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America's Best: Reader's Choice

The people in your communities who are making a difference.

Brigid Hubberman

Nominated by Diane Lebo Wallace of Ithaca, N.Y., who writes: Since Brigid Hubberman launched the Family Reading Partnership in Ithaca, thousands of babies and children have books in their homes and enjoy the pleasures of reading with their families. Thanks to the Family Reading Partnership, a series of creative efforts are fostering a culture of literacy, building pleasure into readings and promoting the many benefits of early encounters with books. These include: Books at Birth, which makes gifts of board books to all babies born in the local hospital, The Bright Red Bookshelf, a communitywide children's-book recycling project, the Welcome to School with Books program in which all entering kindergartners receive books as gifts at registration and an annual children's book festival with fun activities for families. What is more, the Family Reading Partnership is now a model organization for cities across New York state and the nation. It has been praised by Jim Trelease, author of "The Read Aloud Handbook," and many prominent children's book authors including Eric Carle and Lois Lowry. The late Edward Palmer, a founder of "Sesame Street," has called Ms. Hubberman "an idea machine."

The Family Reading Partnership is distinguished from other literacy organizations by its innovation and broad-based objectives. Its programs variously target families across income levels. Its activities encourage families to value books and spend time together enjoying them.

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