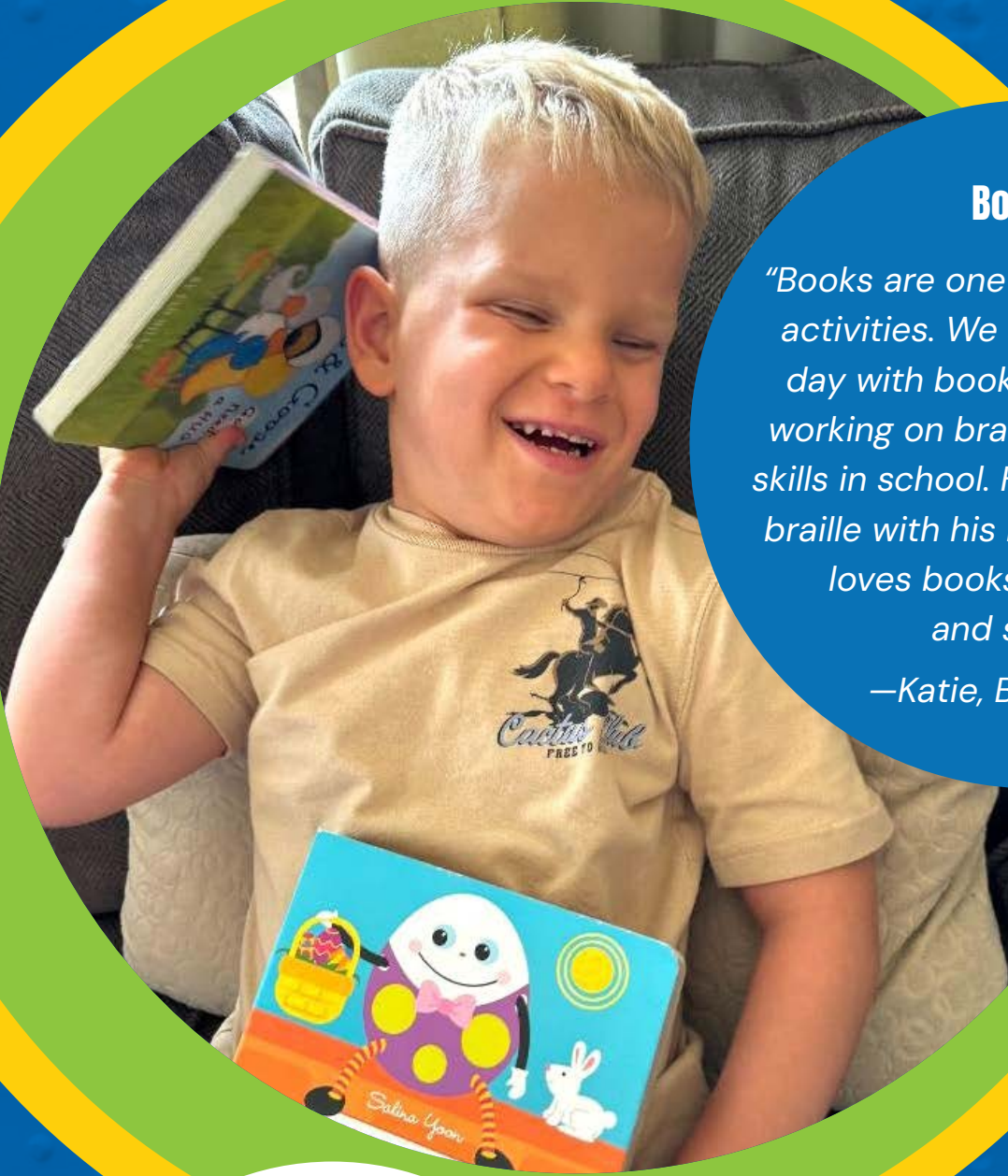


Annual Report 2024



Cultivating imagination since 1984





Bodhi, 4

"Books are one of Bodhi's favorite activities. We start and end our day with books. He currently is working on braille and pre-braille skills in school. He searches for the braille with his hands, and he also loves books with textures and sounds."

—Katie, Bodhi's mom

Our Mission

Seedlings is a nonprofit, 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization dedicated to increasing the opportunity for literacy and education by providing high-quality, free and low-cost children's literature in braille.

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From the Executive Director

If we haven't had the pleasure of meeting yet, my name is Amanda Hercula and I am thrilled to be the new Executive Director at Seedlings. It is an honor to carry on the legacy of our Founder, Debra Bonde, as she enjoys a well-deserved retirement. Because of Debra's determination, organizational vision, and passion, Seedlings has a strong foundation to support children with vision loss through literacy well into the future – thank you Debra!



I am happy to share that 2024 was a magnificent year for Seedlings! Most notably, we celebrated our 40th anniversary and Debra's retirement with our readers, supporters, and community partners in October. We also reached a record number of books distributed and a record-breaking year of books given away for free, at over 70%! With our continued growth, Seedlings hired several new staff members to support our ever-expanding operations and launched a new website. None of this would be possible without the support of our truly generous Seedlings community. Thanks to you, the 40th year of Seedlings was truly remarkable!

As we look forward to the next 40 years of Seedlings, I am excited to think of how much we will grow. Not just as an organization, but in the braille resources, programming, and literacy opportunities we provide to our readers throughout the world. Since Seedlings was founded 40 years ago in the home of Debra's Detroit basement, it has grown into something so special. I wholeheartedly believe we will continue to flourish as an organization and leader within the braille community as we move forward, together.

Seedlings is a magical place and the vast community of supporters, readers, and friends is nothing short of amazing! I am so grateful for our passionate community, which has helped us continue to grow, nourish our mission, and serve our readers. We truly appreciate everything you do for Seedlings! I look forward to getting to know you more as our work continues. Here's to the next 40 years of Seedlings Braille Books for Children!

With boundless appreciation,

Amanda Hercula, Executive Director

Board of Directors

BOARD MEMBERS SERVE 3-YEAR TERMS AS UNPAID VOLUNTEERS.

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Debbie Walker, *Production and Braille Transcriber*

2024 By the Numbers

48,631

The record total number of braille books distributed in 2024.
Up 1% from 2023.

778,838

The total number of braille books distributed to children with vision loss since Seedlings began in 1984.

33,921

The record number of FREE books distributed in 2024.
70% of the total.

84/913

In 2024, 84 titles were converted to the new braille code (UEB), bringing the total to a record 913 children’s titles in UEB. Seedlings remains a leader in producing books for children in UEB.

All books are \$20 or less, averaging only \$10 each.

Seedlings remains one of the country’s largest children’s braille book producers.

\$1,177,593

Total Expenses

Book Production	\$899,569	76.4%
Fundraising	\$164,549	14%
Administration	\$113,475	9.6%

\$872,389

Total Operating Revenue

Donations	\$443,868
Grants & Bequests	\$249,923
Program Revenue	\$141,829
Events	\$36,769

All amounts are pre-audit numbers.

2025 Goals

50,000

Produce and distribute over 50,000 braille books for children.

36,000

Give away at least 36,000 books while keeping the subsidized price of the rest to an average of less than \$10.

90

Add at least 90 new titles to Seedlings' UEB selections.

LIB

Launch our new FREE program, Libraries in Braille (LIB).

Carter, 9 months

"Carter loves to sit and have his brother read him books. He will take Carter's hand and let him feel all the braille on the books. I love that they can bond together and both learn as they go!"
—Carter's mom



FREE Book Programs

The Book Angel Program (BAP)

Originally called “Anna’s Book Angel Project” in memory of Anna K. Bonde, BAP enables every child with vision loss in the U.S. and Canada to receive 5 free braille books from Seedlings per year.

Through BAP, a record 12,042 books were sent to children in 2024, bringing the total to over 112,000 free Book Angel books since 2002.

The Adopt-A-Reader Program (AAR)

Donors can make a big impact on a child’s life through this program. By donating \$100, they are matched with a child from MI, OH, IL, or IN who then receive a box of 10 free braille books from Seedlings.

In 2024, 490 books were sent to AAR children with vision loss, bringing the total to over 6,700 free books since 2011.

Teachers of The Visually Impaired Program (TVIP)

Our hearts go out to all the teachers who all too often have very few materials available to help them teach braille to their students.

Through TVIP, teachers across the U.S. were the gracious recipients of a record 6,343 free books, bringing the total free TVIP books to over 27,000 since 2019.

Braille for Beginners (B4B)

Getting our books into the hands of toddlers and preschoolers with vision loss became a priority when we realized that success in school and beyond depends heavily on children and their families having braille books in their homes at an early age. Through the B4B program, thousands of Print-Braille-&-Picture Books are sent to Early Intervention programs across the U.S. to share with the families they serve.

In 2024, 10,460 free beginner books were placed in the homes of children with vision loss through intervention centers across the U.S, bringing the total of free B4B books to 32,584 since 2019.

The Rose Project

The Rose Project, our oldest free program, was established through a generous bequest in 1994. It enables children with vision loss to access free World Book Encyclopedia articles in braille.

In 2024, 85 braille articles were transcribed, printed, and sent to children across the U.S. to broaden their knowledge and assist with their schoolwork, bringing the grand total to over 11,335 articles.

In 2024, a record 70% of all the books distributed by Seedlings were sent free of charge!

Thank you to our generous donors and grantors for making these giveaway programs possible!



Lauryn, 3

“We enjoy little Seedlings books because each year there’s always such a large variety at such an affordable price.”

—Lauryn’s Mom

Group Donations

40th Anniversary Event Participants

Anonymous Donors: *purchased items for Seedlings from our Amazon wish list*

American Online Giving Foundation

America's Best Charities Donors/ Combined Federal Campaign: *government employees donated through payroll deductions*

Benevity Donors

Bedford Township Lions Club

Beverly Hills Lions Club

The Blackburn Giving Fund: Abbvie

Brekken Family Fund

Canton Lions Club

Club General Motors

Dearborn Heights Lions Club

The Dearborn High School Group

Delta Gamma W. Suburban Alumnae

Delta Gamma Detroit N. Suburban Alumnae

Delta Kappa Gamma Beta Eta

Emmanuel Lutheran Church

Ever Loved Inc. Fund

Eye Surgeons Associates

Facebook Donors: *Facebook users designated Seedlings as the recipient for special fundraisers*

Fidelity Charitable: *Stanley & Peggy Chappell Charitable Fund, Matusow Family Fund*

First Presbyterian Church of Troy

Friends of Novi Public Library

Give Lively Donors

Harley's Wallet

Harper Woods/Grosse Pointe Woods Lions Club

Kresge Foundation

Lake Orion Lioness/Lions Club

Livonia Lions Club

Livonia Rotary Club

Livonia Town Hall

Livonia Towne Club

Livonia Woodcarvers

Lucky Group XIII

Michigan Treasure Hunters

Military & Civilian Spouse Club

National Philanthropic Trust

Northville Lions Club

PayPal Giving Fund Donors

Plymouth Lions Club

The Podsters

Renaissance Charitable Foundation: *Robert F. & Marcia Moglia*

Rockwood Area Lions Club

Rosedale Gardens Presbyterian

Royal Oak Lions Club

Saint Andrew's Society of Detroit

Schwab Charitable Fund: *Ann & Warren Watkins, Donna Shewach & Stanton Elias*

Share Detroit

The generous support from groups, donor-advised funds, and foundations goes directly toward our braille book production and free programs!

St. John Men's Bible Study

St. Lucas Evangelical Lutheran Church

Staff of Livonia Ophthalmologists PC

Sterling Heights Lioness Club

Tampa Chapter 113 UDC

Thrivent Financial: Members' Choice Dollars

The UK Online Giving Foundation

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University of Toledo Office of Marketing & Communications

University of Toledo Physicians Dept. of Medicine

United Way of the Capital Region

University of Toledo Foundation

Wayne Lions Club

Westland Lions Club

Women of Holy Cross Lutheran Church & Mission Endowment Committee

Wyandotte Lions Club

Wyoming Lions Club

Several groups, foundations, and corporations also generously donated to Seedlings' Online Auction.

Bequests

Estate of Barbara Shalit

Estate of William & Dorothy Parmentier

Hardies Family Trust: *upgrading of network cabling, wifi, & phone system, & B4B program support*

Robert & Margaret Isbell Trust

"There is no organization more worthy of our support than Seedlings Braille Books for Children."

—The Officers and Members of the Livonia Lions Club

Grants

Beta Sigma Phi Endowment Fund: *free program support*

Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan: *free program support*

David W Elliot Memorial Foundation: *free program support & book sponsorship*

Delta Gamma Chicago West Suburban Alumnae: *books for the Chicago Lighthouse*

Delta Gamma Foundation: *free program support*

Eagles for Children: *BAP books for Michigan children*

Edward T. & Ellen K. Dryer Charitable Foundation: *creation of endowment fund, book production & free program support*

Fred & Maxi Bruhns Foundation: *free program support*

Garrett-Sobey Family Foundation: *BAP support and launch of new titles*

Gibney Family Foundation: *B4B program support*

Goodman Family Charitable Trust: *free program support*

Grosse Pointe Memorial Church: *free program support*

Lavelle Fund for the Blind: *Support for the B4B, BAP, & TVIP Programs, with an emphasis on the children of New York, New Jersey, & Connecticut*

Livonia Community Foundation: *books for Livonia Public Schools & Livonia Public Library*

Livonia Spree: *general support*

Nora Roberts Foundation: *BAP support*

Oliver Dewey Marcks Foundation: *free program support*

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Ray & Michele Butters
Thomas & Teresa Byrd
Christine Cahill
Sandy Calamari
Christine Calderon

The following people graciously made financial gifts to Seedlings in 2024.

Many thanks for your kindness and generosity!

Philip & Mary Calcut
Joanne Camiller
Catherine Camilleri
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Jerry & Ursula Eulo
Sue & Mike Eves
Hathey Family

"I choose to donate to Seedlings because I have macular degeneration, so I'm losing my sight. I can't imagine what it would be like to be blind at a young age. It tears at my heart. It's such a noble program and I want to play a part in it."

—Robert, Seedlings' donor

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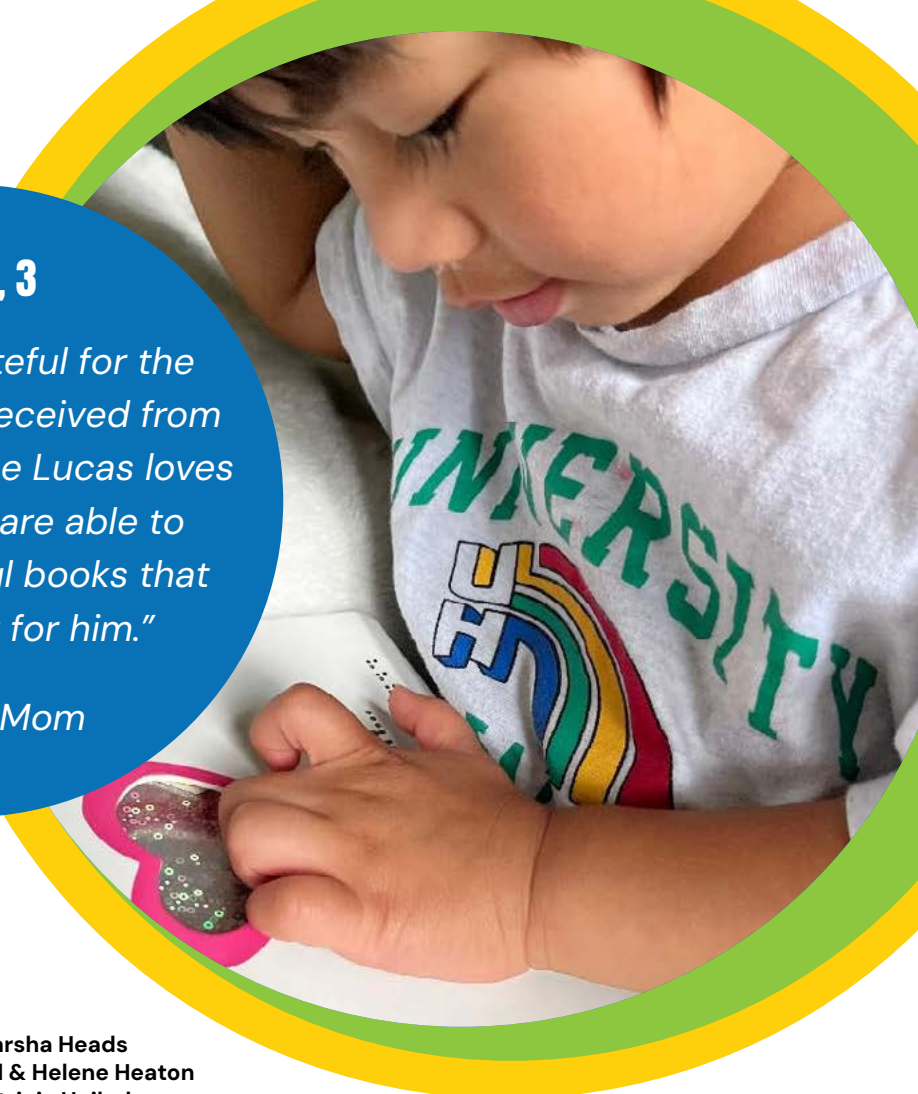
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Todd & Lisa King
Deanna & Michael King
Michael & Debra Kingsbury
Sterling Kinnell
Claude Kinsey

Lucas, 3

"We are so grateful for the books we have received from Seedlings because Lucas loves books and we are able to receive beautiful books that are engaging for him."

—Lucas' Mom





Hali, 8

"I am eight years old, and I am blind. My favorite letter is the letter G, because it makes me happy. I like that it feels like a square and I love squares. Seedlings' books also make me happy because I really enjoy them. Seedlings' books give me beautiful reading opportunities."

Sharon M. Kirchner
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Pat Klemans
Marian Klubek
Eileen Knop
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Fred Pegan	Luci & Gary Riegel	Ken & Jackie Sieradzki	Ben & Janice Swaine	Mark & Amy Welscott
Chuck & Lorey Pelto	Janice Riley	John Simek	David Swaine	Richard & Mary
Marge Peltz	Jhanette Rivera	Janet Simms	Barbara Swanson	Welscott
Frank Peppers	Susan Robbins	Ashley Simon	Sally Swift	Pat Wendt
Jeanne Perkins	Diana Robbins & Family	Steve & Catherine	Stacey Switzer	Chuck Wendt
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Phillips	Lauren Rosenbergh	Stacy Smith	Edward Thornhill	Williams
Jim Pittaro	Anne Ross	Tina Smith	Melissa Thun	Polly Williams
Kenny & Donna Pittman	Judith Roth	Terry & Lynn Smith	Chris Tindall	James Williams
Lewis Pizzulli	Arthur Rouse	Laura Snider-	Emily & Paul Tobias	James & Joan Wilson
Mary Jo Plante	Lillian Rubin	Feldmesser	Geri Travis	Rachel Wilson
Joan Plonka	George & Sandra	Kathy Snyder	James & Elizabeth	Kathryn Wilson
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Marilyn Pobanz	Susan Sabo	Dennis Soldon	Richard Truskowski	Tess Wolfmeyer
Mary Pohlod	Stephen Sadowski	Linda Sorensen	Marie Tuite	Michael & Sandra
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Joanne Post	Sandberg	Spencer	Karen Urdan	Rachelle Wyatt
Tom & Donna Povich	Rosemarie Sandel	Timothy Spiro	Larry Urevig	Patricia Yackel
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Jan Prusinowski	Vince & Carol	Stampor	Rick Vavrek	Howard & Susan
Kathleen Pucel	Schumacher	Jennifer Starrs	David Velez	Zemser
William Pullen	Tina Schwichow	Sherryn Stauffer	Angela Ventura	Robert & Kathy
	Barbara Scully	Mary Louise Stebbins	Bob & Dot Vernan	Zimmerman
	Heather Seaman			Cynthia Zweber

Memorial Tributes

Kim Ann Abbott from Donna Lazarz
Dolores Aguzzoli from Carol Fluhrer
James Ahlberg from Sharon Rose
Maxine Alex from Ray & Nancy Doute
Thomas Ambrey from Margaret Peltz
Adelaide M. Anderson from Sue Eves
Mel Annis from Patricia Cornett
Joseph David Arcand from Sandra Calamari
Michael Azzarella Sr. from Dick & Sue Wakefield
Rachel Bagozzi-Leja from Denise Bagozzi
Mattie Banks from Ray & Nancy Doute
Luke Barker from Sally Swift
Dawn Barnes from Gordon & Carol Johnson
Virginia Basler from Bill Bialkowski
George E. Baxter from Janet Simms
Mr. Harold Beasley from Sara Swift
Lee Bell from Tom & Patti Barbuto
Larry John Beller from Sharon Rose
Beatrice Bennett from Tania Yvette Bennett
Evelyn Bentley from Cindy Hryczyk
Theodore Edward Bettis from Ray & Nancy Doute
Joe Betz from Thomas Keller
Patricia Beyer from Susan Newton
Jordan Biedul from Diane Diem
Margaret Billings from Bob & Chris McCaffrey
Edith Birnholtz from Lori & John Stofflett
Chris Fournier Biser from Sally Swift
Franklin (Frank) Boehm from Ray & Nancy Doute
Anna K. Bonde from Bill & Susan Bresler, Debra Bonde, Tim & Charlene Schnelle
Doug Bottger from Judy Goldwasser
Brian Bozzone from Eileen St. John
Micalyn Bradshaw from Sara Swift
Pauline Braunstein from Deborah Braunstein
Richard Clair Brawley from The Hryczyk Family
Ruth Bright from Penelope Weiss
Louie Broccardo from Ray & Nancy Doute
Almer Bruland from Carol Bruland
Cindy Buckley from Jerry & Denise Kwas
Kathleen Buckley from Sally Swift
Anna Marie Burdis from Carol Fluhrer
Phyllis Burns from Carol Jamieson
Renee Burns from Patti & Tom Barbuto
Ryan Patrick Callen from Ray & Nancy Doute

Many people made special donations to Seedlings in 2024 in memory of friends and loved ones. Thank you!

Every \$10 donation subsidized the production of one braille book, and each of these books was inscribed (in print and in braille) with the tribute's name.

Mr. & Mrs. James Camilleri from Catherine Camilleri
Declan Carter from Sara Swift
Christine Caruso from Margaret Peltz
John Caruso from Margaret Peltz
Dr. Robert S. Caulkins from Gary & Sandy Salyer
Mary Chiacu from Marilyne & Mort Gutman
Kevin Christoff from Bill Bialkowski
Donald Cicotte, Jr. from Michelle Milko
Sharon Coll from Chris McCaffrey, Gina Lowe, Iris Hively, Jean Stachura, Linda Grimm, Richard McKenna, Ronald & Ruth Rogowicz, Sally Hively, Shelly Buser, Steven Coll, The Wheeler Family, Thomas & Teresa Byrd, William & Kelly Frank
Barbara A. Coloske from Sandra Rychlinski
Marilyn Colucci from Margaret Peltz
Lisa Combs from Laura Jones, Stacy Smith
Theresa Conlon from Margaret Peltz
Patty Kay Cooley from Larry & Barbara Muzzin
Janice Coon from Patrick Dewan
Gil Copeland from The Esper Family
Ann Rose Cordaro from Barbara Cordaro
Ben Corwin from Garnet Francis
Carlo Costanzo from Margaret Peltz
Barbara Costello from Ann Christenson
Jack E. Cowper from Charlette Davidson
Chris Crossley from Sheila & Sheldon Kohn
Sean Cunningham from Nancy Jo Blucher
Phoebe Curran from Larry & Barbara Muzzin
Kevin Dabrowski from Donna, Mike, & Dawn Lazarz
Caleb Matthew Damhoff from Tim & Pat White
Zachary Davies from Sheila & Sheldon Kohn

Daisy Mary Dawson from George & Barbara Megge-Mayer
Sylvia DeBrincat from Catherine Camilleri, Eleanor Smith, Violet Hanis
Keith Delmage from Carol Bruland
Vilma Delpup from Deborah Myers
Ralph Cecil Dempsay from Janet Backus
Scott DeShon from Lawrence & Rose Worobec
Elna Dever from Carol Bruland
Bill Devich from Carol Bruland
Jenny Devich from Carol Bruland
Angelo DeVitis from Tom & Patti Barbuto
Dorothy DeWolff from Dea DeWolff
Kathleen DiPaola from Sharon Rose
John B. Doherty from Margaret Peltz
Martin Doherty from Margaret Peltz
Kaitlin M. Donaldson from Barbara & Larry Muzzin
Cooper Drake from Sara Swift
Brian Sean Dunleavy from Ray & Nancy Doute
John Dunwoody from Cindy Martz
Menzo & Doris Durham from Lee & Kathy Kappler
Beverly Eagan from Sharon Rose
Elizabeth Eberts from Margaret Peltz
Gladys Beach Eckardt from Susan Eckardt Misiewicz
Larry Edmunds from Bob & Chris McCaffrey
Tom Edwards from Doris Edwards, Diana Robbins
Finnette Egolf from John & Barbara Sullivan
Sadie Emerson from Carol Bruland
Lillian Enger from Carol & Bill Irvine
Jane Ann Erickson from The Bridge Ladies of the Afternoon
Clifton "Cliff" B. Esser from Janet Backus
Helen Zaleski Estep from Nancy Jo Blucher

Memorial Tributes continued

Lambrine Ethans from Joanne Keefer

Gloria Eulo from Jerry & Ursula Eulo

Ever Loved, Inc.'s Fund from Marilyn Humphrey

Becky Farmer from Bob Farmer

Vincent Ferrari from Sara Swift

Jennifer Ferriera from Mary Ferriera

Steve (Cal) Ferry from Jackie Sieradzki

Maryann Foley from Roy & Rita Howell

Tony Fortuna from The Merucci Family

Victoria Fox from Eileen St. John

Gerald L. Franck from Janet Backus

William John Fredricksen from Janet Backus

Harry Fremder from Margaret Peltz

Mollie Galate from Jeanine Courtney-Clark, Jena & Lou Suveg

Patrick Gallagher from Margaret Peltz

Lillian Gallo from Margaret Peltz

Cecil Gatewood from Pamela Gatewood

John Gentillo from Margaret Peltz

Nick Gimpel from Carol Bruland

Don Glassford from Ray & Nancy Doute

Howard Gleichenhaus from Margaret Peltz

James Gorcyca from Carol & Bill Irvine

Delphine Gors from Sandy & Charles Zeidan

Joe Gorta from Margaret Peltz

Dorothy Goryca from Ray & Nancy Doute

Marie Gosset from Patrick Dewan

Dallas Green from Marilyn & Thomas Keller

Jen Greenfield from Marilyn Hersh

Irma Guest from Barbara Guest

Timothy Guest from Barbara Guest

Cindi Gutowski from Ann Christenson

Arnold Hagen from Charles & Loreen Pelto, Marilyn & Thomas Keller

Ali Radi Hajj Hassan from William Bialkowski

Gary Hamley from Bob & Kathy Esper

Bob Hardies from Patricia Lajko

Marilyn Harmon from Amy Fryman, Angela Ventura, Camille Spella, Carol Loomis, Catherine Spyres, Charles Luehring, Cheryl & Joe Terrana, Christine Damato, Dan Harmon, Dennis Soldon, Diane Kavalauskas, Eva Eiseman, Jane Waldron, Jill Hager, Joan Staeven, Joely Urdan, John Kaminsky, Joseph Kowsky, Karen Urdan, Katherine Priester, Kerri Anderson, Lauren Rosenbergh, Marcia Baxter, Marilyn Connonilly, Mary Hessel, Mary Tully, Mike & Margaret Kahn, Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Zemlicka, Pat Wendt, Patricia R. Mueller, Scott, Dawn & Helaina Heibler, Sumaya Kroger, Tess Wolfmeyer, Theresa Herman, Valerie Kaiser

Sandra Harvey from Richard & Sue Wakefield

Janet Heath-Morgan from Ray & Nancy Doute

Harold "Hal" Henderlong from Phyllis & Jackie Stengel

Rev. Joan Herbon from Mark Love

Andrew Hercula from Amanda Hercula

Judy Herman from Tom & Patti Barbuto

Dan, Pat & Danny Hill from Gigi Berger

Peter Hoadley from Russell & Mary Anne Hoadley

Ken Hobbs from Dick & Sue Wakefield

Marie Ann Hoffman from Janet Backus

Daniel Hoffman from Mrs. Ricki Hoffman

Harold F. Holcomb from Ray & Nancy Doute

Ralph Holloway from Dick & Sue Wakefield

Karen Holloway from Michelle Milko

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Barbara Hulburd Iannucci from Patricia R. Iannucci-Waller

Arlene Hussey from Carol McCreadie

David Irish from Bruce & Linda Flohr

Grace Irvine from Carol & Bill Irvine

Rosemary Jablonski from Luci Riegel

Linda James from Ray & Nancy Doute

Angela Jankowski from Carol & Bill Irvine

Michael Januszek from Karen Taylor

Dorothy Jarco from Patricia Jarco

Pauline Jetke from Riley Crozier

Gary Elmer Johnson from Patrice Gould

Ainsley Johnston from Sara Swift

Bernard Jonas from Marilyn Hersh

Jerry Jones from Laura Garvey

Marjorie Jones-Brawley from The Hryczyk Family

Teresa Jorgen from Marybeth Broderick

Neal Kalish from Jim, Susan & Jim Bonfiglio

Jane & Joseph Kaminsky from Susan & John Kaminsky

Eddie Kasza, Jr. from Michelle Milko

Cynthia (Cindy) Kelly from Cecile MacRae, Stephen Kelly

Barry Kelman from Denise Levy

Daniel Kerstetter from Sara Swift

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Margaret Kime from Adele Letterman, Blair Shortal, Bob & Terri Tewell, Cindy Wang, Curt & Sue Kime, Jennifer Bussone, Jennifer Haehn, Judy Measel, Leslie Whitfield, Philip & Mary Callcut, Tiffeny Standifer, Global Commercial Credit/PG, The Miklus Family

Rose Bagdady Kirschke from Sara Swift

Kory M. Klubek from Marian Klubek

George Ko from Chung-Yu Ko, Nancy Jo Blucher

Catie Kolodny from Bob & Kathy Esper

Barbara Koziak from Cindi Fluhrer

Rita M. Kubera from Joanne Keefer

Susan Marie Kuck from Cathie Cheslak

Hulda Kuehl from Carol Bruland

Arlene Kunigel from Barbara Nowicki

David Kurmas from Kari & Troy Nelson

Joan Lafasciano from Margaret Peltz

Geary Lambert from Cindy Martz

William Langmeyer from Kathleen & Bob Esper

Gabriel, 13

"Seedlings has been a part of our lives since Gabe was born. Now that he is 13, it is nice to have a source for age-appropriate, hard-copy braille books."

—Gabe's mom



Asaiah, 8

"Asaiah loves the touch and feel books and bright colors. These books provide comfort for him when hospitalized, and we read a book as our bedtime routine"

—Asaiah's Mom



Jack Lauer from Sara Swift

James LaVallee from Mrs. Beatrice Doan

Regina Lawson from Bill Bialkowski

Donna Lazarz from Denis & AnneMarie Hurley

Rachel E. Leja from Ashley Frazier, Ashley Simon, Gayle Kucharski, Bagozzi Family

David Lenhart from Bedford Lions Club

Msgn. Peter Lentine from Mrs. Burt Thomas Weyhing III

Mary Letters from Mary Anne Mercucci

Jacques Carson Leverette from Ray & Nancy Doute

Joanne LeVon from Michael LeVon

David Levy from Marilyn Hersh

Roxanne R. Lewis from Rita Howell

Robert L. Liening from Ray & Nancy Doute

Paula Litow from Marge Peltz

Sister Samuel Lubeck from Carol & Gordon Johnson

Phil Lucchese from Kathleen & Bob Esper

Cheryl Lucht from Cindi Fluhrer

Philip A. Lundy Sr. from Ray, Michelle, & Matthew Milko

Eddie MacAllen from Sandy Rogala

Malcolm MacLeod from Deborah Abar

Bob & Maggie from Pat Yakel

John Mahl from Patti & Tom Barbuto

Kristyn Mahle from Judie & Denny Mahle

Florence & Vincent Maiello from Margaret Peltz

Betty Margritte from Margaret Peltz

Edward Markquart from Debra Bonde

John Barney Marnon from Violet Hanis

Angela Marsala from Carol & Bill Irvine

N. Lucille Martin from Kerry & Sharon Holmes

Boris Maslocha from Jan & Mike Colman

Shirley Matzen from Karen Schubert

Patricia W. Maxwell from Sandy Salyer

Eugene Mayo from Margaret Peltz

Helen & Tom McCarthy from Eileen St. John

John McCarthy from Gerry Dillon

Mary McCarthy from Gerry Dillon

Mary Helen McClellan from Ray & Nancy Doute

Sarah McDonald from Donna Tal

Jody McIntosh from Carol Bruland

William Thomas Meyers from Mrs. Burt Thomas Weyhing III

Michael from Georgia Clark

Frederick Molner from Sean, Carrie, & Christine Cahill

Barbara Moore from Carol Bruland

Dennis Moore from Cindi & Carol Fluhrer

Sharon Morehead from Richard Osberg

Donald G. Morgan from Ray & Nancy Doute

Elaine Morse from Nancy Duffy

Donna Marie Mueller from Ray & Nancy Doute

Barbara Eko Murphy from Ron & Sharron Laing

Dick Nacey from Al Eardley

Jerry Nehs from Barbara & Ron Broadley

Mike Nell from Tom & Patti Barbuto

Hans George Neuroth from Phyllis & Jackie Stengel

Terry Nickerson from Lee & Kathy Kappler

Penelope (Penny) Soter Norton from Susan McCannell, The Dearborn High School Gang

Rose Norwich from Eduardo & Marion Phillips

Paul B. Novak from Karyn Werner

David Nowland from Bill Bialkowski

Louise O'Malley from Anna Merucci, Joe & Silvia Merucci, Mary Anne Merucci

Marie Pacitto from The Merucci Family

Steve Pardikes from Tom & Marilyn Keller

Mary Kathleen (Kathy) Pardo from Ray & Nancy Doute

Dorothy Parmentier from Ed Thornhill, James & Marilyn Vandenberg

Patricia & Travis Nixon Patricia & Wilbur Rau from Jackie & Dennis Rau

Thomas W. & Joan Patterson from Ken Patterson

Jill Pavlat from Mary Pohlod

Edwin Pelz from Janet Backus

Virginia Rose Peter from Roy & Rita Howell

Phyllis Peterson from Anna Merucci, Mary Anne Merucci

Alanah & Zayn Phillips from Sally Swift

Bob & Kay Piatt from Margaret Peltz

Mario Picano from Ray & Nancy Doute

Carl Pincheck from Eleanor Smith

Frank Pinkus from Eduardo & Marion Phillips

Matthew Pitt from Robert & Cathy Mears

Geraldine (Gerri) Pociask from Michelle Milko

Patricia Popchock from Violet Hanis

Robert Porter from Janice Porter

Michael Power from Jerry & Denise Kwas

Memorial Tributes continued

Barbara Prince's Father from Ricki Hoffman
Valerie Prisel Scheib from The Hryczyk Family
Kenneth J Prokopec from Janet Backus
Sam Prysianiuk from Marge Peltz
Mercedes Przybylski from Bill Bialkowski
Allen A. Pugh from Carol Fluhrer & Family
Carol A. Queenan from Rick Swaine
Will Rajala from Dolores Rajala
Tim Rau from Carol & Bill Irvine
Bradley Reckling from Sara Swift
Jeanne Refano from Eileen St. John
Frank Reilly from Margaret Peltz
Michael Reineck from Patricia Carafelli
Carl Richards from Christine Cahill
Doug Richards from The Milko Family
Bridget Downy Richardson from Nancy & Dave Hanna
Irene Riley from Katie Lazcano
Lawrence (Larry) Rochon from Lorraine Rochon, Ann Christenson, Debra Bonde, Linda Sorensen
Elizabeth Kleckner Rochon (Braille Transcriptionist Extraordinaire!) from Lorraine Rochon
Libby & Larry Rochon, NPBT from Ray & Nancy Doute
Roger Rowatt from Margaret Peltz
Ed Rudnicki from Janet Backus
Bailey Ruffner from Jeane Petree
Jeannine Ruth from Patti & Tom Barbuto
Caroll Ryzinski from Lee & Kathy Kappler
Mohamed Said from Sara Swift
Bob Salo from John & Lori Stofflett
Marvin Salomon from Deborah & Alan Hitsky
Ron Salyer from Gary & Sandy Salyer
JoAnne Sauger from Barbara Megge
Ann Saunders from Samantha Ouellette
Janie Savage from Carol & Bill Irvine
Aiden Saveski from Bill & Carol Irvine
Len Schiller from John & Barbara Sullivan
Nick Schiralli from Margaret Peltz
Darrell Schmidt from Charlene Guggisberg
Alex Schmoll from Jerry & Denise Kwas
Gordon Scholz from Amy Lamiman & Goodrich Special Education Family
Lynda Schrecengost from Margaret Stuebben
Shirley Seewald from Joanne Camiller
Christopher Allen Segard from Jackie Stengel
Del Sellers from Carol & Todd Kilsdonk
Eugene Shelton from Crystal Bradley

Melvyn D. Shewach from Cheryl Shewach, Michael Berman, Michael LeVon
Nathan Shiovitz from Marilyn Hersh
Cliff Shults from Eileen St. John
Brian Michael Siehda from Sharon Rose
Wanda Lee Simons from Susan Bradley, William Meister, The Meister & MacDougall Family
Moe Sion from Bill Bialkowski
Bettie Lane Skudlarek from Cindy Hryczyk
Gladys Smith from Cathie Cheslak
Cheryl C. Smith from George & Barbara Megge-Mayer
Daniel Jerome Smith from Robert & Cathy Mears
Cole Ryan Smith from Terry & Lynn Smith
Edith Snider from Laura Snider-Feldmesser
John Snowden from Margaret Peltz
Stuart Snyder from Maureen Seccombe
Robert Soulard from Michael & Maureen Seccombe
Phil Spada from Michelle Milko
Chris St. John from Eileen St. John
Theresa "TA" Stabrylla from Alice Horecki
Emily Stankus from Jennifer & Karl Siegert
Rose Stein from Sheila & Sheldon Kohn
Norma Stewart from Debra Bonde
Ray Stewart from Debra Bonde
Veronica Stillians from Debra Bonde
Arlene Stimac from Deborah Lassiter
Jacqueline Stoner from Carol Fluhrer
Ryan Stout from Sharon Rose
Barbara M. Strauch from Sally Belanger
Brenda Strausz from Marilyn Hersh
Terry Strong from Dick & Sue Wakefield
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Margaret Sweppy from Beatrice Doan
Yasuko Takata from Louise & Richard Nelson
Jeanne Tata from Dorene O'Brien
Albert Tavenor from Richard & Suzanne Sherby
Bob Terrabassi from Barb & Chuck Hart
The McCarthy Family from Eileen St. John
James D. Thompson from Lori Hawthorne
Donna Thomson from John & Lori Stofflett
Maria Tighe from Eileen St. John
Mary Toal from Penelope Weiss
Arliss Toth from Bill Bialkowski
Deborah L. Tress from Ray & Nancy Doute
Mr. Clarence Turley from Nanne Simonds
Mr. Patrick Twomey from Sara Swift
Pat Vanderworp from Catherine Camilleri
Zoey Vendlinski from Jackie Stengel
Frank Vettraino from Anna Merucci, Joe & Silvia Merucci, Mary Anne Merucci
Tom Violante from Royal Oak Lions Club
David Vitali from Linda Vitali
Carol Vito from Suzanne & Richard Sherby
Agnes Marie Walczyk from Sharon Rose
Marvel King Walters from Kelly Geyer
Tim Waske from Bill Bialkowski
Gerald Watrobski from Sharon Rose
Phyllis Weeks from Marilyn Hersh
Allan C. Weinger from Ray & Nancy Doute
Barbara Welker from Sandy Salyer
Mr. Jim Wells from Nanne Simonds
Silas Rhett Werner from Ray & Nancy Doute
Nancy West from Chuck Wendt
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Carolyn Wheatley from Ray, Michelle, & Matthew Milko
Elizabeth C. Wolski from The Hryczyk Family
Kenneth "Buzz" Wood from Janet Backus
Emil Zapalski from Judith Eddy
Midshipman 3/C Justin Zemser from Howard & Susan Zemser
Dolores Zimmer from Joanne Camiller

Honor Tributes

Linda Androvich in honor of Beverly Androvich

Janet Backus in honor of Debra J. Bonde

Gary Bailey in honor of Ella Muñoz

Karel Bailey in honor of Deacon Emmett McLane, Dr. Teresita Dionisio, Stephanie Duwig, Bonnie Sheeler, Nancy Meadows, Anne Jacobs, Fr. Chris Hess, Fr. Richard Mooney, Fr. Anthony Morris, Fr. Robert Spencer, Fr. Ronnie Dolosa,

Sharon Bewick in honor of Michael Nokes

Bill Bialkowski in honor of Jim 2Windak

Kim Bigelow in honor of Natalie Bigelow

Teri & Rick Billau in honor of Jared Stofflett

Rosemary Blaszkiewicz in honor of Gerry DeBrincat, Muriel, Camille Ellis

Barb Blouin in honor of Avery Devereux

Sara Bogart in honor of Debra Bonde

Beverly Bogoslaw in honor of Bill & Orlean Lewelling's 34th Anniversary, Bill Lewelling's Birthday & Passing, Orlean Lewelling Birthday, Orlean Lewelling

Rosanne Bozzone in honor of Dr. Thomas Enos Ph.D.

Deborah Braunstein in honor of Luke Weger

Alicia Brazington in honor of Glenn & Sarah Smith

Bill & Susan Bresler in honor of Debra Bonde's Retirement

Stanley Broffman in honor of Sid Yukelson's 90th Birthday

Theresa Brousseau in honor of Staff & Sunshine at Roxboro Road Elementary

Shirley Brown in honor of Pam & Andy Gustafson, Sandi & Ken Banks, Peggy Sowders, Sharon Montanga, Barb & Randy Frank

Catherine Camilleri in honor of Mr. & Mrs. James Camilleri, Charlie Camilleri

Jody Campbell in honor of Lori Stofflett's Birthday

Mary & Curtis Chase in honor of Susan Soulard

Cathie Cheslak in honor of Cathie Kuck's 90th Birthday

Denni & Bob Chiavarini in honor of Clint Chiavarini, Katie Chiavarini, Dax Chiavarini, Ivy Chiavarini, Cameron Bergmans, Stacy Harrop, Dawn & Jeff Thorne, CaraLynn Pender

Georgia Clark in honor of Her sister

Ginny & John Cole in honor of Karen Dixon

Jeffrita Colglazier in honor of Rosemary Miller

Mary Lynn Colwell in honor of Becky Hunter

Carol Cormack in honor of Mason Cormack's 1st Birthday

Dorothy Cormack in honor of Mason Cormack's 1st Birthday

Many people made special donations to Seedlings in 2024 in honor of friends and loved ones. Thank you!

Every \$10 donation subsidized the production of one braille book, and each of these books was inscribed (in print and in braille) with the honoree's name.

Patricia Cornett in honor of Judy Goldwasser's 80th Birthday, Judy Goldwasser

Brenkell Creative LLC in honor of Ken Thompson

Rebecca Curry in honor of Mary Howell's 50th Birthday

Dave & Sandy in honor of Rosemary Loostrum's 100th Birthday

Barbara Diem in honor of Diane Diem

Terri Dunipace in honor of Edward Thornhill, Ed Thornhill

Sara Edwards in honor of Brooks Bryant

Ellen Esther in honor of Georgia D. Tuite

Eye Surgeons Associates in honor of Our Physicians

Martin Finkelshteyn in honor of Nolan Homant's 9th Birthday

Susan Fisher in honor of Dr. Stephen Tassler's Retirement, Brian Teven, Danny Zalay, Zach Kaplan

Kimberly Franck in honor of The Mullins Family, Mrs. Orndorff, Mr. Shober, Mrs. Sterner, Chris Behan, Peggy Gelnett, Betty Goff, Debbie and Richard Ball, Kathy Wenger, Kathy Weinhold, Mr. Eshelman, Mr. Martin

Lynda Franklin in honor of Granddaughter Zoey's 1st Birthday, Gwen & Owen for Rebekah's 40th Birthday

Lee Geraci in honor of Charlotte "Mimi" Moore, Rita "Grammy" Geraci, Soo Geraci, Erin "Nonna" Geraci

Bonnie & Bill Goodrich in honor of The Dao Family, Barb Springman, Linda Dickieson, Evie Marchio, Mable Doot, Sue Laubernds

Jill Greimel in honor of Mary Humes, Sandy Bera, Barb Roller, Geri Hogan, Cherrill Flynn

Michelle Greiner in honor of Margaret Greiner

Bob & Linda Grimm in honor of Dr. Andrew Pruitt, Dr. Judy Negele, CVTS Team - IHA Ann Arbor, Staff at PCU 2E - Trinity Health Ann Arbor, Staff at SICU 2N - Trinity Health Ann Arbor, Jennifer Hurand Polan

Pamela & Andrew Gustafson in honor of Shirley Brown

Megan & Brennan Haley in honor of McKenzie Gran's 24th Birthday, Daniela Pacitti

Violet Hanis in honor of Fr. Joseph Tuskiewicz

Jan Harkins in honor of Amy Browne

Becky & Al Hercula in honor of Dr. Nancy Frantz & Brian Frantz

Mark Herman in honor of Judith Ann Herman, Austin Herman, Jim Herman, Lauren Herman, Jack Herman, Ben Cowley, Melissa Cowley, Mike Cowley, James Cowley, Joe Cowley

Rita Howell in honor of Veronica "Ronni" Eggert

Denise Hutchison in honor of William See

Carol & Bill Irvine in honor of Deb Bonde

Ronald Jetke in honor of Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Ankiewicz, Ms. Patricia Bigford, Mr. & Mrs. Michael Conroy, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Dorchy, Mr. & Mrs. Ken Durham, Mr. & Mrs. John Harrington, Mr. & Mrs. Michael Read, Ms. Judy Rigley, Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Snell, Mr. & Mrs. Al Valentine

Carol & Gordon Johnson in honor of Deb Bonde, Founder of Seedlings

Joseph Bernadette & Rachel Kobierecki in honor of Nancy Berard's 50th Birthday, Russ Ridolfi, Karen Dronzek's 80th Birthday

Mary Ellen Kaas in honor of Chris & Bob McCaffrey

Susan & John Kaminsky in honor of Edward & Julia Poker

Kristin Ketzler in honor of Julie Barton

Michael & Debra Kingsbury in honor of Lathan Kingsbury, Reagan Kingsbury, Lorelei Kingsbury, Savannah Kingsbury

Jon & Linda Koester in honor of Caleb & Collin Koester

Sheila Kohn in honor of Midge Lusardi

Leigh Krauss in honor of Diane Ledbetter's 92nd Birthday, Diane Ledbetter

Jerry & Denise Kwas in honor of Fr. Stephen Moening

Honor Tributes continued

Karen LaCava in honor of Debra Bonde
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Pat & Bill Tancill in honor of Jack Tancill, Ally & Nick Tancill, Connor Moran, Maddie Moran, Will Moran, Lynn Allen, Judy Favell, Lyn & Tim Sutton, Denise & Jim Biga
The Seedlings Staff in honor of Terry Crouson, Katie Kelel, Rick Swaine, Joel Zatell, Seedlings volunteers
Ken & Mary Thompson in honor of Patricia Walters
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Linda Widstrand in honor of Jacob Perkins
James Wilson in honor of Al Eardley

Ford, 8

"Seedlings' books have given our family the gift of reading together again. We enjoy the real world fact books and anything that makes us laugh! Seedlings offers our family access to books we cannot find elsewhere."

—Ford's mom



Book Sponsors & UEB Conversion Sponsors

Our loyal supporters have been helping us convert titles into Unified English Braille (UEB), since the new braille code that was introduced in 2016.

Almost 10 years later, Seedlings is a leader in the number and variety of UEB offerings for children in our catalog. We couldn't do this without your generous support!

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Helped launch 21 new titles!

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Monthly gifts help create a sustainable source of funding for Seedlings throughout the year. We are grateful for the following people who made monthly gifts to Seedlings in 2024.

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James & Crystal McCaffrey

Peggy McDonald

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Kristin Paisley

Brian & Rhonda Sarkisian

Georgi Smith

Barbara Stolper



Leilani, 3

"We both love Seedlings' books because they allow her to enjoy what the book is about by feeling and touching."

—Leilani's mom

Corporate Donations

Alpha USA: post office delivery volunteers

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Many corporate donors generously donated to Seedlings' Online Auction. See page 17 for a full list of corporate supporters.

Annual Fall Online Auction

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A heartfelt thank you for another successful online auction!

Seedlings' 2024 Online Auction raised over \$46,000 in honor of our 40th anniversary! Thanks to our generous sponsors, donors and supporters, this event enabled Seedlings to make and distribute more than 4,600 braille books to children with vision loss!

Many, many thanks to all of you!

Prize donors

36 Social

A.T. Guys

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Daly Restaurant

David's New York Deli

Deadwood Bar & Grill

Dearborn Sausage Company

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"At Masco, we believe in better living possibilities—for our homes, our environment and our community. We are a proud partner with Seedlings as we truly believe our support helps bridge the gap in educational resources for visually impaired children, ensuring they have the tools they need to succeed."

—Masco Corporation

Fall Auction continued

Honey Tree Grille	Palio
Hunts ACE Hardware	Phoenix Theaters
Jimmy John's Field	Plus Skateboarding
Karl's Cabin	Portillo's
Kawai Piano Gallery of Michigan	Premier Pet Supply
Kendra Scott	Pro Sports Zone
Inosha Kothalawala	Purple Rose Theatre
Las Palapas	Racquet Up Detroit
John Lawrence	Red Robin
Leda's Coney Island	Lorraine Rochon
Livonia Civic Chorus	Royal Oak Golf Center
Livonia Community Rec Center/Livonia Parks and Rec	Running Lab
Livonia Mayor Maureen Miller Brosnan	Rusty Bucket
Livonia Police Department	Schuler Books
Livonia Symphony Orchestra	Senate Coney Island
The Looney Baker	Slows Bar B Q
Luca Pastry	Smith & Associates - Ameriprise Financial
Mackinac State Historic Parks	South Lyon Hotel
Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle	Stagecrafters
Brandon McCullough	Sunrise Cafe
Meadow Brook Theatre	Tahquamenon Falls Brewery & Pub
Merri Bowl Lanes	Target
Merri-Craft Florist	The Ark
Michigan Flight Museum	Toledo Mud Hens
Mid-American Fitness	Toledo Zoo
Motor City Youth Theatre	Top Golf
Cheri Muchow	Toyology Toys
Murder Mystery Company	Trader Joe's
Cheryl Murphy	Tuscan Cafe
National Museum of the Great Lakes	University Musical Society
Kari & Troy Nelson	Valentino's Pizza
Nico & Vali Italian Eatery	Vicky's Homemade Ice Cream
Noreen Owens Photography	Water Brothers Books
Nothing Bundt Cakes	West Michigan Whitecaps
O'Malley's Irish Pub	Whoa Silent Disco
Oriental Trading Co.	Wild Birds Unlimited
Painting With a Twist	Wine Castle
	Renee Wolf
	Yes Accessible!
	Yip Fitness
	Zap Zone Fun Center



Annaliese, 11

"Reading is my most favorite activity, next to doing Legos. I usually read one or two books a week outside of school, and my weekends are full of reading braille books or listening to audio books. My favorite book topic is coming of age historical fiction, especially ones that take place during World War One and Two. I also enjoy funny fiction books."

Individual & Fund-A-Need Donors

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We would also like to thank the nearly 150 bidders who participated in our auction.

Congratulations to all those who won items!

How to Help

There are many ways you can directly fuel our mission. Your support will have an immediate and lasting impact, by going directly toward braille book production and distribution. With your help, we can continue to provide free and low-cost braille books to children with vision loss around the world!

General Donations

Help Seedlings thrive! General donations fund our greatest needs as well as book production and distribution. Visit our website to donate!

Planned & Estate Giving

Leave a legacy behind with a planned or estate gift to Seedlings! Please contact your estate planning attorney for more information.

Endowment Giving

Help secure Seedlings' longevity by sending donations directly to our endowment fund: the Edward T. and Ellen K. Dryer Endowment Fund for Seedlings Braille Books for Children. Checks should be made payable to Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan with our fund name in the memo line. Please mail checks to:

Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan
PO Box 713458
Chicago, IL 60677-4358

Grant Support

Do you represent a foundation? Partner with us to help grow our work and support our programming efforts. Please reach out to Barrie, Grants Manager, at barrie@seedlings.org to explore how you can support Seedlings' mission.

Corporate Sponsorships

Promote your business while you support Seedlings! We are always looking for corporate sponsorships for events like our open house and online auction. Please reach out to Caleigh, Community Outreach Manager, at caleigh@seedlings.org for more information.

Additional Opportunities

We welcome other types of gifts such as donor advised funds, securities, charitable gift annuities, monthly donations, and more!



Contact us to get involved:

seedlings.org/how-to-help

734-427-8552

info@seedlings.org



“The Lavelle Fund believes that every visually impaired child deserves equal access to literacy and education, regardless of their preferred language of communication. Seedlings’ braille books are helping thousands of blind children around the U.S. to develop and nurture their love for reading. We are honored to be partners with Seedlings.”

—The Lavelle Fund for the Blind

Our Volunteers

Our volunteers are the key to Seedlings' success! We feel so fortunate to have a very dedicated group of volunteers who help with book assembly, binding, labeling, post office delivery, fundraising, and so much more!

We LOVE our volunteers! Thank you to all those who volunteered with Seedlings in 2024.

We couldn't do what we do without you!

Alpha USA: Frank
D&B Landscaping: Josh Kruse
Linda Bricker
Peggy Burns
Maureen Cameron
Elaine Chalom
Cathie Cheslak
Gary Chulso
Scott David
Kathy Donagrandi
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Contact us to volunteer:



Info@seedlings.org
800-777-8552
seedlings.org/how-to-help/volunteer

Seedlings Braille Books For Children

14151 Farmington Road, Livonia, Michigan 48154
(734) 427-8552 • (800) 777-8552 • Fax: (734) 427-3460
info@seedlings.org • www.seedlings.org
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"Volunteering at Seedlings is an enriching experience. It nourishes my soul by allowing me to share the gifts of happiness, imagination, and knowledge with toddlers, young adults, and their families. As a volunteer at Seedlings, I have the opportunity to make the world a little brighter and more joyful."

-Ron, Seedlings volunteer

40th Anniversary Celebration

In 2024, Seedlings celebrated 40 years of service to the visually impaired community. On October 2nd, Seedlings' friends, family, staff, volunteers, and supporters gathered to celebrate Seedlings' and our founder, Debra Bonde's, shining legacy. It was a truly special evening, filled with love, memories, and excitement for the future. Debra's dedication has touched countless lives over the years, and we are honored to have shared this milestone with all of our supporters.

**Here's to another 40 years
of braille literacy!**





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Avayah, 1

"Avayah is very adventurous and curious about everything. She loves her books from Seedlings. We practice reading at least once a day and Avayah always has a big smile on her face while learning! Seedlings is such a great program and we are really grateful that she is able to have her books to help her learn."

—Avayah's mom

Seedlings Braille Books for Children has been sowing the seeds of literacy and opening doors to education and independence for blind children around the world since 1984!