



There are many little ways to enlarge your child's world. Love of books is the best of all.

– Jacqueline Kennedy

Dear Starr Readers supporters,

As we settle into over a decade of serving the children of Rio Grande City, Texas a new phase of Starr Readers has begun. This year, in addition to Rio Grande City, we will also be serving Roma, Texas and, therefore, we must continue fundraising as time is critical. It takes numerous visits to the border and a massive amount of time to order books, receive them, sort them and drive them to the border. In addition, we are also delivering "Little Free Libraries" (littlefreelibrary.org) to be placed in the colonias so the children can have access to books throughout the winter as they have no way to get to the town library. Remember, these children live in extreme poverty - books and their imaginations are their way of escaping while imagining a different world for themselves.

The "Starr Readers Scholarship" is about to go into full steam and will be awarding two \$2500 scholarships to one graduating senior in each of the two high schools. This is a very big deal as it will pave the way for a student to carve a path towards a college or trade degree. Lee & Low Books in New York City will determine the two winners based on the senior student who writes a children's book geared towards first-, second- and third-grade children; the contest is open to all enrolled senior students. This is perhaps the most exciting avenue we have chosen to walk and plans are in action to meet with Lee&Low editors this winter. For more information please go to www.StarrReaders.com and click on "Scholarship."

In addition, early next year we will also be driving books into Ciudad Miguel Aleman, a border town in Mexico, where drug and gang violence is one of the highest in the nation. While no monies from Starr Readers will be used for this it is still considered to be an endeavor of Starr Readers.

We are also planning a "Starr Readers Book Festival", inspired by my cousin, Kristina Garcia; details to follow but the anticipated date is the Fall of 2017.

I cannot thank you enough for your past support and am asking to please consider donating this year so we can make Christmas "happen" for these children. Please visit www.StarrReaders.com and click on "Donate" ... and know YOU and other supporters are the ones who deserve the credit for the great success of Starr Readers and the joy it has brought to thousands of children.

With deep gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen Furlong". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail on the "g".

Karen Furlong
Founder, Starr Readers
EIN# 27-3713435