

Special 10 Tenth Birthday Edition!

FAMILY READING PARTNERSHIP NEWSLETTER

SPRING/SUMMER
2008

Now We Are Ten!

Diane Lebo Wallace

Food, clothing, shelter—and books! We believe books are, indeed, one of the basics for a good life, especially for babies and children. For ten years we at Family Reading Partnership (FRP) have been giving books to families, reading books aloud, celebrating reading throughout our community and recirculating gently used children’s books. We have been welcoming newborns with a book at birth, producing fun calendars and banners that encourage reading, providing doctors with books to give their young patients, orchestrating book festivals, introducing kids to authors, dressing up as loveable book characters—and so much more.

We started with a bold vision: to build a culture of literacy where *all* children in our community know the pleasure of books and being read to as part of everyday family life. And we have made significant headway toward that goal. We know, for example, that a full two-thirds of local families surveyed who registered a child for kindergarten credit the Family Reading Partnership with influencing their attitudes toward reading. From talking with kindergarten teachers we also know that more children in our community are starting school ready to enjoy books and reading.

When we asked members of the community to tell us how Family Reading Partnership has made a difference in the lives of their families, we were flooded with enthusiastic responses from children, and from their moms, dads and caregivers.

“FRP improves our lives in a million little ways,” says one parent, who mentions the Bright Red Bookshelf, banners around town, calendars and book gifts through the Women, Infant and Children’s (WIC) program.

“FRP has helped us make books and reading a regular part of our life,” says another parent. “Our daughter

loves books!”

“The Read-a-thon helped me broaden my reading zone,” says a young reader who was part of this elementary school event for students.



We have given more than 200,000 books to families in our area since Family Reading Partnership began.

We have now placed more than 200,000 books into the hands of children! We know that our programs are working to help families understand the importance of sharing with their children the joy and excitement of reading together.

We are proud that we have also influenced other communities around the nation to start family reading partnerships of their own, using our programs as inspiration.

As Jim Trelease, author of *The Read-Aloud Handbook*, said of FRP, “Family

Reading Partnership is exceptional in the United States. Your organization should be held up as a national model for communities to say that this is what is possible to achieve when private and public work together for the good of children and families.”

As we celebrate ten years, we also affirm and acknowledge that “the book is just the beginning.” As FRP executive director Brigid Hubberman explains, “The real power lies in the combination of the book, the parent and child and the link created between home and school and family and community as a result of enjoying the book. Books build relationships.”

For ten years we have dreamed of a day when all families in our community will read to their

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Director's Words

Happy Birthday Family Reading Partnership! There is so much to celebrate! The ten-year story of the Family Reading Partnership is truly an amazing and inspiring one. It is a story of visionary yet practical dreams, hope and hard work, challenges seen as opportunities, determination and more determination, local and national impact and, of course, many families and children and thousands of books in between.



*Brigid Hubberman
Executive Director,
Family Reading
Partnership*

It is remarkable that in our first ten years more than 200,000 beautiful children's books have gone to families or, as we have come to say so often, into the hands, homes and hearts of children. We want each book to carry with it the message that snuggling up and reading aloud to your child as a special part of everyday family life is one of the most important and fun activities you can do.

The Family Reading Partnership is most of all a powerful story about community and collaboration. We knew early on that for our vision of a "culture" of literacy to become reality, it would take all of us. From the very beginning, with all our hearts, we believed that "together we are better," and each and every day we have acted out that motto. Indeed, in these fast-paced ten years, this community-wide team with a reading dream has joined forces with virtually every sector of the community to create reading magic. To all of you we are most grateful!

With the support of dedicated staff, committed volunteers and community partners, the culture of literacy that we imagined has grown and grown. Reflecting on all that we have accomplished in these past ten years, I can say to you with great confidence that with your continued support and involvement, the best is yet to come!

Brigid



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Katrina Morse

PROGRAM COORDINATORS

Lisa Berry
Mary Milne

OFFICE COORDINATOR

Kaye Stone

CONTRIBUTING AND EDITING

Jackie Dowdell
Emily Rhoads Johnson
Diane Lebo Wallace
FRP staff

LAYOUT/DESIGN

Katrina Morse

Family Reading Partnership Programs

Books Before Birth & Books at Birth

Every expectant family receives a book at a pre-natal visit and another book from the hospital when their baby is born.



Books to Grow On

Doctors give young families a book at each well visit with a prescription to "read to their children 20 minutes a day."



Welcome to School Book

Kindergartners receive a new book at registration as a gift from their new school.



Kids' Book Fest

The community comes together to celebrate children's books at this fun, annual event.



"Read to Me" Banners & Calendars

Reading together images are made into large banners and calendars to spread the message "Read to Me!"



Bright Red Bookshelf

Gently used books are collected and placed on red shelves free for families to select and own.



Children's Book Fund

Community donations fund grants to agencies for books as gifts for families they serve.



Traveling Books

Volunteers read to children at child care centers and homes and leave crates of books to be enjoyed.



Give the Gift of Family Reading

Low-income families receive new books at the holidays, funded by community donations.



Read-Along Songs

A set of 6 books and CD of the books being both read and sung are given to young children as a path to literacy through a new door.



FRP Mission: *To create a culture of literacy in which all children have early, frequent and pleasurable experiences with books, together with a loved one, as part of everyday family life.*

Read-Along Songs

Inviting Families to Literacy through Music



Reading! Singing! Talking! Family Reading Partnership's newest program focuses on rhyming and rhythm to connect children and families with the joy of words and books. With a generous grant from an anonymous donor at the Community Foundation of Tompkins County, the Read-Along Songs program was able to

"It was just so magical for my students to see the actual people they've been listening to on this CD for the last couple of weeks."

– Kathleen Downes, Caroline Elementary School Pre-K teacher

place a bright red book bag filled with six beautiful books and a CD of the books being both read and sung into the homes of more than 500 families in TCA Head Start, ICSD Pre-K, TST BOCES Even Start programs and Franziska Racker Center classrooms.

The goal of the program is to bring families closer to books through music (see Objectives, right). A committee of early education teachers along with local singer/songwriter John Simon and Village at Ithaca Executive Director Cal Walker carefully chose six different children's books that were also favorite children's songs to be a part of the program.

A CD was produced at Hiltronex Studios in Ithaca, with John Simon playing guitar and singing the books and Cal Walker reading the books in his rich, animated voice. Affectionately known as "Simon and Calfunkle," John Simon and Cal Walker have visited more than 25 classrooms to sing and read.

Kathleen Downes, a teacher in the Caroline Elementary School Pre-K program, saw immediate changes in

the way her students interacted with books after they received the books and played the CD in the classroom. Students who had difficulty with language suddenly knew the words to entire books because they had heard them sung and read.

By the time John and Cal visited Caroline Pre-K, they were celebrities with the under-five crowd! "I thought it was absolutely wonderful," said Downes. "It was just so magical for my students to see the actual people they've been listening to on this CD for the last couple of weeks."

Another benefit of the program is that the books and CD connect school to home. "We want to make sure students have lots of early literacy experiences," said Diana Levy, program leader for the district's pre-kindergarten program. "Read-Along Songs is a way to strengthen the links between home and school. The same books that are being read and sung in school can also be read and sung at home."

The impact of the program con-



John Simon and Cal Walker performed Read-Along Songs in more than 25 classrooms, reaching hundreds of children!

Read-Along Songs Objectives

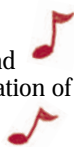
For Children

- Increase interest in and affection for books
- Increase rhyming ability
- Increase knowledge of alphabet
- Increase vocabulary
- Increase attention span
- Increase background knowledge
- Expose children to greater expressive communication and receptive language



For Families

- Provide families with auditory modeling of songs and reading aloud
- Increase parent/adult time engaged with their children around books
- Increase positive verbal interactions with children through talking and singing, as family centered activities
- Encourage families to make reading and singing a part of everyday family routines
- Introduce families to the fun and entertainment of the combination of books and songs



For Schools and Programs

- Support teachers and schools by providing this literacy enhancement at school and at home
- Strengthen the bridge between home and school with a book and singing connection

tinues to grow. Other funders have come forward to provide additional sets of Read-Along Songs to more children. IPEI has funded sets for each kindergarten and first grade classroom in the Ithaca City School District. Trumansburg Head Start and kindergartners received sets funded by an anonymous donor and South Seneca kindergartners have received sets funded by the Ujeni Fund.

FRP Celebrates 10th Birthday with Red Hot Gala!



What a night! On March 15, 2008, we held our culminating event in celebration of Family Reading Partnership's tenth birthday, our Red Hot Gala Benefit. Almost 200 friends and supporters of FRP came to Cornell's Statler Hotel dressed in red dresses, red ties, or with some splash of red in their attire.

The evening started with the popping of more than 50 red balloons that party-goers purchased for the prizes inside. Rich Steinacher, reading teacher at Northeast Elementary, acted as emcee and welcomed every-

one to the festivities. Dinner tables in the ballroom were decorated with candy red hots and white candles with "The Very Hungry Caterpillar" (the book given by FRP to all newborns at Cayuga Medical Center) at each place setting. Thanks go to Tompkins Trust Company for sponsoring the book.

A very special part of the evening was the announcement of the 2008 Read to Me Heroes (see page 9). Marty Allee, retired reading teacher, Tompkins Trust Company, sponsor of "The Very Hungry Caterpillar" book since 1995, and Triad Foundation, supporter of FRP since our inception, were each presented with an engraved crystal book as appreciation for being Read to Me Heroes.

The night continued with a raffle of eight red hot gifts valued at up to \$1,000. The grand prizes were a \$1,000 gift card to Wegmans and a weekend get-away for two at La Tourelle Resort and August Moon Spa with a complimentary dinner at John Thomas Steak House.

John Simon and Cal Walker entertained the crowd with a selection of

"Read-Along Songs" from their new CD of music and stories for children. The night ended with spirited music by the Ageless Jazz Band.

The warm memories of the Red Hot Gala will stay with us for a long time! We had good friends all together in a beautiful place, delicious food, wonderful music and prizes donated by so many community businesses. What a celebration!

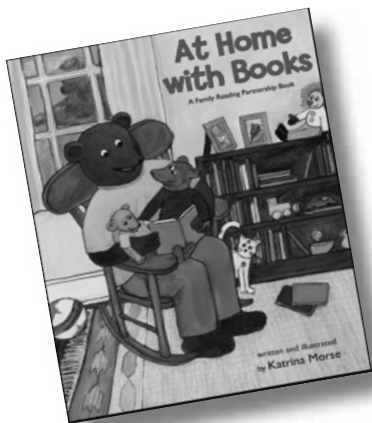
The Red Hot Gala launches Family Reading Partnership into its second decade!

See the Red Hot Gala slide show at www.familyreading.org.



FRP supporters George and Bobbie Schneider (new FRP Board President) donned red fedoras at the Red Hot Gala.

At Home with Books



Our tenth year also marked the publication of our first children's book!

Family Reading Partnership assistant director Katrina Morse wrote and illustrated *At Home with Books*, which was published by Family Reading Partnership.

The book is a gentle story of a bear family and the fun they have reading together at home. Imbedded in the charming tale and beautiful illustrations are subtle messages to families—ideas for how to make the read-aloud experience more meaningful for their child.

Brother bear tells us the story of his family and how books and read-aloud fit into family time at home. The bear family reads books at the kitchen table while pancakes are cooking, on the big, soft sofa when their friend visits, in bed just before sleep, and in all kinds of cozy places that make reading together special. This is a family at home with books!

The colorful illustrations help children follow baby sister bear's activities

on each page and discover Patches the cat, who seems to be just as interested in listening to books as the bears.

To support and encourage families as they read aloud and make books a special part of everyday family life, *At Home with Books* has a section of read-aloud ideas for more fun with books included at the back.

At Home with Books was designed to strengthen the connection children and families have with books by encouraging read-aloud at home and activities based on books.

More than 6,000 copies of *At Home with Books* have gone to children in the Tompkins County area and as far away as North Carolina and Maryland. To order a copy visit www.familyreading.org or call 607.277.8602.

Katrina Morse, “Jill” of All Trades

Emily Rhoads Johnson

Painting, writing, graphic design, photography—the multi-talented Katrina does it all. Hired by Brigid eight years ago to work on a special project, she is now the Family Reading Partnership’s assistant director, and her responsibilities include overseeing general operations, preparing handouts and mailings, taking photographs, handling website content and creating images for FRP magnets, T-shirts and

“I am proud to be a part of such a deep-reaching initiative.”

– Katrina Morse,
FRP Assistant Director

artistic talent.

“Most recently I have had the wonderful opportunity to write and illustrate a children’s book (*At Home with Books*, Family Reading Partnership, 2007) that encourages families to read aloud and discover the joy of books.” Katrina usually paints still life on canvas, but for her new book she had to develop an illustration style and painted on board using colored pencil for details. Katrina describes the book

as a perfect combination of her passion for creating art and educating.

Born in Ithaca and raised in Elmira, Katrina attended the University of Vermont, where she majored in studio art. She married, moved back to Ithaca in 1983 and continued painting while her sons, Kyle and Eric, were growing up. Later she attended Elmira College and earned a master’s degree in education, intending to teach art in the public schools. “And then I got side-tracked,” she laughs, referring to her serendipitous meeting with Brigid. “Although I didn’t end up teaching in a school, my job with the Family Reading Partnership gives me many opportunities to make connections between teachers, parents, kids and books.”

One way she connects with families is through her two columns in the Ithaca Journal. For the “Book Nook” she enlists young readers to write reviews of their favorite books, and in “The Family Reading Corner,” she discusses good books for families to enjoy together. For both columns she supplies the photographs. Many of her stunning photographs of adults and children reading together are featured in the 2008 Family Reading Partnership calendar and banners hung throughout the county.



Katrina Morse signed copies of *At Home with Books* at the Tompkins County Public Library.

“The Family Reading Partnership is a stellar model of an organization that pulls together all sectors of the community to work for a common good: the future of our children,” Katrina says. “I am proud to be a part of such a deep-reaching initiative, and it is a bonus that I have such wonderful co-workers!”

Her co-workers echo her sentiments. In the words of Program Coordinator Mary Milne, “It’s a joy to work with Katrina, who notices and appreciates the magic, surprise, and beauty of the world every day.”

There will no doubt be more creative endeavors that Katrina pursues that will use her talents and encourage families to “make friends with books.”

Local Families Featured in “Read to Me” Banners and Calendar

In celebration of our 10th birthday, we are delighted that our 2008 “Read to Me” banners feature local families photographed enjoying books. Each black and white photo is surrounded by a colorful border and the words below, “Read to Me and I will be at Home with Books.” The 9’ x 12’ banners hang on buildings throughout the community and the “Read to Me” photos were also made into a calendar.



Watch for our 2009 “Read to Me” banners and calendars featuring these nationally known children’s book illustrators:

Aliki
Suzanne Bloom
Nancy Carlson
Bryan Collier
Jane Dyer
Lori McElrath-Eslick
Denise Fleming
Gail Gibbons
Max Grover
Sylvia Long
Iza Tripani

Where we've been...

Family Reading Partnership grew from the idea that for children to be successful adults, they need to know how to read. For children to be successful at reading they need to love books. For children to love books they need to hear books read aloud to them from birth and have books at home.

1994 Give the Gift of Family Reading began as part of the TST BOCES "Family Reading Program." *We now give books at the holidays to families at 12 WIC sites and seven agencies.*

WIC readers began visiting sites monthly. *We now have eight readers.*

1995 Books at Birth program began as a TST BOCES program. *Every baby born at Cayuga Medical Center receives a new book.*

1997 "Building a Caring Community" conference sparked the idea of creating a community coalition for literacy.

Family Reading Partnership created and incorporated.

Bright Red Bookshelf site established. *We now have 20 sites.*

1998 Community Literacy Vision Day *We have hosted four envisioning sessions.*

Welcome to School Book program began. *There are 21 schools in our area now involved.*

Children's Book Fund established. *Twenty six different human service agencies have provided books for the families they serve over the years.*

Kids' Book Fest celebration of children's literature first held *with close to 1,000 in attendance.* Aliki generously gave permission to use her drawing of the girl hugging book as FRP icon. Program Coordinator added to staff.



Father and son choose a new book to take home through Give the Gift of Family Reading program at their WIC appt.



1999 First Book for First Graders program began. *This program gave new books to first graders for four years.*



The newest Bright Red Bookshelf was placed in the Emergency Dept. at Cayuga Medical Center and used immediately by a family waiting for a loved one.

2000 Kids' Book Fest attendance exceeded 2,000.

2001 Family Reading Partnership received 501(c)(3), non-profit status. **Books to Grow On** program began. *We now have 12 doctors' offices who participate.* Second Program Coordinator added to staff. **At Home with Books** newsletter first printed and distributed.

2002 Traveling Books program folded into FRP. *Currently, 12 volunteers read to children at 18 childcare sites.*

2003 "Read to Me" Campaign launched with banners and calendars. *We produce 12 new banners and a calendar each year.*

www.familyreading.org website became active.

FRP's **Great Community Read-a-thon** *The first of two events.*

First Family Reading Partnership Alliance member. *Cortland County*

2004 Books Before Birth program established to give books to expectant parents. *We have four OB-GYN offices who participate.*

Appetizing Books baskets sold to restaurants. *There are six sites.*

Second Family Reading Partnership Alliance member. *Chemung Valley*

2005 Jim Trelease visited Ithaca and included FRP in the 6th edition of his book *The Read-Aloud Handbook.* Third Family Reading Partnership Alliance member. *Public Library of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County (NC)* Office Coordinator position added to staff.

FRP held the first **Family Story Walk and 21 Run** benefit honoring George Boiardi.

2006 Development Director added to staff.

2007 Read-Along Songs program began. **Read to Me Society** founded.

At Home with Books, Family Reading Partnership's first children's book, published.

To learn more about Family Reading Partnership programs and initiatives visit www.familyreading.org and click "Programs."

Where we're going...

We must and will do more for families who have the greatest literacy and economic challenges keeping them from a culture of literacy. We'll provide more books, more information and training and more support for those who need it most. We are determined to deepen and strengthen our efforts so that each family receives the books and support it needs to establish a read-aloud tradition at home.

Plans for Deepening and Strengthening

As we enter our next ten years Family Reading Partnership will...

- **Explore new strategies** to connect children and families with books by building on the success of our newest program, Read-Along Songs.
- **Provide read-aloud trainings** and information to agencies that work with families and to the families themselves.
- **Give more books** to families who need them most.
Some ideas:
 - Give 10 books for babies by birth at WIC.
 - Strengthen and expand children's book fund grants so that more agencies can use books as part of the services they provide to families.
 - Provide books to speech/language pathologists to give to families at home visits.
 - Add Bright Red Bookshelf sites at food pantries and other places that serve low-income families.
- **Partner more with schools** to support a culture of literacy and provide used books to school populations by expanding Bright Red Bookshelf sites.
- **Partner with libraries** to promote them as one of the first places families go with a new baby.
- **Provide information** about our organization, programs and initiatives to other communities.
- **Inspire others** to develop their own unique programs that encourage families to discover the joy of books and reading.



Every family with young children should know the joy of books and reading aloud.

Thanks to funds raised during the 10th Birthday–We Must Do More Campaign we are able to begin the process of deepening and strengthening our programs.

Through ongoing and new sponsorships and donations we look forward to continuing to make ours a community that values books and reading, and to share what we have learned with others.

Every Kindergartner: *A Splendid Friend, Indeed*



We are pleased to announce that *A Splendid Friend, Indeed* by Suzanne Bloom has been chosen as the new book to be given to kindergartners as a “Welcome to School Book” at kindergarten registrations and screenings in schools across the TST BOCES region.

The Welcome to School Book program started in 1998 as one of the first initiatives of the Family Reading Partnership. The program provides a book to each kindergartner as a gift from his or her school with program coordination by the Family Reading Partnership and funding for the books provided by M&T Bank.

The book helps to calm nerves on that first trip to their new school in the spring and gives the message from the school to parents that reading together is important. When the students come back in the fall, they have the common experience with all their classmates of owning and knowing the same book.

The initial book given to children at the start of the program was *Feathers for Lunch* by Lois Ehlert. Then in 2005, the book was changed to *Hattie and the Fox* by Mem Fox. The new book choice for 2008, *A Splendid Friend, Indeed*, has been enthusiastically received by principals and teachers. The book was chosen for its theme of friendship, age-appropriate text and beautiful illustrations.

Karen Keller, principal at Fall Creek Elementary School in Ithaca, comments, “The message in *A Splendid Friend, Indeed* is so sweet and so simple at first read, but then I think of much more. The message of the character ‘Bear,’ who wants to read and write and think, and ‘Goose,’

who wants to talk and talk and talk, could really represent the experience of a kindergartner student coming to school for the first time. The friendships formed could be one or more of so many—teacher and student, reading and student, writing and student, school community and family, etc.

“I like to think of myself as Bear, and my students, especially the entering kindergartners, as Goose.”

– Karen Keller,
principal, Fall Creek
Elementary School

That is the kind of relationship and caring that I want my school to project. This book just makes me feel GOOD.”

We feel good about the new Welcome to School Book and how many kindergartners will hear *A Splendid Friend, Indeed* read to them before school starts again this fall.

Our Influence and Inspiration Spreads...

Family Reading Partnership Alliance Members

- 2003 Family Reading Partnership of Cortland County
- 2004 Family Reading Partnership of Chemung Valley
- 2005 Public Library of Charlotte & Mecklenburg County (NC)
- 2007 Seneca County Literacy Project
- 2008 Geneva Reads



Our 2008 “Read to Me” calendar featuring families from Ithaca, NY, made its way to a school in Thailand where a friend of FRP was working.

The public library in Batavia, NY, purchased 12 “Read to Me” banners with their “GRO” logo added. The banners will hang on buildings there to inspire families to read to their children.



Family Reading Partnership of Chemung Valley hosted a very successful Kids’ Book Fest in March with the theme of “homes” based on FRP’s last Book Fest.

In only five years of website activity, we have had hundreds of requests from individuals and organizations from 27 New York State communities, 17 other states and three other countries for information about how to start their own Family Reading Partnership, how to start one of our programs or how to learn more about read-aloud and books.

2008 Read to Me Heroes

This year we were pleased to honor three Read to Me Heroes – a business, a foundation and an individual. Each has been a consistent supporter of Family Reading Partnership efforts to spread the joy of reading. Our 2008 Read to Me Heroes were presented with gifts of engraved crystal books at our Red Hot Gala on March 15.

Honoring Our Read to Me Heroes

Tompkins Trust Company (TTC) stepped forward in 1995 to help launch the Book at Birth program that would give a new book to every baby born at Cayuga Medical Center. For more than a decade TTC has funded this program, which has encouraged thousands of families to read to their children right from the start.



Greg Hartz, current president of Tompkins Trust Company, and Jim Byrnes, former president.



Joanne Florino & Roy Park, Jr.

Triad Foundation has been a consistently strong FRP supporter for more than a decade, giving us the wings to take off and fly! Joanne Florino and the family of Roy Park, Jr. believed in and seeded the success of the Family Reading Partnership from the beginning, first through the Park Foundation and then the Triad Foundation. Funding support originated with a grant to establish the organization and allow Family Reading Partnership to become an independent not-for-profit. Most recently Triad provided a significant \$250,000 matching grant for our 10th birthday campaign. (see page 10)

Marty Allee, a retired reading and support teacher, has volunteered extensively with Family Reading Partnership. One of the first board presidents, she was involved for more than ten years in many Family Reading Partnership programs: as a volunteer at the annual *Give the Gift of Family Reading* program at WIC sites during the holiday season, on the *Kids' Book Fest* Committee and as a volunteer extraordinaire for many FRP events.



Marty Allee

continued from page 1

children as a special part of everyday family life. For this to happen we know that families need four things:

- Knowledge and understanding that reading to their children is exciting and important
- Motivation to make reading aloud to children habitual
- Books to read
- Encouragement, skills and the support necessary to read to their children

Every book that enters a family's home helps children enjoy books and reading in their daily lives, and seeds

their future success at reading. Reading is a basic skill that can help children and families overcome poverty and develop the skills that can help them lead better lives.

Over the next ten years our focus will be to deepen and strengthen our efforts to reach families that may not have found success in reading. We want to do what we can to help them make books part of family life and to fully experience the pleasure of reading.

Regionally and nationally, our efforts will focus on becoming a leading center for information, ideas and resources on family reading and

family literacy so that we can share our knowledge and experience with others.

Your time, your gifts, your books—and especially your enthusiasm—are vital to our continued success. Read more about our vision for the future and how you can help, throughout this newsletter.



Share Your Story a Huge Success

As a dedicated group of close friends of Family Reading Partnership gathered to envision special ways to commemorate our 10th birthday, everyone agreed that finding a way to collect and share stories of our impact on families and children in our community was at the top of the list.

With an amazing ten years and a multitude of innovative programs in partnership with a variety of community organizations, and with more than 200,000 books placed into the hands, homes and hearts of children and their families, we knew their stories had to be told!

Share Your Story was conceived as a way for people to connect those stories and to connect the dots of the numerous FRP programs and our book

partnerships serving our community. The *Share Your Story* campaign was launched at our red tent at the Ithaca Festival in June '07, and we gathered stories throughout the summer and into fall.

We were amazed at the many beautiful and heartfelt stories



of families reading together and receiving books as gifts—through WIC (Women, Infants

and Children), their doctors, Bright Red Bookshelves and their schools.

The strong feelings of families in our community and articulation of the impact of Family Reading Partnership over the last ten years has been very gratifying for us all to

hear and motivates us to do more.

As one mother says, “In a busy, cluttered world, the Family Reading Partnership provides regular, gentle reminders that we should pause each day and enjoy a good book with our child.”

From a new mom:

When I was five months pregnant my husband and I started telling our daughter, in utero, the story of “The Very Hungry Caterpillar.” We read it to her every night at bedtime.

When she was born, I had a C-section, so my husband was with our daughter while I was still in the O.R. He didn't know what to say at first and then he said, “In the light of the moon a little egg lay on a leaf...” she looked right at him!

When we got the book to take home we couldn't wait to show her the pictures. Now our daughter is 18 months and she often asks to read the book!

Read more stories of our impact at www.familyreading.org

We Did It!

With much appreciation to you, our community of supporters, we are very pleased to announce that the goals of our 10th Birthday—*We Must Do More* Campaign have been met and surpassed! In honor of Family Reading Partnership's ten years of making an impact on the lives of children and families in our community, and to help us deepen and strengthen our work in the coming ten years, the Triad Foundation offered a generous challenge. For this milestone in Family Reading Partnership history, Triad offered a dollar for dollar match for the first \$250,000 raised during our 10th Birthday campaign.

We are thrilled to report that by March 31, 2008, just seven months after receiving the Triad Challenge, more than \$260,000 was raised! “The support of the community, Triad and our family of donors has made the 10th Birthday Campaign an

achievement we can all be proud of,” said Lisa Berry, FRP's Director of Community Relations and Development, reflecting on the success of the 10th Birthday Campaign and special events. FRP saw an increase in both the number of donors to the organization and the amount of the average gift. We are proud to establish *The Read To Me Society* for donors of \$1,000 or more and honored that two dear friends of FRP have already bequeathed gifts to the *Read to Me Legacy Society*.

This successful campaign gives Family Reading Partnership the expanded capacity to deepen and strengthen the impact of our established programs. It will pave the way to develop new initiatives to serve families who need the most support and encouragement to find pleasure and joy in reading together. We look forward to our continued collaboration as we work to reach even more families and communities with the message that reading aloud to children

and having access to books lay the foundation for a good life.

Our sincere thanks go again to the Triad Foundation for their generous challenge. We continue to be extremely grateful to Joanne Florino and the family of Roy Park, Jr. who believed in and seeded the success of the Family Reading Partnership from its earliest days, first through the Park Foundation and now through the Triad Foundation. We look forward to the next ten years!



The Read To Me Society

Key to Our Successful 10th Birthday Campaign

Ten years ago, together, we shaped a dream for a culture of literacy. The dream was for all of our children to begin life in homes where reading together and beautiful children's books would be a part of the values, routines and traditions of family life. In these ten years, with your support, we have made tremendous progress, making a difference in the lives of thousands of children and families. But to reach our dream, we still have more to do for

families who have not yet found pleasure and success in books.

To date, 61 individuals and local businesses have answered this call to action by becoming the founding members of *The Read To Me Society*, Family Reading Partnership's newly established named giving society. With gifts and pledges of \$1,000 or more during our 10th Birthday- *We Must Do More Campaign*, *The Read To Me Society* founders were instrumental in surpassing the \$250,000 matching grant offered by Triad Foundation.

Our Sincere Thanks to the Founding Members of The Read to Me Society:

Carolyn & Timothy Ainslie, Marty Allee, Beverly Baker, Mary & John Baker, Robert Baxter of Dryden Mutual Insurance, Michael Bend & Valerie Hans, Maureen Boyd & David Saiia, Charlotte Bruce, Jessica Casey, D.O., Alice Colby-Hall, Diane & George Conneman, Carol & Will Cooke, Daphne & Ezra Cornell, Frederick Cowett & Diana Riesman, Patricia & Thomas Davis, David & Peggy Dunlop, Audrey & William Edelman, Emerson Power Transmission, Jason & Julieanne Fane, Joanne Florino, Barb & Paul Eshelman, Sandy & Glenn Galbreath, Margaret I. Gibson, Fair & Fred Gouldin, Bradley & Mary Grainger, Patricia & Robert Haley, Ann Halpern, Juris & Ellymaria Hartmanis, Greg Hartz of Tompkins Trust Company, Joan & Bob Horn, Brigid & Alan Hubberman, Mark Jauquet & Mickie Sanders-Jauquet, Alfred & Mary Kahn, Carol Kammen, Arthur Kuckes & Martha Wright, Heather & Bruce Lane, R. Carolyn Lange, Steve Leveen, Ilma & Gilbert Levine, Jim Milne, Deborah O'Connor & Peter LePage, Karen Powers & Jim Dennis, Melissa Pruitt & Michael Snyder, Mimi & Bill Schaffner, Bobbie & George Schneider, Diane & Dick Shafer, Arthur & Charlotte Shull, Ceil & Jim Spero, Triad Foundation, David & Lucia Tyler, Gail & Jim Salk, Andy & Rosemary Sciarabba, Roger & Carole Sibley, Margaret & Richard Steinacher, Jay & Sandy True, Carol Warshawsky, Sarita Warshawsky, Wegmans, Mark Wenham & Anne Bechert, David & Linda Woodard, Scott Wiggins & Kash Iraggi-Wiggins of La Tourelle Resort & Spa, Barbara Yale**

* Bequest made to Read to Me Legacy Society

Family Reading Partnership Membership 2008

Your membership contribution helps us continue to give books and read-aloud support to those families who need it most. Members are invited to an annual picnic in September and receive a special invitation to the Kids' Book Fest. Thank you!



\$30 \$50 \$100 \$500 \$1,000 Other \$ _____

My check for \$_____ is enclosed.

Please charge my Visa/MC for \$_____

Card # _____ Expires _____

Signature _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

I'd like more information on making a bequest to The Read to Me Legacy Society.

(Optional) My gift is in honor or in memory of: _____

Please send a recognition card to: _____

Address: _____

Gifts of \$1,000 or more entitle you to be a member of **The Read to Me Society** with invitations to special receptions and newsletters throughout the year.

Please mail your membership form and donation to:
Family Reading Partnership
 54 Gunderman Rd.
 Ithaca, NY 14850

Kids Book Fest 2007 featured *At Home with Books* by FRP's Katrina Morse. Families enjoyed book-centered activities and fun based on the theme of HOMES.



Children made their own houses out of cardboard and found objects.



The featured book was made into an interactive area where the book's characters read stories.



Bookmaking was done with house and barn shaped books.

At Home with Books figures and 3-D house were given to children to take home and color.



At Kids' Book Fest '08, Ruth Stiles Gannett Kahn will be the featured author.

Kids' Book Fest 2008



Mark your calendars for

Kids' Book Fest 2008, Saturday, November 8, 10am-4pm at Boynton Middle School.

The theme this year is **adventure** and the featured book is *My Father's Dragon* by Trumansburg author Ruth Stiles Gannett Kahn.

2008 marks the 60th anniversary of the publication of this beloved classic. With sponsorship from Time Warner Cable, local elementary schools will be able to give multiple copies of the book to students prior to the Book Fest

Join us at Kids' Book Fest for music, art, entertainment and activities all based on children's books with adventure themes. Meet local authors, including the author of *My Father's Dragon!*

It's free family fun! Keep up-to-date on planning meetings and Fest details on the "News and Events" page of www.familyreading.org

Family Reading Partnership
54 Gunderman Rd.
Ithaca, NY 14850

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