



ANNUAL REPORT

BOOKS TO DREAMS, Inc.

July 2012 through June 2013

Starting Our EIGHTEENTH Year!

A literacy program for children in need, Miriam Stannard Epstein, director,
312 Ferguson Road, Manchester, CT 06040, www.bookstodreams.org

Books to Dreams, Inc. Statistics

Children’s Books Given Since Founding of Program (1996).....365,092
2012-2013 CHILDREN’S BOOKS DISTRIBUTED..... 12,233

We are pleased that Books to Dreams, Inc. has now completed **seventeen** years of literacy service to children in need. It has been a great joy. Thank you EVERYONE – Thank you for believing in literacy and books for everyone’s children.

NEW TIMES – NEW PARADIGMS

Books to Dreams has gone in a new direction since **January 1, 2009**. We now **specialize** in **HEAD START PROGRAMS**.

A. BOOKS GIVEN TO HEAD START PROGRAMS (throughout the state).....5,796

Books to Dreams, Inc. provided books (and literacy programs in Manchester) for **Head Start Programs** in Connecticut. The BTD director also volunteers in the Manchester classrooms weekly, throughout the year.

HEAD START PROGRAMS	Children's Books	Parent's Choice	Teacher Resource	Libraries	
East Hartford	532	90	30	24	
Enfield	314	80	37	20	
Manchester	814	494	519	214	
Jump Start, Manchester	–	70	–	–	
New Britain	482	272	86	83	
Norwich	650	245	97	83	
Willimantic	302	60	20	23	
Even Start, Willimantic	105	40	10	–	Grand Total

TOTALS 3,199 1,281 799 447 5,796 BOOKS

B. BOOKS PROVIDED TO OTHER PROGRAMS

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

- 1. Books Donated to Special Children’s Organizations (6 organizations).....968**
NEW – Children in Crisis, Windham (61); Ebony Horsewomen, Hartford (35), Hartford Correctional Center (280); Health Collective East, formerly Manchester Area Network for Aids, MANA) (447); Village for Families and Children – Safe Home, Hartford (15); York Correctional Institution – Adult Library, Niantic (130).

- 2. Soup Kitchen Book Boxes (located in 4 soup kitchens).....4,276**
Cornerstone, Rockville (1,095); Isaiah 58 Covenant, Willimantic (1,854); Loaves and Fishes Soup Kitchen, Enfield (292); MACC Shepherd's Place Soup Kitchen, Manchester (1,035). **BTD/CLA Connection (Books to Dreams/ Connecticut Library Association** includes deaccessioned books processed at **Bentley Library** by **Liz Thornton** and directly brought to BTD book boxes located in **MACC Soup Kitchen**, Manchester and **Bolton Food Pantry**.
- 3. Books in Memory of Maryknoll Priest, Father Tom's Guatemala Program.....101**
Other countries receiving books from BTD in the past were **Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Honduras, Iraq, South Africa, Tanzania , Uganda & (Puerto Rico)***
- 4. Schools (2).....996**
O'Connell School, East Hartford (846); **North Windham School** (150).
- 5. Family Outreach (4).....96**
Former shelter families now living in - Danielson, CT; Edgewood, MD; Elyria OH; Hartford, CT.

**C. 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 HAMMON**, Windham, **SUE MOON**, Woodstock, **ANNETTE MURPHY**, Mansfield Center, **LUZELLA ROOS**, South Windham, **BRENDA ROSEN**, South Windham.

JOANNE BEDARD, Ellington, **JOAN DOWER**, Manchester, **SANDY MAY**, Glastonbury, **BRITTANY COVILL**, Manchester, **REBECCA ZWERLING**, Manchester, **LINDA, BEN & MARISSA PAQUETTE**, South Windsor, **LIZ THORNTON**, Bolton & **LINDA CLARK**, Enfield.

BOOKS and/or READING BUDDY DONATIONS

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

TRICIA GRENIER, Vernon (B, D); **THE SMITH FAMILY & Friend**, Manchester (B, D); **LINDA PAQUETTE & FRIEND**, South Windsor (B, D); **BRENDA ROSEN**, South Windham (B, D); **Waterford Public Library**, **KATHLEEN LOGSDON & CHRISTINE TZACZYK** (B, D); **BARBARA VIZOYAN**, Manchester (B,D); **BRIAN MOLINARI**, Glastonbury (B, D); **LINDA CAROSELLA**, Farmington (B, RB, D NEW!); **ANNE & WALT MILLER**, Manchester (B, D); **Chapter S PEO**, **CHARLEEN KNAPP**, Mansfield Center (B, D); **BRINDA VAN**, Willington (B, D); **BETTY SPAULDING**, Manchester (B, D NEW!); **PHIL SAWYER**, Glastonbury (RB, D); **Theta Chapter Delta Kappa Gamma**, **ANNETTE MURPHY** (B, D); **Pleasant Valley School**, **MARK LARAIA** (B, D); **CONNIE GILLIES**, Middletown, **CONNIE SINZ & MARYANN BOORD**, Notre Dame Church, Durham (B); **JOANNE BEDARD**, Ellington (B, D); **MIRIAM EPSTEIN**, Manchester (B, D); **MICHELE BEAULIEU-DZEN & Friends**, Manchester, handmade reading buddies! (RB, D). **SYDNIE KREMIDAS**, South Windsor High School (**National Honor Society**), **Timothy Edwards Middle School Leo Club**, & **CINDI YAKOUBIAN**, HUGE BOOK DONATION!

OTHER DONATIONS

LINDA CAROSELLA, Farmington, butterfly stickers, bookmarks, paper; **PAULINE GREGOIRE (Dr. Caye)**, Manchester, toothpaste; **GEORGE TORELLO & KIM LANGLEY**, **Torello Engineers**, Essex, printed BTD literature. Thank you all very much!

D. BOOKS TO DREAMS HIGHLIGHTS 2012-2013

1. BOOKS TO DREAMS, INC. IS INCLUDED IN A BOOK BY MARY O'CONNOR, LIFE IS FULL OF SWEET SPOTS – AN EXPLORATION OF JOY

A Surprising Travel Guide for All Who Search for Joy

Mary invites readers to, “Explore and connect with the niches and nuances of the earth, the sea and sky, our bodies, minds and souls – the places where joy resides. Come away with new understanding of life and how its beauty and powers make us inwardly hum, how gardening or stargazing, touching something wild, listening to the sounds of silence, learning and loving, just simply being, all feed our emotional wellness and craving for joy.”

She goes on, “Meet and read the personal reflections of over **40** artists and individuals from **20** states, Canada and Australia who share the ways and places in which they found fulfillment or simple contentment in life. Find nuggets of insight, supportive research and notable quotes that will help illuminate your own sweet spots of life. Stretch your mind and nurture your creativity through more than **150** listings and links to actual places, activities and resources for turning the discovery of joy into an everyday affair.” The book is available through **The Publisher's Bookstore, Amazon.com & Barnes and Noble.com**

What an honor it is to be a part of this unique and uplifting book. Mary O'Connor has been a devoted friend to Books to Dreams for many years. (Incidentally, Mary wrote the poem “Flight of the Monarch” especially for BT.D.) Thank you Mary and congratulations!

2. NEW! BOOKS TO DREAMS, INC. GIFT BASKET FUNDRAISER THEME GIFT BASKETS FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS FOR SALE.

Gift baskets and contents are donated and created by Anne Miller. You may select theme gift baskets or create your own! Children's gift baskets may include books, toys, games, puzzles, stuffed animals ... Gift baskets for adults may include sports items, wine w/glasses, travel supplies, etc. or any items you'd like. Baskets range from **\$10 to \$50**.

Would you like to see some examples? They're beautiful! Some gift theme baskets are on display in the window at: ANNE MILLER REAL ESTATE, 975 MAIN STREET, DOWNTOWN MANCHESTER. For ordering or questions call Anne at **860-647-8000**. **All proceeds go to BOOKS TO DREAMS, INC.** We thank you Anne and everyone for supporting BT.D in this way.

3. SPECIAL PROJECT, BUTTERFLY NAME CLOTHS BECOME QUILTS

From **1996 to 2010**, Books to Dreams presented literacy programs regularly in **12** homeless shelters throughout the state. At every program, rectangular tables would be covered with long pieces of fabric printed with brightly colored butterflies. The butterfly is the symbol of Books to Dreams, and these cloths brightened up the area as well as letting the children and families know that something special was going to happen.

After the storytelling and the children choosing their books to keep, I'd tell them that they would be remembered. They asked how I would be able to remember all of them, when I met so many children. I explained that each one of them would have their names printed with permanent markers next to one of the butterflies.

When the next BT.D program was presented at that shelter, the first thing the returning children would do, was to look for their name on the butterfly cloth. “Here's mine!”, they would say with big smiles. It meant so much to them to see their names printed there.

After many years, BT.D went in a different direction and the many cloths were carefully hung in a closet. One day I wondered, how can these special cloths be used now? Then I thought, these would make wonderful quilts to give to the grandchildren of some of the mothers from the early literacy programs, whom we've kept in touch with over these twenty years.

Here's the lovely end of the story. **DEE HAMMON**, a BTB volunteer and donor from Windham, agreed to ask the women in the **P's & Q's Quilting Group**, if they would make these quilts. Now, these beautiful butterfly 'name' quilts have gone to the young children to comfort them, to keep them warm and to read the names (this may be another way those children will be remembered). Thank you very much to **DEE, MARIE ELDRIDGE, OLIVE McCABE, EUNICE POTTER, BARBARA SWANSON, NORENE SWEET, BARBARA SWOL, LINDA WOLF & ELLEN WUPPERFELD.**

4. BTB DIRECTOR WRITES BOOK - LITERACY PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN IN NEED

The book covers the literacy programs: **THE KEY, 1993-1996; BOOKS TO THE STREETS, 1994-2004;** and **BOOKS TO DREAMS, INC., 1996-present.** After reading the completed book, it's astounding to look back at the many accomplishments and nearly **1,000** volunteers and donors. "Every single person, every volunteer and every donor, is the same in one way, even though they are uniquely different. They all truly believe in the idea of literacy and books for everyone's children. They all have supported this idea of Books to Dreams and some have been with us since **1993.** My heart is full of joy when I think of what we have accomplished together. Thank you." (from page 45, volunteers and donors).

The book was compiled from five cartons full of BTB photos and records which were then condensed. This process took nearly one year to compile and write. The book is a computer published hardcover. "**TRICIA GRENIER** is the person who made this book possible. Her patience, kindness, friendship and expertise ... Thank you." (from page 4, dedication and thank you).

If you're interested in seeing the book, please let me know.

5. A VERY SPECIAL PANTHER PLAYER'S PRODUCTION AND BTB

JANET STICE, through her annual **Panther Players'** dinner theatre, has dedicated half of the ticket sales to BTB for the past **17** years! These productions have been remarkable, and **Horace Porter School** (Columbia, CT) has been so fortunate to have Janet as their music teacher and director of these amazing shows. Janet retired at the end of the **2012-2013** school year and, so, last April's production of **Thoroughly Modern Millie** marked the last of her extraordinary shows. Thank you to **ANN CLAIMONT** and everyone who was involved.

Over these past **17** years, BTB is so appreciative to have received **\$5,100** from the proceeds of these sold out performances! Janet, we are ever grateful for your important funding and we wish you well in your retirement.

E. BOOKS TO DREAMS, INC. FINANCIAL STATEMENT – FISCAL YEAR 7/1/2012-6/30/2013

Brought Forward from 2011-2012		\$3,293.15
INCOME	Grants/Donations/Rebates	\$4,788.99
EXPENDITURES (all details available)		TOTAL FUNDS: \$8,082.14

	Program	Special Funds	Book Grants	Totals
Books	\$3,591.35			\$3,591.35
Postage	\$142.28			\$142.48
Office Supplies	\$98.68			\$98.68
Incorp. & other Fees	\$50.00	\$455.00		\$50.00
TOTALS	\$3,882.51	\$455.00		\$4,337.51

(\$4,337.51)

BALANCE

\$3,744.63

F. BOOKS TO DREAMS, INC. FUNDING: JULY 2012 – June 2013

Adult Fellowship - 1st Congregational Church, Dee Hammon & Members	\$145.00	Susan & Richard Johnson	\$150.00
Tara Arner	\$25.00	Delores Kateley	\$25.00
Eileen & Leo Bonetti	\$50.00	Geoff King - Perfect Piece Furniture	\$100.00
Etta Brewer	\$25.00	Roxanne McAlvany	\$150.00
Linda Clark	\$75.00	Bobbi Miller	\$50.00
Janet & Dan Comeau	\$684.00	Anne Miller - Gift Baskets	\$270.00
Alberta Culley	\$100.00	Linda & Steve Paquette/Travelers	\$840.00
Susan & John DeWolf	\$100.00	Michele Palmer	\$25.00
Deena & Matthew Epstein	\$50.00	Margaret Russell	\$20.00
Miriam & Howard Epstein	\$589.99	Hazel & George Smith	\$25.00
Kit & Jamie Eves	\$100.00	Soroptimist International of Willimantic	\$100.00
Connie Gillies	\$50.00	Ellen & George Suljak	\$50.00
Jan Stice, Panther Players		Helen Syriac	\$30.00
Horace Porter School	\$500.00	West Avon Congregational Church	\$235.00
Pamela & Bob Horrocks	\$100.00	Ruth & Arnie Zackin	\$25.00
		GRAND TOTAL	\$4,688.99

G. SPECIAL THANKS TO BOARD MEMBERS, BUSINESS MANAGER & OTHERS

Books to Dreams, Inc. Board Members for 2012-13 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, 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 **seventeen** years. Thank you **Linda & Evelyn Clark** of **Lovable Huggables** have provided BTM with **565** reading buddies this year bringing the total to over **25,000** reading buddies!

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. They are always thrilled to receive their own books.

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! You are the reason that Books to Dreams, Inc. has kept its doors open for another year!**

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.