



"Books are a uniquely portable magic" - Stephen King

Dear supporters of Starr Readers,

10,028!!!

Well, Holy Moly! That incredible number represents how many books were delivered last year to the students of Rio Grande City, Texas, a border town located in Starr County along the Texas-Mexico border.

The first year, 500 books were delivered; last year over 10,000 books were delivered - progress and success continues to push Starr Readers every year. In addition to delivering over 10,000 books, author Candace Fleming, who won a contest hosted by General Mills which put her book in boxes of Cheerios around the nation, gifted Starr Readers with 1,000 copies of her winning children's story "Muncha, Muncha, Muncha!" The Dallas Morning News remains a great friend with their annual column about Starr Readers by Mercedes Olivera while KRLD-Dallas again chose the foundation as one of their "Local Heroes of the Week."

The primary goal of Starr Readers is to provide at least one new, unused book every Christmas for each student in Rio Grande City which now has an enrollment of 10,771 students. DO NOT PANIC. We will reach this goal because we have ALWAYS met our goals. ALWAYS. Please remember these kids are very humble and do not ask for nor do they receive a lot. The joy when they receive a new book every Christmas is overwhelming to see - a simple book bringing so much happiness. The vast majority of the kids live in colonias without basic amenities or proper sewage - many of the children were not even alive when Starr Readers was founded while many others have books in their homes strictly because of Starr Readers. Every person who has ever made a donation to Starr Readers should be very, very proud because YOU made this all happen.

In addition to providing a new book to each student, we will be gifting each library with more books for their shelves including titles by Newbery Award winners, Tomie dePaola, Jeanette Winter, Pat Mora, James Patterson, Stephen King, Gabriel Garcia Marquez and Alex Espinoza.

As we prepare for this Christmas, Starr Readers is also looking ahead to next year with plans to donate scholarship money and organize the annual Christmas project into a book festival, an idea presented by a cousin, Kristina Garcia. Another cousin, Josh Rodriguez last year designed the Starr Readers logo which will now be the permanent logo.

The full force and goals of Starr Readers are met by the donors who continue every year to take time from their day, open their wallets, donate and ask for nothing in return which gives great meaning to the words, "the human spirit" ... and we are forever grateful. And a special "thank you" to Marty Merrill for being the most generous "right hand" man and designing and maintaining the website at no charge.

To make a donation please donate by going online to www.starrreaders.com and clicking on the "donate" or use the self-addressed stamped envelope. The website also includes new photos and information about Starr Readers.

Again, thank you to everyone for your generosity and have a wonderful Christmas!

Sincerely,

Karen Furlong

Founder, Starr Readers

P.S. As is the tradition, I will drive the books down to the border in December so please donate at your earliest convenience to allow us enough time to order, receive, sort and load the books. www.starrreaders.com