDUALS, GROUPS AND COMMUNITIES



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



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

Through the club's cumulative efforts, the town of Fairfield has donated a total of **36,000 books** to RTG.

**Whether they work to collect books or help to distribute them, Read to Grow's mission is supported by individuals, groups and communities across the state that believe in the importance of promoting children's early literacy development.**



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

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



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

The club raised **\$500** through various fundraisers, allowing them to purchase the books for RTG.

The school group also set up a permanent collection box at Hopkins School where members of the school community donate gently used children's books throughout the year.



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

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Despite the continued lagging economy, fiscal year 2010-2011 was robust and exciting for Read to Grow. Significant increases in both foundation and corporate grants and in hospital support allowed Read to Grow's program services to grow and the organization to flourish overall.

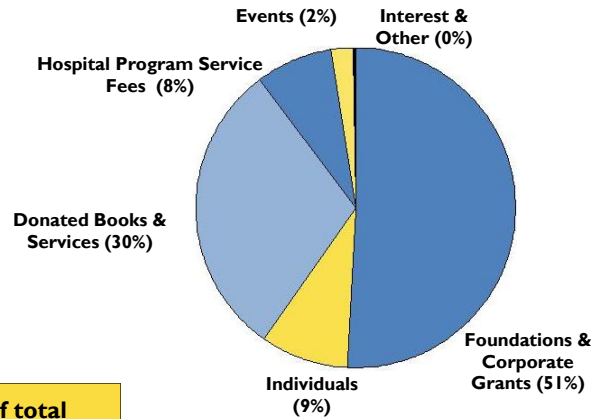
The value of donated books and services increased this year, primarily driven by the value of television commercial spots that market our programs. Costs in the management line covered the Board-initiated strategic planning process that will set the direction for Read to Grow's growth for the next five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

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

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

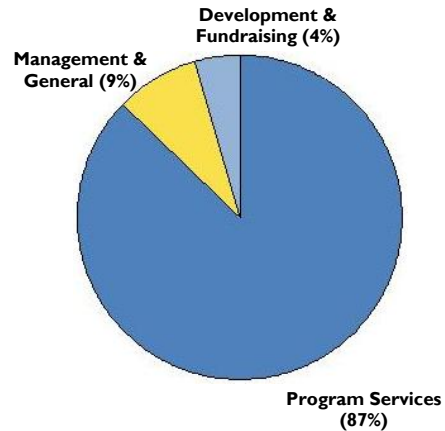
<b>Income</b>	
Foundations/Corporations –	\$486,337
Donated books/services –	\$287,844
Individual donations –	\$83,543
Hospital fees –	\$74,576
Events –	\$20,979
Interest –	\$1,594
Other –	\$405
<b>Total –</b>	<b>\$955,278</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Program –	\$772,204
Management –	\$75,561
Development –	\$38,850
<b>Total –</b>	<b>\$886,615</b>
<b>Net –</b>	<b>\$68,663</b>
Beginning –	\$714,728
End Balance –	\$783,391

### INCOME



**87% of total expenditures went to program services**

### EXPENSES



# THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011

## **NOBEL (\$25,000 & up)**

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

## **PULITZER (\$10,000 - \$24,999)**

Alan & Linda Landis \*

## **CALDECOTT (\$3,000 - \$9,999)**

Anonymous (1)  
Sharon Davis\*  
Carlton & Letamaria Highsmith  
Daniel & Sharon Milikowsky  
Patrick & Stacy Ruwe\*  
John & Martha Wolf  
Jef & Kate Wolter\*

## **NEWBERY (\$1,000 - \$2,999)**

Walter & Diane Ariker \*  
Chris & Katie Balestracci \*  
Ellen Bell  
Charles & Belinda Bralver  
David Carabetta  
Ed & Chris Dowling  
Wes & Sarah Eder \*  
William & Jean Graustein  
Jacqueline Koral \*  
William & Kate Lee  
David & Lisa Maass \*  
Jerome & Roslyn Meyer  
Paul Michaelson & Jan Weiswasser  
Michaelson \*  
Marc & Jodi Schneider  
Jeffrey & Robyn Teplitzky \*  
Joe & Sue Zaccagnino

## **NUTMEG (\$500 - \$999)**

Mary Arnstein  
John & Margaret Brewer  
Charley Ellis & Linda Lorimer  
David & Joanne Goldblum  
Maryanne Hall  
Robert & Carla Horwitz \*  
Julia Irwin  
Jonathan & Susan Katz  
Ben Arthur Ledbetter & Deborah  
Freedman  
Francis & Sally Morrison  
Gerald Rosenberg & Cheryl  
Wiesenfeld  
John & Cathy Seibyl  
Donald & Beverly Waters  
Randy & Tanya Wingate

## **PAGE TURNER (\$250 - \$499)**

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

## **FRIENDS (\$249 & under)**

Anonymous (6)  
Charles & Deborah Ahern  
Jonathan & Rachel Albert  
Lucille Alderman  
Bonnie Ammer  
Chip & Barbara Angle  
Rick & Nancy Antle  
Katherine & Rob Armstrong  
Marjory Aronson  
Peter Aronson & Marie Landry  
David & Karen Astrachan  
Mary Elizabeth Attebery  
Melinda Audet  
Christine Aulicino  
Jane Bachand  
Marlene Marcus Bacher  
Ben & Robin Baker  
Robert & Barbara Ballard  
Peter Banks & Nancy Elizabeth  
Wallace  
Larry & Rachel Barnett  
Michael Barrios & Lisa Silberstein  
William & Donna Batsford  
Anne Bingham Pierson  
Jeffrey & Helen Block  
William & Shelly Blunt White  
Patricia Bourne  
Maryann Bracken

Edward & Lynne Bradstreet  
Sarah Briggs  
S. Gregory Briggs  
William & Vivian Briggs  
James & Holly Brink  
Chester & Glenna Brodnicki  
Nathaniel & Joanne Bronson  
Josiah Brown  
Judge & Mrs. Calabresi  
Linda Calarco  
Jill Campbell  
Louise Belknap Carter  
Joan Chetrick  
Lauren Ciccone  
Gordon & Marjorie Cohen  
Arlene Cohen  
Gregory Colodner & Lisa Stanger  
Crystal Mata  
Josh & Alix Copel  
Joanne Cunard  
Jean Davis  
Anne Delo  
George & Mikell Deptula  
Howard & Eden Diamond  
Norma Diamond  
Marjorie Dill  
Dr. & Mrs. Seth Dodds  
Bonnie Dombrowski  
Ellen Downes  
Myron & Carol Dworken  
John & Elizabeth Edelglass  
Howard Reiter & Jody Ellart  
William & Katie Ewen  
Stephen & Loredana Falcigno  
Diane Farrell  
Paul & Susan Fiedler  
Donald Filer & Alisa Masterson  
Bennie Finch  
Geraldine Foster  
Tracy Frankel  
Friday Night Book Club  
Keith & Judy Frey  
Carol Giardi  
Barbara Gibson  
Susan Glantz  
Joseph & Cynthia Goldberg  
Judith Gordon  
Robert & Mary Grande  
David & Cynthia Greenblatt  
Arthur & Zabelle Krasow Greenblatt  
Heather Graysen  
William & Paula Grimm  
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 Einar Gudjohnsen &  
 Jane Frey-Gudjohnsen  
 Larry & Roberta Harris  
 Myra Healy  
 Pamela Heard  
 Peter & Maureen Herbert  
 Cathryn Holinger  
 Holly Hopkins  
 Elizabeth Hoskins  
 Jean Hunnicutt  
 Brian & Heather Inyart  
 Sessa Kumar Jaladanki  
 Nancy Janicki  
 Richard & Susan Johns  
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 Leo & Marlies Kamin  
 David Kaminsky &  
 Rochelle Schreiber  
 Bill Kaplan & Lise Dondy  
 Ann Katz  
 William & Paulette Kaufman  
 Frank & Julie Keating  
 Kristi Keil  
 Elliot & Sandra Kerzner  
 Jon Knisley & Mary Hu  
 Arthur & Nancy Knowlton  
 Anthony Kronman & Nancy  
 Greenberg  
 Deana Leikin  
 Robert & Ruth Lesser  
 Arlene Levine  
 Dr. Jonathan D. Levine &  
 Dr. Suzanne G. Frisch  
 Diane Lewis  
 Grace Lyall  
 Joe & Lisa MacDougald  
 James & Kaye Maggart  
 Terry & Martha Maguire  
 Donald Margulies & Lynn Street  
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 Lynn McCartin  
 Tom & Jamie McCauley  
 Samir Mehta  
 Joan Merlis  
 Estelle Meyer  
 Thanasis & Diane Molokotos  
 Gwendolyn Moraski  
 Alden & Jaimie Murphy  
 Robert & Mary Patricia Nardino  
 Scott & Lauren Nelson  
 Bryan & Beth Nesteriak  
 Edmund & Mary Ellen Nocera  
 Eric & Stefanie Novak  
 George O'Hara  
 Sarah Parsons  
 Elizabeth Pasioka  
 Michael & Patricia Patrikios  
 Emily Peel  
 Alan Plattus & Nancy Berliner



Madeline Potash  
 Janie Pressley  
 Rosemary Price  
 Daniel Quigley & Jenny Minton Quigley  
 Cecile Reid  
 Elisa Rice  
 Warren & Ann Richards  
 Scott & Karen Ripa  
 Kristine Romaniw  
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 Kert & Karen Sabbath  
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 David Schaefer & Janet Hall  
 William & Toni Schmitt  
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 Paul & Agnes Tokarski  
 Janice Touloukian  
 Charles & Marcia Turner  
 Susan Ungar  
 Mary Vanvalkenburg  
 Joan Venditto  
 Barry & Hyla Vine  
 Diana Wakerley  
 Ed & Laury Walker  
 Mark Walker  
 Alexine Wallace  
 David & Melanie Ward

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

**FOUNDATIONS, FAMILY  
 FOUNDATIONS, HOSPITAL  
 SUPPORT**

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

**ORGANIZATIONS,  
 CORPORATIONS, SMALL  
 BUSINESSES & SCHOOLS**

AT&T IT Employees  
 Alcoa Donor Advised Fund  
 Bristol Public Library Children's Dept.

Benjamin Jepson Magnet School  
Chartered Property Casualty  
Underwriters  
Claire's Corner Copia  
Community Health Charities of New  
England  
Connecticut Association of Boards  
of Education  
Dutch Point Credit Union  
East Hartford High School  
Fairfield College Preparatory School  
Guilford Savings Bank  
Hopkins School Read to Grow Club  
Jerome Harrison Elementary School  
Lenny & Joe's Fish Tale Restaurants  
Melissa Jones Elementary School PTO  
NewAlliance Bank  
New Haven Association for Education of  
Young Children  
One for All Fund at St. Raphael's  
Pita Communications  
Shoreline Community Women  
Shoreline Pediatrics & Adolescent  
Medicine  
Southern Connecticut State University  
Temple Beth Tikvah  
Wallingford Public School Staff  
Women's Law Society at Quinnipiac  
University

#### **MATCHING GIFTS**

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

#### **TRIBUTE GIFTS**

*in memory of Kurt Koral*  
Dr. and Mrs. Walter Ariker  
*in honor of Liz Robson*  
Mr. and Mrs. Ellis Baker  
*in memory of Florence Wasserman*  
Mr. and Mrs. Gary J. Balsam  
Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence A. Baye  
Mr. and Mrs. Steven Burch  
Edythe L. Cohen  
Denise M. Daye  
Dr. and Mrs. Neal Hammer  
The Healey, Kaplan and Wagner  
Families  
New Jersey Academy of General  
Dentistry  
Dr. and Mrs. Ira Singer  
Tobi Tesoriero  
Mr. and Mrs. Harry Weisenfeld  
Barbara S. Wolff

*in honor of Aaron Silidker*  
Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence A. Baye  
*in honor of Sadie Noonan*  
Ms. Caitlyn Bradburn  
*in honor of Robin Baker*  
Mary Ellen Bushnell  
*in honor of Paul Michaelson*  
Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Cheerman  
*in honor of Patricia MacDonald*  
Sharon DePonte  
*in memory of Ray Crane*  
Mr. and Mrs. Howard Diamond  
*in memory of Ian Nicol*  
Mr. and Mrs. Howard Diamond  
*in memory of the Landsdale's mother and  
grandmother Betty*  
Mr. and Mrs. Howard Diamond  
*in memory of George Lastomirsky*  
Mr. and Mrs. Howard Diamond  
*in memory of Charles Wills*  
Mr. and Mrs. Howard Diamond  
*in memory of Mrs. Spivack*  
Mr. and Mrs. Howard Diamond  
*in memory of Celia Phan's mother*  
Mr. and Mrs. Howard Diamond  
*in memory of Selestino Pina "Perry" Pereira*  
Mr. and Mrs. Howard Diamond  
*in memory of Anita Griffith's father*  
Mr. and Mrs. Howard Diamond  
*in memory of mother and grandmother of  
Carole Lerner and Kim Lerner Diamond*  
Mr. and Mrs. Howard Diamond  
*in memory of Theresa Kennedy*  
Mr. and Mrs. Howard Diamond  
*in memory of Mary Reynolds*  
Mr. and Mrs. Howard Diamond  
*in memory of Mary Ellen Bolton's father*  
Mr. and Mrs. Howard Diamond  
*in memory of Al Kelly's grandmother*  
Mr. and Mrs. Howard Diamond  
*in honor of William Matthes*  
Marilyn Fappiano  
*in memory of Patricia Campbell*  
Mr. and Mrs. Gary Gavigan  
*in honor of Betty Lou Blumberg*  
Frances Hack  
*in honor of Elaine Sneiderman*  
Evelyn Krevolin  
*in honor of Stuart A. McCornack*  
Mr. & Mrs. William Lee  
*in honor of the 13th birthdays of Emma  
Banks, R.J. Pantalina and Sophie Cappello*  
Edward W. Lovejoy  
*in honor of R.J. Pantalana*  
Robert Malison & Dr. Eugenia Vining  
*in memory of Dorothy Champion*  
Linda A. Mathews  
*in honor of Matthew Cairns*  
Mr. & Mrs. Frederick Murphy  
*in honor of Stephen Keating*  
Mr. & Mrs. Frederick Murphy

*in honor of Mr. and Mrs. F. Tyler Morrison*  
Mr. & Mrs. Frederick Murphy  
*in honor of Marissa Fierston*  
Lynne Nathan  
*in honor of Jake Madnick*  
Lynne Nathan  
*in honor of Donna & Pat*  
Lynne Nathan  
*in honor of Sadie Noonan*  
Erin B. Noonan  
*in honor of Evelyn Krevolin*  
Mr. and Mrs. Francis O'Mara  
*in honor of the 5 day 4s teachers*  
Jodi Palmieri  
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*in honor of Mrs. Forte & Ms. Maria*  
Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey Youngquist  
*in honor of Melissa Norell*  
Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey Youngquist

#### **IN-KIND DONATIONS**

Snehal Naik  
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Tricia Bohan Photography  
Updike, Kelly & Spellacy  
Nancy Elizabeth Wallace

#### **BOOK DRIVE HONOR ROLL Donations of 500 books or more**

Abraham Pierson Elementary School,  
Clinton  
Baldwin Middle School, Guilford  
Bedford Middle School Student Council,  
Westport  
Branchville Elementary School  
Breakthrough Elementary School,  
Hartford  
Christian Heritage School, Trumbull  
Courtyard by Marriott Orange  
Deer Run School, East Haven  
Emma Hart Willard School, Berlin  
Fairfield Preparatory School  
Betsey Farrell, Bethany  
Fraser Woods School, Newtown  
Girl Scout Troop 38318, Milford

Girls Scouts of Connecticut: Bridgeport, Hartford, North Haven, North Windham, Torrington, Waterbury and Wilton Service Centers  
 Haddam-Killingworth Middle School  
 Hall Memorial School, Willington  
 Hopkins School Read to Grow Club, New Haven  
 Independent Day School, Middlefield  
 James Blackstone Memorial Library, Branford  
 Jared Eliot School, Clinton  
 Junior League of Eastern Fairfield County  
 Killingworth Elementary School  
 Kiwanis Club of Fairfield  
 Ana Kyrzczak and Leah Salzano, Madison  
 Mary R. Tisko School, Branford  
 Mary T. Murphy School, Branford  
 Mary Taylor Memorial United Methodist Church, Milford  
 Memorial Elementary School, East Hampton  
 Michael Kim, DDS, Dental Office, Newtown  
 Middlebrook School, Wilton  
 New Haven County Bar Association  
 New Haven Home Recovery  
 R.J. Julia Booksellers, Madison  
 RBS, Bridgeport  
 Red Barn Children's Center, Clinton  
 Patricia Shea House Party, Hartford  
 Shoreline School of Montessori, Branford  
 Stanley T. Williams School, Northford  
 Stratford Academy  
 Suffield Middle School  
 Totoket Valley Elementary School, North Branford  
 United Way of Coastal Fairfield County  
 Melanie Ward and Karen Seligson House Party, Madison  
 Westport Country Playhouse  
 Yes Club, Nathan Hale-Ray School, East Haddam  
 Delaney Yule, Southbury

## THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

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

### ACORD

Deborah Ahern  
 Marjory Aronson  
 Faith Barrington  
 Anne Berman  
 Belinda Bralver  
 Carol Burke  
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 Monica Cavender  
 Robin Charney  
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 Nancy Vagnini  
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 Mary Ellen Vincent  
 Linda Von Ancken  
 Constance Walsh  
 Helen White

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



## READ TO GROW BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2011

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James Welbourne\*  
City Librarian, retired, New Haven

\* retired from the board as of June 30, 2011

### IN MEMORIAM: JAMES WELBOURNE



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

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

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

Jim was a gentle, wonderful man and we miss him.



**Since 1998, Read to Grow has been working to help Connecticut parents stimulate their children's early literacy development, and to provide free books for children of all ages.**



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[readtogrow@readtogrow.org](mailto:readtogrow@readtogrow.org)