We thank all our donors in the last fiscal year (July 1, 2014–June 30, 2015) and give special acknowledgment to those in our new Circle of Friends. This recognition includes the Corporate Circle (CC), the Gold Circle (GC) and the Sustaining Circle (SC).

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In memory of all of our loved ones who could not be with us
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If we have inadvertently omitted a name, printed a name incorrectly, or categorized anyone incorrectly, please accept our apologies. Please call us at 203.488.6800 to alert us to any error so that we can correct our records.

SPRING 2016 | 5
The 2014–15 fiscal year was one of accomplishment and celebration. To mark our 15th year, a celebration event was held last April at Saint Clements Castle in Portland that highlighted the contributions of 15 champions of children from across the state. Honorees ranged from Connecticut’s Commissioner of the Office of Early Childhood Myra Jones-Taylor to Chelsea Fitzgerald, an elementary school student from Wallingford who runs annual book drives to benefit Read to Grow.

Along with acknowledging our friends and others who have advanced the cause of young children and their families, Read to Grow moved forward to strengthen our two flagship programs—Books for Babies and Books for Kids.

Two new initiatives within Books for Kids, both of which focus on delivering children’s books and early childhood literacy education to families who live in need, took root and flourished in 2014-15. With grants to support these projects, we opened more than 20 Book Places and formed a dozen community-based partnerships. Both initiatives call for forming collaborations with other nonprofits that already serve low-income and at-risk families.

Near the end of the fiscal year, we were delighted to receive news that Simon & Schuster would be giving us more than 21,000 new children’s books. Their gift was significant in light of an increased demand for our books created by the new Book Places and Partnerships. Simon & Schuster has already notified us of a follow-up donation of 15,000 children’s books coming this winter.

As part of our efforts to acknowledge our supporters, we announced plans to create the Circle of Friends. This new designation has become an appreciation of generous and steadfast donors to Read to Grow.

By the end of fiscal 2015, we focused on a new strategic initiative within the Books for Babies program. Our prenatal intervention project will take Read to Grow to community health centers and primary care clinics to reach expectant women. In this “earliest touch point,” we intend to reach mothers-to-be with childhood literacy information, resources and baby books so that they are both ready and equipped to become their babies’ first and most important teachers.

Lastly, I am happy to report for fiscal year 2014–15, Read to Grow once again received an unqualified, or clean audit opinion from our external auditors, Murphy & Company, LLC.