



ANNUAL REPORT

BOOKS TO DREAMS, Inc.

July 2015 through June 2016

A literacy program for children in need, **Miriam Stannard Epstein**, director

... A SURPRISE ENDING !

Books to Dreams, Inc. Statistics

<i>Children’s Books Given Since Founding of Program (1996).....</i>	375,833
2015-2016 CHILDREN’S BOOKS DISTRIBUTED.....	3,113

A. BOOKS GIVEN

- 1. ENFIELD HEAD START.....**905**
- 2. KEENEY STREET SCHOOL – PRESCHOOL.....**321**
- 3. MANCHESTER HEAD START.....**339**
- 4. NEW BRITAIN HEAD START.....**818**
- 5. WINDHAM EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER.....**142**
- 6. Books Donated to Special Children’s Organizations (2 organizations).....**67**
Ebony Horsewomen, Hartford (30), Hartford Correctional Center (37)
- 7. Soup Kitchens & Food Pantries (in 2 locations).....**521**
Cornerstone, Rockville (393); Loaves and Fishes Soup Kitchen, Enfield (128).

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

VOLUNTEERS

LINDA CLARK, Enfield & **EVELYN CLARK**, Newington, **JOAN DOWER**, Manchester, **LINDA PAQUETTE**, South Windsor, & **JOANNE BEDARD**, Ellington. Joanne, on her mail route, gave BTM books to children in need!

C. BOOKS and/or READING BUDDY DONATIONS

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

LINDA CAROSELLA, Farmington (B, D NEW!); **TRICIA GRENIER**, Vernon (B, D); **CAROLYN KOLWICZ**, Tolland (B,D); **ANNETTE MURPHY**, Mansfield Center (B,D); **LINDA PAQUETTE**, South Windsor (Workbooks, D); **PAULA RUBINOW**, Wethersfield (B, D NEW!); **BETTY SPAULDING**, Manchester (B, D NEW!); **BARBARA VIZOYAN**, Manchester (B,D NEW!). **LINDA & EVELYN Clark** of **Lovable Huggables** provided BTM with **835** reading buddies this year and over the years have provided over **27,000** reading buddies for BTM!

D. DIRECTOR'S ACTIVITIES 2015-2016

For the past school year, Miriam volunteered **four** days a week at the **Keeney Street School Preschool** in Manchester as part of the Books to Dreams, Inc. program. It was, once again, a pleasure in every way. Working with these inspired teachers and the delightful children has been joyous!

On December 8, 2015, Miriam was invited to be a guest storyteller by **MARY LOMBARDI**, Education Manager of the **New Britain Head Start**. The classrooms were celebrating the children's books by award winning author Jan Brett. Miriam read The Mitten and it was very well received. BTM was able to provide **100** new copies of the book for the children to keep. Howard also enjoyed the event.

On March 10, 2016, Miriam & Howard were invited back to celebrate Dr. Seuss. Once again Miriam was a guest storyteller and chose Green Eggs and Ham, which was also a hit. Mary wrote, "Thank you, thank you, thank you!" BTM also provided Dr. Seuss books for the children.

E. BOOKS TO DREAMS, INC. FINANCIAL STATEMENT – FISCAL YEAR 7/1/2015-6/30/2016

Brought Forward from 2015-2016	\$4,680.48	EXPENDITURES (details available)	
Income	\$1,447.00	Books	\$4,294.80
Total Funds	\$6,127.48	Office Supplies	\$116.48
Expenditures	(\$4,586.21)	Postage	\$174.93
		TOTAL	\$4,586.21

F. BOOKS TO DREAMS, INC. FUNDING: JULY 2015 – July 2016

Adult Fellowship, 1st Cong. Church of Windham, Dee Hammon & Members	\$200.00	Mary Elizabeth & Richard Long	\$100.00
Etta & John Brewer	\$75.00	Mona Martinik	\$50.00
Linda Clark	\$75.00	Roxanne McAlvany	\$100.00
Janet & Dan Comeau	\$72.00	Pixie & Dave Parks	\$50.00
Alberta Culley	\$75.00	William Pelto & Harry North	\$100.00
Denise & Jack Dupell	\$20.00	Hazel & George Smith	\$100.00
Miriam & Howard Epstein	\$60.00	Helen Syriac	\$100.00
Marcia & Irving Fuller	\$40.00	Heidi Van Flatern	\$100.00
Pamela & Bob Horrocks	\$100.00	Anne & Eric Vogel	\$30.00

GRAND TOTAL = \$1,447.00

SOME HIGHLIGHTS AND FACTS SPANNING NEARLY 25 YEARS

The Key (an educational program)

- **First** preschool in a homeless shelter in Connecticut
- Received the **McKinney Homeless Education Act Grant (Federal)**
- The Key appeared in the textbook for teacher education

Early Childhood Education Today

- Nearly **100** volunteers participated in the preschool and homework tutoring programs

Books to Dreams, Inc.

- **375,833** books given from **1993-2016**
- Wrote and received literacy grants for **16** years
- Over **200** organizations received BTM books
- Received Connecticut State funding for **five** years
- Nearly **1,000** donors and volunteers have participated

HIGHLIGHTS AND FACTS (Continued)

- Received **27** awards including: Soroptimist International of Greater Hartford Women of Distinction **2001, 2002**, Woman of the Year **2006**, Northeastern Region, National VOICES Award (**100** Women founders of Non-Profits selected), Every Day Heroes Award WFSB, **2007**
- Nearly **22,000** “special book requests” were filled for children in homeless shelters with a **98%** success rate of filling them
- **1,902** Preschool books about the children (ages **3-5**) made by the children with parents’ help
- Women of Courage booklet printed about strong mothers living in the shelters
- BTD volunteers carried donated books to **ten** countries: Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Honduras, Iraq, Puerto Rico, South Africa, Tanzania and Uganda
- Newspaper Articles – The Broadcaster North, The Bristol Press, The Chronicle, The Hartford Courant, Journal Inquirer, Manchester Life, New York Times, Norwich Bulletin

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

HERE’S THE SURPRISE ENDING **A FINAL FOND FAREWELL FOR BTD**

Dear friends, the time has come for us to close the doors of the Books to Dreams, Inc. program, as of June 30, 2016. It has been a privilege and a most joyful blessing for us. It was an enormously meaningful part of our lives.

We are deeply grateful to the faithful board members, donors, volunteers and the thousands of people who have participated over the almost twenty five years. It was an honor to be connected with all of the organizations, educational programs, shelters and individuals who were grateful and deserving recipients.

My heartfelt gratitude to Howard, who made Books to Dreams, Inc’s success possible. Thank you, Howard, for always believing in me. More than anything, we feel most grateful to have provided this service. Now, we are saying goodbye, we wish you well and ... thanks for the memories!

In peace,

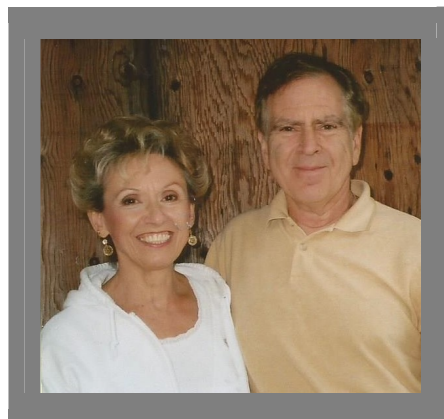
Miriam Stannard Epstein

Director and Founder

and

Howard Epstein

Howard Epstein
Business Manager



“Just like the butterfly, we all go through many changes before we are free to fly.” by M.S.E.

(Photo by Patricia Grenier)