



“The more that you read, the more things you will know,
the more that you know, the more places you’ll go”.

- Dr. Seuss

Dear Starr Readers supporters,

Once again, you made Christmas a great one for a lot of children for whom Christmas is not always a joyous occasion. Roughly 12,000 books were delivered not only to the students but the school libraries, as well. Some of the most beautiful, hardcover books reached every child and the hugs....well, it's a great feeling I wish you all could share in.

In addition, I received a call from a school administrator in Roma, Texas asking if we could help their students, as well. Nothing like a little pressure...The reality is we cannot help all of the Roma students this late in the year but I know we can at least get the first-graders a new book of their own through donations. Couple that with the 11,000 plus students we serve in Rio Grande City we are looking at over 12,000 books to be delivered.

And, something we are overjoyed with is, Starr Readers is now offering scholarship money to two high school students who write a children's book with five to seven-year olds in mind. Well known publisher Lee and Low Books (leeandlow.com) has agreed to meet with us in New York to work out the details and, hopefully, will be the judges on the panel with a projected date of the class of 2016 for the scholarship monies to be awarded. This gives the students time to write the book and make sure all guidelines are met. So students who had little hope of college now have a chance to use their minds and their talents.

Also, the Rio Grande City local librarian asked if it would be possible for a Little Free Library (www.littlefreelibrary.org) for her neighborhood. Through private funds (no funds from Starr Readers were used) she will be receiving it.

Though I receive a lot of credit please know there are so many others who play a part in the success of Starr Readers: Marty Merrill who built and handles the website at no charge. My cousin, Travis Rodriguez who traveled with me to deliver the books and read to the children last year. My cousin, Josh Rodriguez, who designed the business cards and the logo at no charge and another cousin, Kristina Garcia who came up with the idea of a book festival for the county which, hopefully, will take place in the autumn of 2015. Mercedes Olivera of the Dallas Morning News continues to offer incredible support and KRLD chose Starr Readers again as a "Charity of the Week”.

But most importantly, YOU are the stars of Starr Readers and I will never be able to thank you enough.

Please use the self-addressed stamped envelope or you can donate online at www.starrreaders.com. As is tradition, I will drive the books to the border on your behalf....and, again, thank you for all you do.

*This is one of the books on the wish list we hope to deliver.

Sincerely,

Karen Furlong, Founder
EIN #27-3713435

*If possible, please donate soon as the books have to be ordered, sorted, loaded and delivered.

The 16th president had recurring dreams, liked corny jokes, and now his ghost paces the White House fretting about the state of the union. It takes a little girl on a school tour –armed with a few corny jokes of her own –to answer his questions and settle his spirit.

