



Dear friend and supporter of Starr Readers,

**"My best friend is a person who will give me a book I have not read."
- Abraham Lincoln**

First, I'd like to thank you for your contribution last year to Starr Readers – it did not go unnoticed and was very much appreciated and needed. As we look forward to meeting this year's goals please know how important you are to this project and getting new books into the hands of as many Rio Grande City students as possible. The cliché, "It couldn't have been done without you", could not be truer. This year the project is perhaps the most important than any other year as we feel we will attain 501(c)3 status in 2010 which will give us the distinction of being recognized as a non-profit organization. Therefore, the "push" for donations this year is even greater.

Though many children and their families in Rio Grande City still live at poverty levels their spirit and desires to succeed have not diminished nor has their grace and gratitude in accepting the gift of books. And Starr Readers remains committed to one goal: for each child to have access to books and the imaginations they trigger. When a child reads about Pippi Longstocking and her high adventures in the South Seas then a child can imagine going there as well and drinking out of coconuts just like Pippi – and, hey, Pippi was one cool kid! Or Mrs. Piggle Wiggle who lived in an upside-down house with a treasure chest buried in the back yard and her cure-alls for children and their naughty habits such as "The Never-Wanna-Go-to-Bedder Cure" or the "Slow-Eater-Tiny-Bite-Taker-Cure." Mrs. Piggle Wiggle had a cure for **everything**.

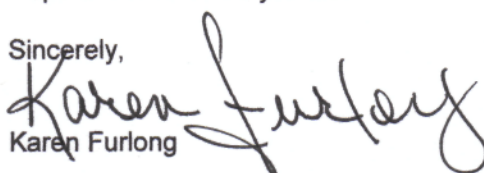
Last year we were able to begin 2009 with each of the nine elementary school libraries in Starr County receiving new, hardback books which might not otherwise have been available. This year, Starr Readers has set the standards even higher:

1. We will be able to reach 501(c)3 status through an increase in donations and donors even if I have to go to Austin myself, with all of our files and paperwork, and sit on the steps of the Capitol Building until they give us the status!
2. Most importantly, to give every child through 4th grade their own copy of a book intended for their age group. For example, Curious George for each kindergartner, The Chalk Box Kid for each fourth-grader, etc. As well, we hope to purchase sets of "Dr. Seuss" "Pippi Longstocking" and "The English Roses" for the nine elementary school libraries. Currently, we are on track to purchase 3,000 books but I believe we can go even higher: 4,000 books. For the first time we are now partnered with Scholastic Books which provides deep, deep discounts on new, unused books and we are thrilled! Those dollars will stretch even further.

Your help is needed. Please join Starr Readers in bringing the lifelong joy of reading to the children of Rio Grande City. Checks can be made payable to Starr Readers and mailed back in the self-addressed, stamped envelope provided (no cash, please.) Economic times are challenging right now but please know every dollar counts and is very much appreciated. Also, please enjoy the recent Dallas Morning News article dated October 31, 2009. Donors made it possible and we have been so fortunate to have local media support which you can view by visiting the website: www.starreaders.com (that's with three Rs in the middle).

Thank you in advance for your generosity of dollars. If you know of someone you would like added to the donor list please send their information with your check or through the website. Hope this letter finds you well!

Sincerely,


Karen Furlong

* I will drive the books down to Rio Grande City and personally deliver them on behalf of all of us. Donations need to be received ASAP in order to have the books ordered, shipped and received. Again, thank you!