

**"You can't get a cup of tea big enough or a book long enough to suit me."
- Mark Twain**



Dear supporter of Starr Readers,

Thank you, thank you, **THANK YOU!** Your support last year was crucial to the long-term goals of Starr Readers to reach every impoverished student in Rio Grande City with a new book. I personally thank you and would like to emphasize your donation did not go unnoticed.

Because of your devotion to this project **for the first time Starr Readers will be treated as exempt under 501(c)3 status - your donation is now tax deductible.** Big high five!!! Needless to say, this is huge for the organization - it took time, money, perseverance and you. And I deeply thank you.

While our status has changed one thing has not: the need to provide books and the love of reading to children. Last year Starr Readers delivered a new "Curious George" book to every child in kindergarten and first grade, "Salsa Stories" to every third-grader, "The Chalk Box Kid" for fourth-graders and "Scary Stories To Tell In The Dark" to every fifth-grader. In addition, every elementary library received a complete set of the works of Laura Ingalls Wilder (The "Little House" books) as well as the "Twilight" books by Stephenie Meyer plus sets of Dr. Seuss and Winnie-The-Pooh.

This year our goals remain focused on:

1. reaching every child through sixth grade with a book intended for their age group - approximately 5300 books. Trust me, it can be done.
2. providing each library with a complete set of Pura Belpre' Award-winning novels. Pura Belpre' is an award given to Hispanic authors who write about and celebrate the Hispanic culture.
3. continuing to increase donations and make Texas proud to be home to a foundation of a well-respected charitable organization.

Poverty levels in Rio Grande City are still one of the highest in the nation and your help is needed. Our partnership with Scholastic Books provides a deep discount for Starr Readers and allows those dollars to stretch quite far.

And, with every book delivered, a child's imagination is reached. Regardless of one's financial situation a book can enlighten a child to the world around: searching for gold with Captain Jack, a magic carpet ride with Ali Baba, riding a horse of a different color and visiting a land made of emeralds as in Frank Baun's "The Wizard of Oz." Books bring hope and inspiration to a child's life. Books are magic.

This is a project I founded to honor my mother and grandmother who were adamant about educating children with books as well as sparking their imaginations. And every year when Starr Readers arrives the kids show us they are thrilled. We have always been welcomed with hot chocolate, warm hugs and graciousness. The librarians and teachers work very hard applying for grants to improve their libraries and Starr Readers is proud to be an organization that is able to help in the pursuit of their goal.

Please send a check in the self-stamped provided envelope - the canceled check is you receipt – and a thousand thank-you(s)!

Merry Christmas,

Karen Furlong
Founder
Starr Readers

**"You cannot open a book without learning something."
- Groucho Marx**

P.S. I will drive the books down to the border the second week in December. Please send your donation ASAP so the books can be ordered, shipped and received!

www.starreaders.com