



◆ ◆ ◆ In Touch Newsletter

Seedlings Braille Books for Children is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, tax-exempt organization dedicated to increasing the opportunity for literacy by providing high quality, low cost children's literature in braille.

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"Placing a book in a child's hands is like planting a seed."

From the Director

So many wonderful things are happening at Seedlings and we are so thankful for all of these new opportunities because they are enabling us to get more books into the hands of blind children, and that is what we are all about!

You can read more about these things in the following articles, but I am so excited about them that I want to tell you a little bit about them myself:

Art Van – As many of you know, we were involved in an online charity challenge in September and we won 2nd place, thanks to all of the votes from you, our loyal supporters! On Monday, October 3rd, some folks from Art Van surprised us with balloons and a giant check for \$15,000. We were thrilled! And after they left, we went to work deciding what to do with this wonderful donation. Read on to see how we've been busily converting this money into braille books!

Gift of Reading – I am very pleased to announce that for the 24th year in a row, the Detroit Free Press has made it possible for us to send a free braille book to every visually-impaired child in Michigan for the holidays through their Gift of Reading Program. What a gift that is, indeed!

Night for Sight – Recently, Seedlings was presented with a grant from the Alliance for Vision Research from their Night for Sight event. This grant will enable us to place approximately 500 new braille books into the hands of children, and we are honored to be included in the grant distribution from this amazing group!

Cuddle Alert – We are also honored to have been selected by Chuck Gaidica (Channel 4's premier meteorologist) to receive the proceeds from the holiday sales of his Cuddle Alert Books and Bears. His Cuddle Alert Kiosk will be open through the end of December at Laurel Park Place in Livonia. Please find all the details in the article that follows, and if you live in the area, please try to visit the kiosk and do some holiday shopping!

Donations – I am humbled by the fact that, despite the economy, donations to Seedlings are up a bit compared to last year. Please know that we are deeply thankful every day for everyone who supports our efforts to place more braille books into the hands of blind children around the world!

Our families are very thankful too. Here's a note from one of them: "My daughter is 4 months old, and she is deaf-blind. This is the first time I am actually excited to buy products for her special situation. Thank you for bringing me hope. I am looking forward to sharing the joy of reading with my baby! XOXO"

Wishing you a holiday season filled with good food, good friends, and good books!

Debra Bonde

Seedlings News

Cuddle Alert!!

Seedlings has teamed up with Chuck Gaidica, Channel 4 News Meteorologist and WOMC radio personality. Chuck is selling his books, "Tommy



Starts Something Big" and "Cuddling is Like Chocolate" along with his "Cuddle Bear" teddy bears at a kiosk at Laurel Park Place (6

Mile & Newburgh in Livonia) throughout December with the proceeds benefitting Seedlings. Make sure to stop by the kiosk during your holiday shopping and purchase a book or bear for your special loved ones and help support Seedlings too! The kiosk is located right by Santa, across from Sanders. Kiosk hours are: Monday - Saturday: 12pm - 8pm, Sunday: 1pm - 5pm & on 12/26: 9am - 9pm

Holiday Tribute Cards

These "gifts from the heart" are our popular



holiday tribute cards! For a \$10 donation to Seedlings, you will receive an elegant card to give to the special people on your holiday list and a braille book(s) will be

made in their name! Simply go to:

<http://www.seedlings.org/donate.php>

and click on "tribute cards". A confirming email will be sent to you.

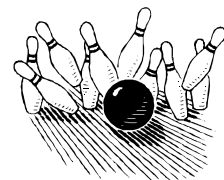
Shop Online for Seedlings

You can earn money for Seedlings when you shop online. Go to www.goodsearch.com and enter Seedlings in the "enter your favorite charity or school here" box and a percentage of your purchases will be donated to Seedlings!

2012 Bowling for Braille Books

Save the date for our 25th Annual Bowling Event!! Calling all bowlers!! Our 2012 Bowling for Braille Books will be on Saturday, March 24th at the Plaza Lanes in Plymouth. Ameriprise Financial will be the Headlining Sponsor again this year!

Come bowl with fellow Seedlings supporters WMGC's Chris Edmonds and crew. Form a team with your co-workers, friends, family or bowl individually.



Registration forms will be available soon.

If you know of any local businesses, civic organizations or companies that are interested in sponsoring the bowling event, (through a lane sponsor, a t-shirt sponsor or an event sponsor), donating a silent auction or raffle item or if you are interested in volunteering at the bowling event please contact Therese at (734) 427-8552, ext. 301.

Dining for Braille Books Update

Thank you to all our local supporters who joined us at California Pizza Kitchen during our "Dining for Braille Books Event" in October. We raised \$627!! Thank you so much for all your support! This will allow us to make another 60 braille books for blind children locally and all over the world!

Follow Seedlings on Twitter & Facebook

Now you can follow Seedlings updates on Twitter @SeedlingsBrlBks and by "liking us" on Facebook!



Volunteer Spotlight

Barb Collins

Barb Collins has volunteered at Seedlings for almost 9 years. Barb labels our baby board books and binds our print and braille and braille only books.

Barb discovered Seedlings through a newspaper article and learned of us again through a presentation at her church. Barb started her career as a nurse and retired after 41 years!

She has four adult children and lives with her husband, Dan, in Plymouth Township. Barb's interests include reading, knitting and spending time with her family, including her eight grandchildren.

We enjoy seeing Barb regularly on Tuesdays, and look forward to her continued dedication for many years ahead.



If you are interested in volunteering for Seedlings, please call Sue Keast at (734)427-8552, ext. 306.

Volunteer Opportunities

Thank you to the many volunteers that have come in and helped with the holiday cards, mailings and holiday fairs. We greatly appreciate those that help with the everyday process of making braille books for our readers. Thanks to all of you, we are very well prepared and geared up for the upcoming holiday rush.

We will be looking for some volunteers to help in our office with a bowl-a-thon mailing after the holidays. Please contact Sue Keast at (734)-427-8552, ext. 306 if you are interested in volunteering.

Volunteers and donors help make it possible for Seedlings to produce over 23,000 braille books and articles per year for blind children. Thank you again for the great work you do and your essential assistance in helping us serve these wonderful children and their families.



Thank you!

Seedlings Stories

ART VAN GRANT!

We are very excited to announce that Art Van Furniture awarded Seedlings with a \$15,000 grant from their online charity challenge!
Thank you for all your votes and support!

We are thrilled to have been able to use \$10,000 of the Art Van Charity funds to provide Teachers of the Visually Impaired in the State of Michigan with \$100 each to use at Seedlings to obtain braille books and educational resources to help increase the literacy rate among their blind students.

The remaining \$5,000 of the funds will be used to make Hooray for Braille Kits available. These kits are free of charge and are designed for early intervention specialists in Michigan working with visually impaired infants and preschoolers and their families. The kits are distributed to families on their caseload and are intended to help demystify braille by exposing families to braille materials.

Thank you for all your votes and support, you have made it possible for us to place more braille books and materials into the hands of blind children and their families!



*Holiday Greetings from all of us at
Seedlings Braille Books for Children!*

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