

# BOOKS TO DREAMS, Inc. ANNUAL REPORT

July 2009 through June 2010

A literacy program for children in need, Miriam Stannard Epstein, director, 312 Ferguson Road, Manchester, CT 06040, [www.bookstodreams.org](http://www.bookstodreams.org)

## STARTING OUR FIFTEENTH YEAR!

### **'The Key'**

*\*Some newspaper headlines from the past*

**Manchester woman starts educational program for preschoolers at Windham homeless shelter**

*Teacher gives homeless children extra chance*

**Woman helps quench children's thirst for books**

**Volunteers helping shelter residents clear obstacles**

**Taking Storytelling To the Shelters**

*Books to Dreams Program Inspires Children by the Thousands*

**'Reading lady' helps spark children's love affair with books**

**Books to Dreams: A giant step to loving to read**

*Manchester resident enters ninth year with her Books to Dreams program*

*She would rather share a book with a child than anything*

## **Books to Dreams, Inc. completed its FOURTEENTH YEAR**

**Children's Books Given Since Founding of Program (1996).....326,822**

**2009-2010 CHILDREN'S BOOKS DISTRIBUTED.....14,780**

We are pleased that Books to Dreams, Inc. has now completed **fourteen** years of literacy service to children in need. It has been a great joy. Thank you EVERYONE – You *all* have been an amazing blessing for these children !

### **NEW TIMES – NEW PARADIGMS**

Books to Dreams has gone in a new direction since **January 1, 2009**. We specialize in **HEAD START PROGRAMS** where we provide books and literacy programs.

**A. BOOKS PROVIDED TO 40 HEAD START PROGRAMS.....7,945**

Books to Dreams, Inc. provided books (and literacy programs in Manchester) for **29 Head Start towns** in Connecticut: **Baltic, Brooklyn, Colchester, Danielson, Dayville, East Hartford, East Lyme, Enfield, Griswold, Groton, Jewett City, Killingly, Ledyard, Manchester, Moosup, Mystic, New Britain, New London, Norwich, Plainfield, Preston, Putnam, Salem, Stonington, Taftville, Uncasville, Vernon, Waterford & Willimantic.** (*Many towns have 2 or more programs.*)

<b>HEAD START PROGRAMS</b>	<b>Children's Books</b>	<b>Parent's Choice</b>	<b>Teacher Resource</b>	<b>Libraries</b>	
EastConn	731	195	60	37	
East Hartford	652	195	57	37	
Enfield	335	132	55	35	
Manchester	488	320	44		
New Britain	1157	463	106	81	
Norwich	1516	400	78	46	
Willimantic	400	95	53	35	
*Even Start, Willimantic	105	30	7		<b>Grand Total</b>
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>5,384</b>	<b>1,830</b>	<b>460</b>	<b>271</b>	<b>7,945 BOOKS</b>

**B. BTD PRE-SCHOOL PROGRAMS - HEAD START (MANCHESTER)**

A total of **14** storytelling programs (2 programs per classroom) per year were presented. **252** children were provided with books to keep, along with the themed programs.

**C. BTD SHELTER PROGRAMS – HOLY FAMILY HOME AND SHELTER (WILLIMANTIC)**

A total of **10** monthly programs were presented with the assistance of the **Books to Dreams Volunteers** (see page 3 for names). *Multiple copies of the book featured were given to each family.*

**D. BOOKS PROVIDED TO OTHER PROGRAMS**

Books include Children’s Books, Parents’ Choice, Teacher Resource & Library Books

1. **Books for Shelters (2 shelters).....1,173**  
 Holy Family Home and Shelter, Willimantic (798); Village for Families and Children – Safe Home, Hartford (375).
2. **Soup Kitchen Book Boxes (located in 4 soup kitchens).....3380**  
 Cornerstone, Rockville (810); Isaiah 58 Covenant, Willimantic (1830); Loaves and Fishes, Enfield (145); MACC Shepherd’s Place Soup Kitchen, Manchester (595).
3. **Books to Inner City Schools (1 school).....207**  
 East Hartford Public Schools (207)
4. **Books Donated to Special Children’s Organizations (5 organizations).....1,333**  
 Books to Dreams Family Outreach, East Hartford & Ohio (37); Ebony Horsewomen, Hartford (27), Hartford Correctional Center (310); Manchester Area Network for Aids (MANA) (746); York Correctional Institution – Adult Library, Niantic (213).

**5. Books for International Programs (2 countries) .....260**

**Arm 2 Arm (BONNIE LENDER), Dominican Republic (130) & Maryknoll (FATHER TOM GOECKLER), Haiti (130)** – In order to assure delivery to these countries, these books were hand-carried by BTM volunteers. Other countries receiving books from BTM in the past were **Costa Rica, Cuba, Honduras, Iraq, Puerto Rico, South Africa, Tanzania & Uganda (and Dominican Republic, Haiti).**

**6. BTM/CLA Connection (Books to Dreams/ Connecticut Library Assoc.).....482**

Deaccessioned books processed at **2** libraries by volunteers and directly brought to BTM book boxes located in **2** soup kitchens, **1** shelter and **1** school: **Bentley Library**, Bolton, **Liz Thornton/MACC Soup Kitchen**, Manchester (**82**), **Avon Public Library**, Tina Panik/the Mercy Shelter, Hartford (**350**) & **Jumoke Academy**, Hartford (**50**).

**E. VOLUNTEERS, DONATIONS, AND ASSISTANCE – THANK YOU ALL VERY MUCH- THE PROGRAM WOULDN'T BE POSSIBLE WITHOUT YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS!****VOLUNTEERS**

**MARY COX**, Windham, **PAT DUBIEL**, Columbia, **JANET HAINES**, Windham, **DEE & DALE HAMMON**, Windham, **AMY HENRY**, Oakdale, **SUE MOON**, Woodstock, **ANNETTE MURPHY**, Mansfield Center, **LUZELLA ROOS**, South Windham, **BRENDA ROSEN**, South Windham, volunteered at the **Holy Family Home and Shelter** for the BTM literacy programs. (Also **PAMELA HORROCKS & NORENE SWEET**).

**TARA ARNER**, Tolland, **JOANNE BEDARD**, Ellington, **WILL & PAIGE CALHOUN**, Manchester, **JANET, DAN, GABRIELLE & MARY CLAIRE COMEAU**, Manchester, **JAN DAMIANO**, Manchester, **GRACE DILLON**, Cheshire, **JOAN DOWER**, Manchester, **BRENDA & SAVANNAH LaFLEUR**, Manchester, **RAMONA LaFRANCE**, Manchester, **SANDY MAY**, Glastonbury, **MATTHEW MELIA**, Manchester, **MARISA & NICOLE OZARK**, Columbia, **LINDA PAQUETTE**, South Windsor, **CLARE SHOUP**, Ellington, **LIZ THORNTON**, Bolton.

**BOOKS and/or READING BUDDY DONATIONS**

(B) = BOOKS, (RB) = READING BUDDIES, (D) = DELIVERED

**BRENDA ROSEN**, South Windham (B, D); **JODIE SPRAGUE & CARL BECK**, Tolland (B, D); **LISA KROPP**, Manchester (B, D); **PHYLLIS L. TILDES**, Award Winning Children's Author, Savannah, GA (NEW! Autographed B, D); **SAMANTHA & LAURA MARTIN**, Wethersfield (B, RB, D); **BARBARA VIZOYAN**, Manchester (B, D); **Uptown Consignment**, **LIZ PISA**, South Windsor (B); **CONNIE GILLIES**, Middletown (B, D); **KELSEY UGUCCIONI & MAURA MURCKO**, Cheshire (B), (**BRENDA ROSEN** delivered); **DKG Theta Chapter**, (B), (**ANNETTE MURPHY** delivered); **CAMERON RICHARDSON**, Manchester (NEW RB!, D); **KRISTIN, JORDAN & OLIVIA MANOS**, Frederick, MD(B, D); **DEE HAMMON & Adult Fellowship**, **First Congregational Church**, Windham (B, D); **ROBIN TUCZKEWYCZ**, Hampton (B, D); **DENISE DUPELL**, Manchester (B, D); **JOANNE & SAM BEDARD**, Ellington (B, D); **PAIGE & WILL CALHOUN**, Manchester (B, D); **Daisy Girl Scout Troup**, **St. Bridget School**, Manchester (NEW B!, D); **LISA CORDOVA**, Glastonbury (RB, D); **CINDY KOWALCZUK**, Glastonbury (NEW B!, D); **PAM BLASS**, Manchester (B, RB, D); **JAN KASACEK**, Storrs (RB, D); **MARIE WEBER**, Coventry (B, RB, D); **CHARLEEN KNAPP**, **Chapter 5, PEO**, Mansfield Center (NEW B!, D); **MIRIAM STANNARD EPSTEIN**, Manchester (B, D); **SUE MOON**, Woodstock (B, D); **JOYCE MELIA**, Ellington (B, D); **ALBERTA CULLEY**, Avon (B, D); **KATHLEEN DARGAN**, Glastonbury (B, D); **JOANNE SLOT**, Grade 5 teacher, **St. Bridget School**, Cheshire (B, D); **DKG Theta Chapter** (B, D); **BRENDA ROSEN**, South Windham (B, D); **SHARON BARTLETT**, Coventry (B, D); **Vernon Historical Society**, **TRICIA GRENIER**, Vernon, & **DEB WILSON**, Rockville (B, D); **MONICA LEE**, Manchester (B, D); **BRENDA LaFLEUR**, Manchester (B, D); **BROOKE SHANNON**, **Windham Textile Museum** (RB, D); **MARY CLAIRE COMEAU**, Manchester (RB, D); **JANE & TOM ZEMKE**, Manchester (B, D).

**OTHER DONATIONS**

**PAULINE GREGOIRE (Dr. Caye)** of Manchester, toothpaste; **HEIDI VAN FLATERN** of Willimantic, pillow pals; **LINDA CAROSELLA** of Farmington, pencils bookmarks & journals; **BARBARA DENNIS** of Middlebury, hygiene products; **GEORGE TORELLO & KIM LANGLEY**, **Torello Engineers**, Essex, printed BTM literature. Thank you all very much!

**1) Donations - General**

Margaret Anthony	\$25.00
The Arner Family	\$46.50
The Charter Oak Federal Credit Union - Groton (Lindsey Henry)	\$556.00
Civitan Club of Simsbury & Farmington Valley	\$100.00
Evelyn Clark	\$50.00
Linda Clark	\$150.00
Janet & Dan Comeau	\$648.00
Janet DeCarolis	\$25.00
Irene & Roger Dionne	\$110.00
East Farms School Student Council, Farmington	\$264.61
Dorothy Gill	\$10.00
Connie Gillies	\$50.00
Dee Hammon	\$50.00
Cissy & Wallace Leifer	\$150.00
Bobbi Miller	\$50.00
Cindy Palmer (in honor of Mystic & Noank library staff)	\$50.00
Private Foundation	\$1,800.00
Brenda Rosen	\$20.00
Dency Sargent	\$100.00
Simsbury Woman's Club	\$150.00
Soroptomists International of Greater Hartford	\$500.00
Soroptomists International of Willimantic	\$100.00
Horace Porter School, Janet Stice & Panther Players	\$300.00
Ellen & George Suljak	\$100.00
Chuck Swallow (in memory of his wife Dolores)	\$500.00
Kathleen Weston (in memory of Matthew Joseph Lavigne)	\$25.00

**GENERAL TOTAL = \$5,930.11**

**2) Donations made in memory of our dear personal and LTD friend, RICHARD MARTINIK**

Acceleron, Inc., East Granby	\$150.00
Susan & Edward Alamed	\$15.00
Bud & Claudette Bailey	\$20.00
Faith & Richard Brayer	\$25.00
Annette Carr	\$50.00

Randy & Evelyn Christensen	\$10.00
Alberta Culley	\$100.00
Paula & Sal DeDominicis	\$50.00
Marge Diachenko	\$25.00
Cherl Dudek & Debra Sticht	\$20.00
Patrick & Christine Farley	\$25.00
Bernadette Ferry & Dolores Callegher	\$20.00
First Assurance Assoc. - Jeff Boulrice & Patrick Farley	\$25.00
Beth & Glenn Gerber	\$5.00
Virginia Glienke	\$15.00
Eleanor Hankard	\$15.00
The Hartford - Commercial Compliance Staff (for Sandra Martinik)	\$110.00
Paul Henault	\$25.00
Mary Herlihy	\$25.00
T. J. Herlihy Insurance, Simsbury	\$50.00
William Hildebrandt and The Stanley Co. matching grant	\$100.00
Barbara & Buzz Holmes	\$25.00
Ellen & Paul Levesque	\$25.00
Margaret Libera	\$15.00
Martha & Stuart Lott	\$10.00
Lynn MacLeod	\$25.00
Thomas Malloy	\$20.00
Betty Jean & Robert Martinik, Sr.	\$100.00
Elinor Matczak	\$20.00
Barbara McAllister	\$10.00
Marjorie Miller & Family	\$25.00
Donald Paine	\$35.00
Frances Roberts & Betty Hudson	\$50.00
Elisabeth Rollins	\$10.00
Patricia Scanlon	\$25.00
Evelyn Sherriffs	\$20.00
Squadron Line Elem. School Cheer Fund	\$25.00
Joe, Charlie & Evakay Sweeney	\$25.00
Claire Webb	\$25.00
Joan & Paul Whitman	\$50.00
Nancy Woodworth	\$25.00
Betty Wrisley	\$20.00

**RICHARD MARTINIK TOTAL = \$1,465.00**

**3) Donations made for Miriam's Solo Walk-A-Thon (Oct. 5, 2009), 17 miles (45,016 steps) for Books to Dreams, Inc.**

Adult Fellowship - 1st Cong. Church - Windham - Dee Hammon	\$210.00
Alpha Delta Kappa Epsilon	\$335.00
Reggie & Herb Barall	\$50.00
Anne Beechler	\$50.00
Pat Beeman & George Ducharme - Communitas	\$50.00
Becky Belling - Signatures Salon & RK Hair Design	\$200.00
Eileen & Leo Bonetti	\$25.00
Etta Brewer	\$50.00
BTD Holy Family Volunteers	\$140.00
Janet DeCarolis	\$25.00
Lynn Chirico	\$25.00
Linda Clark	\$25.00
Hanna & Bruce Clements	\$50.00
Jan & Paul Damiano	\$100.00
Barbara Dennis	\$20.00
Susan & John DeWolf	\$100.00
Joan Dower	\$25.00
Pat Dubiel	\$50.00
Howard Epstein	\$68.00
Lynda & Wayne Figurido	\$50.00
Nancy Gervais	\$25.00
Connie Gillies	\$70.00
Tricia Grenier	\$50.00
Janet Haines	\$50.00
Amy Henry	\$25.00
Diane Higgins	\$40.00
Pamela & Bob Horrocks	\$100.00

Jeanne Kornrich	\$14.00
Cindy Kowalczuk	\$75.00
Barbara Lofstrom	\$25.00
Mary Elizabeth & Richard Long	\$25.00
Roxanne McAlvany	\$140.00
Vicki Merriam	\$25.00
Judith Merrick	\$100.00
Ann Messecar	\$20.00
Anne & Walt Miller	\$20.00
Jeanne Morascini	\$10.00
Annette Murphy	\$42.00
Mystic Meditation Group (Laura Zaglio)	\$195.00
Norwich Diocesan Council of Catholic Women	\$280.00
Sandy & Lou Ouellette	\$30.00
Cindy Palmer	\$30.00
Linda & Steve Paquette	\$25.00
Janice Pikal	\$20.00
Brenda Rosen	\$30.00
Amy & Bob Silliman	\$80.00
Nancy Simonds	\$25.00
Hazel Smith	\$25.00
Soroptomist International of Greater Hartford	\$200.00
Norene Sweet	\$14.00
George Torello, Jr.	\$100.00
Gayle & Barry Trabitz	\$25.00
Marie Weber	\$30.00
Leslie Wilper	\$500.00

**WALK-A-THON TOTAL = \$4,113.00**  
**GRAND TOTAL \$11,508.11**

**G. BOOKS TO DREAMS, INC. FINANCIAL STATEMENT – FISCAL YEAR 7/1/2009-6/30/2010**

BOOKS TO DREAMS, Inc. - Financial Statement - Fiscal Year 7/1/2009-6/30/2010

Brought Forward from 2008-2009		\$1,954.58
<b>INCOME</b>	Grants and Donations	\$11,508.11
	Interest	\$0.28
	<b>TOTAL INCOME:</b>	\$11,508.39
<b>EXPENDITURES (all details available)</b>		<b>TOTAL FUNDS: \$13,462.97</b>

	Program	Spec. Funds	Book Grants	Totals
Books	\$4,822.48		\$5,578.00	\$10,400.48
Postage	\$471.88			\$471.88
Office Supplies	\$195.61			\$195.61
Incorp. And other Fees	\$50.00			\$50.00
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$5,539.97</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$5,578.00</b>	<b>\$11,117.97</b>

(11,117.97)  
**\$2,345.00**

**BALANCE**

## **H. SPECIAL THANKS TO BOARD MEMBERS, BUSINESS MANAGER & OTHERS**

Books to Dreams, Inc. Board Members for 2009-10 are: **Joan Dower** of Manchester (Chairman), **Pat Dubiel** of Columbia (Vice Chairman), **Pamela Horrocks** of Willimantic (Secretary), **Linda Clark** of Enfield (Treasurer), & **Howard Epstein** of Manchester (Business Manager). Along with these important people, I would like to thank all of the wonderful **volunteers and contributors**, from all over Connecticut and other states, who have been dedicated to the program, in some cases, for years. This program would not exist if it were not for the hundreds of individuals, businesses, religious organizations, schools, and organizations that have volunteered, donated and contributed to Books to Dreams, Inc. these past **fourteen** years. Thank you **Linda & Evelyn Clark** of **Lovable Huggables** have provided BTM with **1,055** reading buddies this year bringing the total to over **23,500** reading buddies that they have processed and labeled. Reading buddies are a popular and highly motivational tool used to encourage children in the BTM program to read. I am most grateful to the thousands of inspiring and brave **children** who continue to read in spite of all that they have to overcome in their lives. All of the children's books, given through the Books to Dreams, Inc. program, were either donated or purchased from monetary donations. **Thank you EVERYONE – You all have been an amazing blessing for these children!**

## **I. LETTERS FROM HEAD START PROGRAMS (excerpts)**

### **EASTCONN HEAD START**

"EASTCONN Head Start would like to thank you and Books to Dreams for donating books to our program and families over and over again. Our program focuses on family literacy, embedding monthly activities for families into regular program events. The Books to Dreams donation supports our vision of providing books to families, and allows us to supplement our own library with quality books for children. Our preschool classrooms use the books with the children on a regular basis, for children to select on their own, or to be read to in small and large group settings. Children and families have also been given the opportunity to select a book for their home library on several occasions.... Thank you again for your continued support of our program."

Kimberly Lewendon, Assistant Director of Early Childhood Services

### **EAST HARTFORD HEAD START**

"...I am very thankful for your wonderful program 'Books to Dreams', which puts books into the hands of children who might otherwise not have the pleasure of having a book of their own. I am also grateful for all of the wonderful people who donate so generously to make this a possibility.... I am happy to report that 216 Head Start children chose a book into which we wrote his or her name. Many parents also had an opportunity to select a book. Some children walked up to the tables on which we had displayed the books, and without hesitation chose a book. Some of the children were more deliberate in making a selection. All of the smiles let me know that the seeds have been sown. We all can just hope that your efforts will set the stage for a lifelong love of books. Thank you, Miriam and all of the donors."

Judith Merrick, Education Manager, Willowbrook School

### **ENFIELD HEAD START**

"Once again, thank you for the donation of books to our program. We truly appreciate being included in your very special program. The teachers, parents and especially the children are very grateful for the gift they can open over and over again.... The Parent Choice display book supply was replenished throughout the spring season with the many books donated. We also displayed the books during our Father's Night and each family chose a book to bring home. Our parents were amazed at the ways in which the books are donated through so many generous people. They were especially touched by the fact that you, yourself, walked solo to raise money for the books for their children. Your generosity and that of your wonderful donors was discussed at our Policy Committee meeting in March."

Melisa Levasseur, Education/Disabilities Coordinator

MANCHESTER HEAD START

"Thank you so much for the generous gift of your time and talent for the 'Books to Dreams' program earlier this month, and for the continued donation of books for our Head Start children. It makes such a difference for our families, many of whom have limited access to good children's literature. The children loved taking home their farm animal books, as well as their new reading buddies. They were so excited when they learned they could keep them! Several children told me they read the books to their 'buddies' as soon as they got home. You also have supplied us with extra books for the family-school partnership program. A 'homework' sheet is sent home each month, and parents are requested to read to their children and to do various fun activities with them. Any parent returning their completed homework sheet gets a 'Books to Dreams' book, and I have seen a big increase in the number of homework [sheets] being returned since we started.... We are so grateful for 'Books to Dreams' and for your continued support. Thank you!

Jerry Reisman, Director & Ann Messecar, Education Manager

NEW BRITAIN HEAD START

"I want you to know how much we appreciate the many books that you have donated to our program.... What a wonderful addition these books have made to our program. At our Open House in September, the children and families were so excited and appreciative of the books they received from Books to Dreams, as were the families this fall who are participating in the Raising Readers Parent Book Club. The books have also been a wonderful addition to our library in the teacher's resource room.... Thank you so much for your help in providing the gift of reading to our children, families and staff."

Terry Konefar, Leanne Diana and Amy Griswold, Education/Disabilities Managers

NORWICH HEAD START.

"The books we received from 'Books to Dreams' this year were exceptional! They are being distributed as per your instructions and are being enjoyed by our teachers, parents and children. On behalf of all of us at TVCCA Head Start, I would like to extend my gratitude for the many books ... we received from 'Books to Dreams' this year."

Debra Patterson, TVCCA Head Start

WINDHAM HEAD START

"...The teachers are very excited to have more books to add to their classroom libraries and to have new reference books.... As you probably already know, we had a fire in our multi-purpose room last year that destroyed all the books in our school library and any reference books that were in our teacher's room. We plan on putting some of the donated books into our school or community library too, so we can begin to build that up again.... The picture books and board books are just perfect for our youngest students and there is always such a wide variety that it is fun to see what everyone chooses. Parents have shared the fact that these books become a special part of their child's personal library at home because they received the book at school.... Thank you once again...."

Mary Jane Crotty, Director, Windham Early Learning Center

**The Books to Dreams, Inc. program is dedicated to my dad, Joseph Edson Stannard (1911-2001), who always had time to read to me.**

In peace,

Miriam Stannard Epstein, director



Howard Epstein, business manager

**We hope you enjoy this annual report. To help save BTM resources, when through reading, please save or pass on to others. NEW books (for children ages birth to 5) & monetary donations are always needed and greatly appreciated. BTM is a 501c(3) non-profit corporation.**