



BUDDING READERS, INC. - OVERVIEW AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

BUDDING READERS, INC.
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WHAT IS THE BUDDING READERS, INC?

Budding Readers, Inc. is a local non-profit organization promoting early literacy. We provide free books and parent guidance for reading to babies and young children. Our mission is to educate, encourage, and equip parents to read with their infants and young children as a natural part of their daily routine. Our primary focus is Ontario County, NY, however, when possible, we serve additional programs that align with our mission.

WHO ADMINISTERS THE PROGRAM?

Our Board is comprised of volunteers who are current or retired educators and others passionate about promoting the importance of reading to babies and young children.

WHO IS SERVED?

Budding Readers began in Bloomfield in 2007. 78,000 books later, we have six programs and serve eight Ontario County school district communities, and beyond.

1. Community Programs: We serve families in the Bloomfield, Canandaigua, Honeoye, Midlakes, Marcus Whitman, Naples, Red Jacket, and Victor school district communities. Volunteers deliver bundles of books to babies **under 36 months of age** and their sibs. Our Parent Guide has tips for reading to babies and young children enabling parents to be active in their child's learning. More than 2,500 bundles delivered!

2. WIC Partnership: In 2010 we partnered with the Finger Lakes WIC (Women Infants & Children) Program. Children receiving services at the Canandaigua Office received a new book at each appointment from birth to age 5. More than 27,000 books were gifted to over 7,000 children! WIC has operated remotely since the pandemic began. Our ability to provide books in the future is still unclear.

3. F. F. Thompson Hospital Birthing Classes: Starting in 2012 we attended birthing classes at Thompson Hospital in Canandaigua, chatted with expectant parents about the importance of reading to babies, and distributed bundles of books. When the pandemic hit, birthing classes moved to Zoom. Our bundles of books are still being offered to birthing class registrants. Over 885 bundles have been gifted!

4. Healthy Families Ontario, Yates & Seneca Counties: Since 2017 we have given 200 books per year to support literacy with at-risk infants and families in Ontario County. Their service area increased in 2022 and our donation increased to 600 books per year.

5. Family Promise Ontario County: 2019 was their Ontario County launch. Family Promise works with homeless families to help them secure employment and sustainable housing. When a family "graduates" to their own home, we provide a bundle of books for each child from birth through grade 5. Over 600 books gifted to date.

6. Supporting Literacy in Our Communities: Since 2013 a new book has been gifted to each kindergarten and UPK child in our 8 communities to start the school year. This increased to three times per year in 2021. At holiday time, we provide books for needy families by partnering with a number of local service organizations. We have solid relationships with our local libraries. As funds permit, we have been able to support programs outside of Ontario County that align with our mission, such as books for Saints Place in Rochester that works with newly arriving immigrants, children's books for the visitors area at Attica Prison, etc.

HOW IS BUDDING READERS, INC. FUNDED?

Budding Readers, Inc. is funded solely through charitable contributions, grants, and donations of books. Budding Readers, Inc. is an independent 501(c)(3) charitable organization. All donations are tax-deductible. An annual fund drive is held in the fall.

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HOW IS BUDDING READERS, INC. UNIQUE?

- We are proactive, reaching rural, some urban, and low-income families well before entering school.
- We often have face-to-face contact with parents to teach and encourage daily reading.
- We have strong alliances with other community programs: WIC, Healthy Families, Thompson Hospital, Family Promise, local schools, nursery schools, and libraries.
- Many of our volunteers are experienced educators who draw from their careers in education.

WHAT ARE THE MAJOR PROGRAM EXPENSES?

- **Books—Both English and Bi-lingual:** We purchase new age-appropriate books at significantly discounted prices, however books remain our largest expense.
- **Rent:** We are gifting more than 11,000 books each year to young children, so we need to store a good supply of books. We also can acquire new books at minimal cost, if we can buy in quantity & store them until needed.
- **Printing Educational Materials:** We provide parent education to guide parents in reading to children of different ages, and to stress its importance for a child's development and school success.
- **No Staff Expenses.** All staff are volunteers and use their own transportation.