

2026 SUMMER



NEWSLETTER

2026 Summer Newsletter

**Seedlings reached 850,000
books produced since 1984!**



image description: A photo of a bookshelf at Seedlings with the text We've Reached 850,000 books! overtop.

Seedlings in Boston!

**EARLY CONNECTIONS CONFERENCE AT
PERKINS SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND**



image description: A photo of Seedlings' table set up at Perkins School For the Blind with staff members Kari and Lauren.

A few of our staff members attended the Early Connections Conference at Perkins School for the Blind in May! Our team members Caleigh and Lauren enjoyed staffing the vendor table while our program manager, Kari, had a wonderful day attending engaging sessions. We were thrilled to visit such a beautiful campus and hear the stories of the many attendees and presenters.

While in Boston, our team was also able to visit The Carroll Center for the Blind and National Braille Press.

THE CARROLL CENTER

We enjoyed a wonderful tour of the historic facility, met program participants, and had a fantastic discussion with Carroll Center staff about potential ways to partner and amplify our missions.

NATIONAL BRAILLE PRESS

We sat down with the National Braille Press team to discuss our work and how we can work together to support the VI community. Afterwards, we toured their production space



image description: A group photo of four staff members with the Carroll Center logo on the wall.



image description: a photo of braille machines at National Braille Press.

Volunteer Appreciation Brunch



image description: A photo of the plants for volunteers set out on a table in front of some bookshelves with our infographic board behind it.

We had a lovely time celebrating **National Volunteer Month** with a volunteer appreciation brunch at Seedlings, catered by

Sunrise Cafe! Our volunteers are the lifeline of Seedlings' mission. Almost every book is touched by a volunteer, who helps make the work we do possible. Thank you so much to our amazing team of dedicated volunteers!



image descriptions: group photos of volunteers sitting at their tables.

Pickleball Tournament Fundraiser!



image description: A picture of staff members Emily and Debbie at the check-in table at Wicked Pickle with all of our Seedlings information and sign set up. The pickleball courts are seen behind them.

SEEDLINGS' FIRST ANNUAL PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENT!

On Saturday, June 6th, we hosted our inaugural Pickleball Tournament Fundraiser and we were thrilled with the turnout! It was an incredible day filled with fun, community, and passion for braille literacy! Thank you all so much for attending, playing, sponsoring, and participating in our 50/50 raffle and silent auction. We raised over **\$22,000** towards braille book production with the help of our supporters and sponsors! Thank

you **Wicked Pickle** for a great event venue. We are excited for round two next year!



image description: A group photo of the participating teams and staff with the Wicked Pickle sign behind.

A special thank you to Masco for being our headline sponsor, as well as the rest of our amazing sponsors and food donors:

D&B Landscaping, LMCU, Wolverine Orthotics, Inc., Alpha USA, MDE-LIO, Marston Optometry, SkyOak, MSUFCU, Samantha Lewis Agency, In Memory of Melvyn D. Shewach, Sterling Heights Lions Club, Jonathan Leon, John Lawrence, Embassy Title, Dearborn Heights Lions Club, Topor's Pickles, McClure's, Pop Daddy Snacks, Vlasic Pickles, and Hummus Goodness.



image description: The top three winning teams posed with their winning baskets and medals.

Support Seedlings in the Inaugural RunMarston Optometry 5K!



Inaugural runMarston Optometry

5K

RUN/WALK

SEE BETTER. LIVE BETTER. RUN TOGETHER.

DATE:
Wednesday, July 22nd, 2026

LOCATION:
Marston Optometry
32037 Plymouth Road
Livonia, MI 48150

SCHEDULE:
Office Opens: 7:30 AM
First Wave – "Faster Than Us Runners" 8:00 AM
Second Wave – "We Are Still Cool Run/Walkers" 8:30 AM
All paces. All ages. All welcome.

WHO:
Everyone is welcome!
Bring your family, friends,
neighbors, and co-workers!

Proceeds Benefit



More Than a 5K!

PRIZES & RAFFLES
Fun prizes and exciting raffles
throughout the event!

SPECIAL SUNGLASS EVENT
Check out the latest styles
and exclusive deals!

COFFEE & DONUTS
Grab a treat and celebrate
after the race!

REGISTRATION DONATION LEVELS

Registration "Fee":	\$10	\$100	\$500	\$1000
				
	= 1 BRAILLE BOOK Provides one braille book to a child.	= 10 BOOKS Supplies a braille reader with 10 free books through our Seedlings Assista-Reader Program.	= CONVERT A TITLE Sponsors the conversion of a title into the new UEB braille code.	= LAUNCH A NEW TITLE Sponsors the launch of a new braille title.

100% of proceeds support local vision care initiatives and Seedlings Braille Books for Children.

MAKE A DONATION!
Can't make it to the event? You can still make an impact!
Donate online at the link below:
<https://www.seedlings.org/news-events/events/marston-5k/>



REGISTER TODAY!
EMAIL TO REGISTER:
runMarstonOptometry@gmail.com

QUESTIONS?
Contact our office:
734-421-5454

Run. Walk. Have Fun. Make an Impact.

TOGETHER, WE CAN CHANGE LIVES THROUGH VISION, ONE STEP AT A TIME.

image description: The flyer gives the information from the caption below.

DATE: Wednesday, July 22nd, 2026

LOCATION: Marston Optometry 32037 Plymouth Road Livonia, MI, 48150

SCHEDULE: Office opens: 7:30AM, First wave: 8AM, Second Wave: 8:30AM

WHO: Everyone is welcome!

Prizes and raffles throughout the event, special sunglasses with exclusive deals, coffee and donuts!

Registration fee: Pick your registration level and Seedlings receives the donation. \$10= 1 braille book, \$100= 10 books, \$500= convert a title, \$1,000= launch a new title. If you can't make it, you can still make a donation [here](#).

To register, email: RunMarstonOptometry@gmail.com
Questions? Contact their office: 734-421-5454

Bottle Drive for Braille Books!

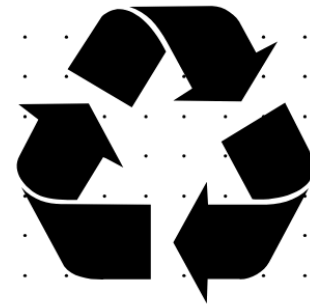
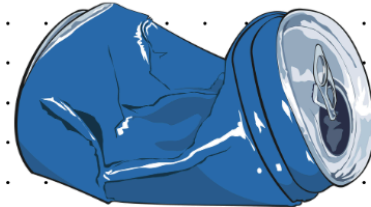
SEEDLINGS'

BOTTLE DRIVE

FOR BRAILLE BOOKS!

Got Empty Bottles?

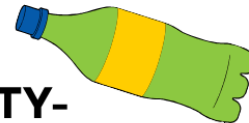
We've Got a Cause!



Donate your empty returnable bottles and cans to help us produce more braille books!

MONDAY, JULY 13TH - FRIDAY JULY 17TH
8:30AM-4:30PM DAILY

DROP OFF @ SEEDLINGS FACILITY-
14151 FARMINGTON RD, LIVONIA, MI, 48154



Seedlings

**All proceeds raised will
go directly towards
braille book production**

For more information:

Call Lauren: +734-427-8552 Ext. 3007
or email: Lauren@Seedlings.org

***Please make sure your returnables are
MI accepted
(look for the text "MI 10¢" or "MI-10¢")**

Seedlings is a tax-exempt, non-profit organization dedicated to providing high-interest, low-cost braille books for children. EIN: 38-2565354

image description: The flyer gives the information listed below along with some graphics of bottles.

Donate your empty returnable bottles and cans to help us produce more braille books! Monday July 13th- Friday the 17th

(8:30AM-4:30PM DAILY) drop off your donations at our facility
(14151 Farmington Rd, Livonia, MI, 48154).

For more information, contact Lauren: +734-427-8552 Ext.
3007 or email Lauren@seedlings.org.

Our Annual Online Auction Returns!

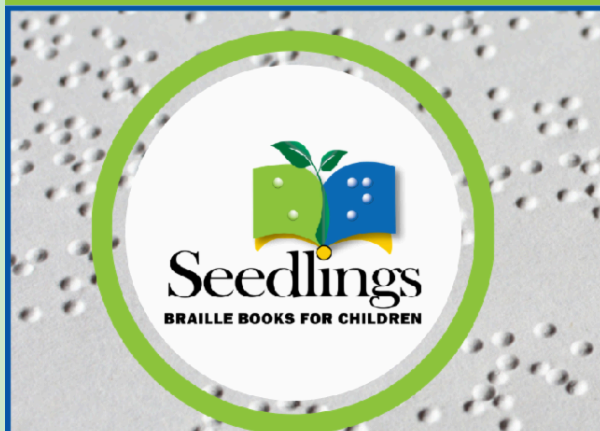


Help raise over \$35,000 For Seedlings Braille
Books for Children to provide 3,500+ braille
books to children with vision loss!

Sponsorship opportunities available!

Promote your business and show your
support by donating Gift Cards,
Certificates, Tickets, Weekend Getaways,
Golf & Spa Packages & more!

Seedlings is a 501(c)3 organization. Federal ID 38-2565354



Questions?
Contact us!

 734-427-8552
Lauren, Ext. 3007

 Lauren@seedlings.org

The auction will take place October 19th-22nd!

Help us raise over \$35,000 for Seedlings Braille Books for Children to provide 3,500+ braille books to children with vision loss!

We are looking for sponsors and in-kind donations. If you are interested in promoting your business while supporting Seedlings, contact our Events & Marketing Coordinator,

Lauren:

734-427-8552 Ext. 3007

lauren@seedlings.org

2025 Annual Report!



image description: The cover of the annual report features a close-up photo of a reader flipping through a book on the ground.

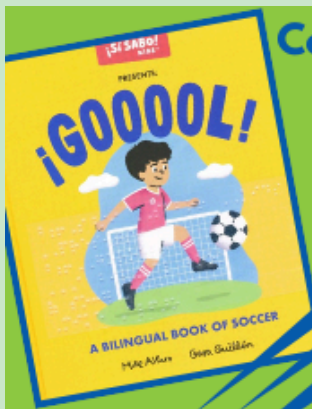
A big thank you to **EPK Design** for always capturing our work so well! This year's [PDF report](#) is fully accessible and screen reader friendly.

We are so grateful to all of our generous donors, grantors, volunteers, customers, and corporate partners that continue to make our mission possible every year. We could not do what we do without each and every one of you!

If you would like a physical copy mailed to you, please reach out to us!

Check Out our Newest Bilingual Book!

Celebrate the World Cup with our Newest Title ¡GOOOOL!





This English-Spanish bilingual book features a braille diagram of a soccer field, complete with labeled field elements and definitions.



image description: an infographic of the book with the information from the caption below displayed.

Celebrate the World Cup with ¡GOOOOL!
an English-Spanish book that features a
braille diagram of a soccer field, complete
with labeled field elements and definitions.

Find it available now in [our shop!](#)

REMINDER: Sign up for BAP and TVIP for 2026!

You must register **EACH CALENDAR YEAR.**



image description: A woman holding a young girl in her lap with a book opened up with a picture of a duck showing.

Visit our [free programs page](#) for more information and to apply.

****Please be certain to use the appropriate coupon code for the program of your choosing to complete your order without payment.***

****Orders will be filled as time and materials allow and will be sent Free Matter for the Blind via the United States Postal Service.***

A Warm Welcome to our New Staff!



Image description: A group photo of the new staff members in order from left to right Kathy, Michael, and Ashley.

We have welcomed **THREE** new staff members to our production team this month - Kathy, Michael, and Ashley (from left to right). Learn more about each of them and their roles:

- **Kathy, Production Assistant:** Kathy joins the team from a long career at Livonia Public Schools as a special education paraprofessional, working primarily with visually impaired students. She comes to Seedlings with braille experience!
- **Michael, Production & Shipping Assistant:** Michael joins the team with a strong background in customer service and the hospitality industry. He is already working hard to learn braille and is a shipping pro!
- **Ashley, Volunteer Coordinator & Production Assistant:** Ashley joins the team with a background in education and nonprofits! In her role, she will be working closely with our incredible volunteers and in our production department.

Please join us in welcoming them to the Seedlings team!

Planned Giving with Seedlings

Leave a Legacy



Image description: A photo shows a Seedlings sprouting from the dirt. The top says Leave a Legacy.

A planned gift is a meaningful way to leave your own legacy at Seedlings. Planned gifts are typically made through your will, trust, or beneficiary designation. Your planned gift will have a lasting impact on Seedlings and the children we serve!

If you would like more information or have already established a planned gift to Seedlings, please [let us know!](#)

[Learn More](#)

Questions about planned giving? Please reach out to our assistant director, Caleigh at caleigh@seedlings.org or 734-427-8552 x 3006.

Seedlings' new titles:

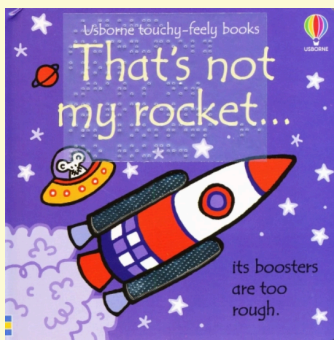
#9935 That's Not My Fairy

#9936 That's Not My Rocket

#9937 Baby Faces Feelings

#9123 Don't Tickle the Puppy!

#LBB1006 A Leader Dog's Story



#1668 A Handful of Stars

#1666 Henry Huggins

[Shop Now!](#)

Image Description: The cover of That's Not My Rocket.

Seedlings Spotlight



Image description: Seedlings reader, Elyas, is pictured with a braille picture book in his lap.

Elyas (pictured) is one of Seedlings' readers! Read this quote we received from his parents:

"Elyas has cerebral visual impairment from a brain injury he sustained at birth but he loves to hear the books read to him and feel the braille and touch and feel books and see the colorful pictures to the extent that he can. Reading everyday is our favorite thing to do together thanks to Seedling books!."

[Seedlings Website](#)

[Donate](#)

[How You Can Help](#)

800-777-8552
P.O. Box 51924
Livonia, MI 48151

[Contact Us](#)



Seedlings Braille Books for Children is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. Federal ID 38-2565354. All donations are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.



Try email marketing for free today!