

Friends of the Library



Wood County District Public Library

Newsletter October 2014

Fall Book Sale



Ann Jones (Book Sale Committee
Co-Chair with Deb Smith)

The Friends of the Library annual fall book sale, during the Black Swamp Arts Festival, was a resounding success. The sale yielded a record sale total of \$3,951.36. Thank you to everyone who assisted with the sale and purchased books and media. Remember, there is special Friends-only preview sale before the public book sales. The preview gives Friends the first opportunity to purchase books.

Summer Reading Program

The 2014 Summer Reading program, supported in part by the Friends of the Library, set records for attendance and participation. "Fizz, Boom and Read" brought 1,540 youths from pre-school through 12th grade to the library for hands on science experiences that promoted reading, logical thinking skills, and collaboration in a fun environment. (What's more fun than blowing things up and mucking around with stinky stuff?)



Over 1200 volunteer hours contributed to the success of the program. Financial contributions from area businesses, schools, and city and county agencies supplemented the funds provided by the Friends of the Library and made this a model program.

Maria Simon, Head of Youth Services, expressed her gratitude for the FOL support: "We could not provide so much encouragement for summer reading without your help. We purchased fun incentives to share with readers as they reached their reading goals and offered several educational and entertaining programs for the whole family."



Books for Babies

Early literacy skills begin at birth. Research provides evidence that babies, at the time of birth, are already beginning to distinguish sounds. Parents and caregivers who sing, say rhymes, and talk to their child are beginning to develop the baby's early literacy skills.

The American Academy of Pediatrics recently established a policy statement about literacy promotion and noted that "Reading regularly with young children stimulates optimal patterns of brain development and strengthens parent-child relationships at a critical time in child development, which, in turn, builds language, literacy, and social-emotional skills that last a lifetime."

Research has also shown that the more words children hear, the more they learn. Children in poverty have fewer books in the home than children at higher economic levels. By age four, children in poverty hear 30 million fewer words than children in higher income families. This disparity results in significant learning disadvantages that continue into adulthood.

Children who acquire the early literacy skills will be ready to learn to read. However, 1 in 3 American children start kindergarten without the language skills necessary to learn to read. Reading proficiency at third grade has been found to be the most important predictor of high school graduation and career success.

The Books for Babies program is fully funded by the Friends of the Library. A board book, with interesting artwork, is given to each baby born at the Wood County hospital. The durable board books have soft edges, thick pages to turn, and are easy to handle. According to Maria Simon, the board book is a "handy and pleasurable way to share a book with young children because they can handle it, put it in their mouth, etc."

A new supply of books was recently delivered to the Wood County Hospital. In the above photo, Lisa Barndt (left), the Obstetrics Supervisor at the hospital,

is shown with Carole Matthews (right), Friends of the Library board member and the FOL representative for the Books for Babies Program. Carole said that parents are pleased to receive the packet of information, as well as the book. "The parents appreciate the gesture of giving a book and the gift of reading."



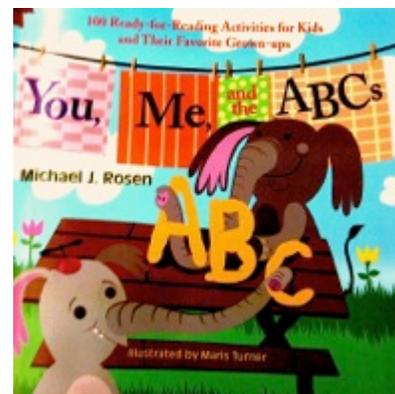
Lisa Barndt and Carole Matthews

Maria Simon also emphasized that the Friends of the Library and WCDPL partnership with the hospital is very positive. "The books are one way of encouraging parents to share the gift of reading from day 1."

One of the board books is "You, Me, and the ABC's. 100 Ready for Reading Activities for Kids and Their

Favorite Grown-ups." The book is also available to parents and caregivers in the monthly baby and toddler programs on Saturday mornings at the library.

In addition to the board book, an accompanying letter and packet to parents encourages them to learn effective strategies when reading and interacting with their baby. Many parents are overwhelmed and Maria said the message to parents is "you can do it." They are informed that the library staff "can help make this easy and fun because they can easily bond with their baby when reading."



Parents and caregivers are invited to visit the WCDPL for staff assistance in selecting books and music for the baby to enjoy. "Listen Little Ones," a special story time just for babies and toddlers, meets on Thursdays at 10:00 a.m.

The special story time encourages parents and caregivers to make reading a special part of a baby's life and begin a life-long love of books. To learn more about programs promoting children's literacy, contact The Children's Place at the WCDPL at woodkids@wcdpl.org.

Every Child Ready to Read

Every Child Ready to Read (ECRR) is a research-based educational program that was developed by the Public Library Association and the Association for Library Services for Children. ECRR was adopted by the Wood County District Public Library (WCDPL).

ECRR, as an initiative at WCDPL, is designed to share and model effective strategies for parents and caregivers in order to enhance early literacy skills in children from birth to age five. These early literacy skills are prerequisites to learning to read.

The ECRR initiative encompasses many different programs and opportunities to improve literacy. The Friends of the Library has funded books for a Baby Fair and other early literacy programs.

The ECRR programs provide parents and caregivers with literature regarding the six early literacy skills and the strategies to promote those skills. The six early literacy skills in the ECRR program include:

vocabulary,
letter
knowledge,
phonological
awareness, print
motivation, and
narrative skills.
For example,
children
learning

narrative skills will be able to retell the story and relate their own experience to what happened in the book.



In the literacy programs, library staff share and model strategies such as talking, singing, playing, reading, and writing. Singing is one example of an effective strategy because the words are slowed down and the child is able to hear the sounds. When children clap with the songs, the child hears the syllables.

Library resources include CDs, DVDs, illustrated books with rhymes, and picture books with CDs of recorded music in zippered bags. Pete the Cat is one

example of a zippered bag in which there is a Pete doll, and activities for singing, talking, writing, drawing and taking a photo to share. The Children's Place has a variety of music to help parents and caregivers interact with the child.



ECRR programs are very popular with families. One involved parent is Rachel who brings her son Devin



to the library. Rachel's family has participated in toddler and preschool story times, Paws for Reading, summer reading and science programs, as

well as many other special events. Rachel said "Having lots of books around makes a big difference. Both of my children have been very interested in books since before they were verbal."

She learned strategies to "include stories in routines like bedtime and songs and rhymes at times like diaper changing so we don't have to think about trying to 'do' literacy activities. Coming to the library has helped to keep reading fun for my oldest and allowed us to combine it with social interaction. We have made some close friends with families we met at the library, which means that books and learning are associated with fun and play for my son. Also the opportunities for pretend and symbolic play at the library (toy kitchen, space ship set up in the castle, etc.) have helped to develop strong language skills which are helpful for strong literacy skills. My oldest is in first grade and is a very strong reader. He was motivated to keep reading this summer because of the summer reading program and made gains in his reading level this summer."

The Friends of the Library is pleased to support the early literacy initiatives. It is wonderful to see many families take advantage of the outstanding services of the Wood County District Public Library.

Book Donations to Non-Profit Organizations

The previous articles provide examples of the many ways in which the WCDPL and the Friends of the Library benefit the community. Another example is the Friends of the Library book donations to local non-profit organizations. Since 2012, Linda Lander has spearheaded the effort to donate the unsold / un-retained books and media to local non-profit organizations and individuals teaching or helping others.

The project began informally in 2012 when a member of the Wood County Senior Center came after the book sale and expressed interest in acquiring unsold / un-retained books and media for use in Senior Center programming and sales. Providing books to non-profit organizations serves to encourage reading for all populations and promote re-use and sustainability.

In the past two years, the project has become more formalized. The Office of Service-Learning at Bowling Green State University sends notices to their list of local non-profit partners, as well as to the entire university community. The Sentinel-Tribune also advertised the opportunity.

At the recent fall book sale, 12 different local organizations came to select books for the populations they serve. After selection by the non-profit organizations, Goodwill Industries of Northwest Ohio, Inc. takes the remaining books to be used in their projects.

The Senior Center has remained a primary recipient of the books and media because of the wide range of usage. The Center has a lending library of VHS tapes for the entertainment of the seniors as well their grandchildren. Danielle Brogley, Director of Programs, said that the donated VHS tapes “enhance the lending library to provide entertainment for those who may be socially isolated or who do not have access to video because of transportation or economic reasons.”

Certain books and media are selected by staff for specific usage by caregivers of Alzheimer’s patients and those with certain medical needs. Media, such as CDs, have also been used to provide a variety of music in the Senior Center.

Books are sold at Senior Center sales and the gift shop. Members who cannot afford a book are given the book at no charge. Danielle said “People will take books home for enjoyment. Here, they can check out books on their own time frame.”

Many of the other non-profit organizations seek to obtain books that meet specific reading and literacy needs. As you can see by the following comments, all organizations appreciated the wide range of books available for selection. “Thank you for helping to provide our individual residents more choices in their reading selection. We found books in religion, history, and fiction that our residents will enjoy. We have a lot of readers so we really appreciate this.” “It is nice to find books for various ages. It is difficult to find donated books because we must be sensitive to past histories.” “Thank you so much for the wonderful books. The picture books will inspire some artists at Shared Lives Studio. The special interest books will allow our adults to learn more of what interests them. The easy reading books will help us improve our reading.”



With the addition of the non-profit donation project, the Friends of the Library book sales benefit local organizations and persons with specific reading needs. This community service project is a win-win for everyone involved.



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