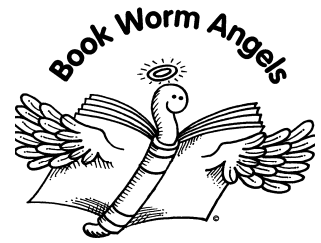


Book Bag News

News and information about the Book Worm Angels Reading and In-Classroom Lending Library Program Serving Public Elementary Schools
Special Anniversary Issue
www.bookwormangels.org



Kids Who Read Succeed

Celebrating Our Tenth Anniversary

Founder Kermit Myers Honored at Festive Event

November, 2009
Volume 10, Issue 2

Friends, supporters, Board and staff joined at the Michigan Shores Club on Sunday, November 15, to celebrate Book Worm Angels 10th anniversary and to honor Founder Kermit Myers for his vision and determination. A very special, one-of-a-kind commemorative award was created for Kermit, a crystal book, presented to Kermit by Director Lee Frank.

Book Worm Angels began as a brilliantly simple idea 10 years ago when Kermit Myers was volunteering at Byrd Academy in the Cabrini Green area of Chicago. He realized kids were reading far below their grade level, and thought if they had a wide choice of fun books to read they might read more...and so become better readers, better students...and, in time, more productive citizens.

From that insightful thought, from one classroom of 25 students in a school now closed, his idea has grown to serve 100,000 at-risk kids in 181 schools in 5 states. From one man to a group of committed volunteers and one paid staff member, the idea has grown into a reality. His thought about the importance of



Addie Goodman and Kermit Myers

reading is validated by improved reading scores and research showing overwhelming teacher support.

2009 Awards

The first Kermit W. Myers Achievement Award was given to **Addie Goodman**, Director of Advancement at Baker Demonstration School in Wilmette. Baker has had annual books drives for Book Worm Angels, donating over 20,000 books.



Kermit Myers, Founder and Chairman Emeritus

Angels of the Year

Book Worm Angels gives an Angel of the Year award to individuals who have been highly creative in supporting our mission. This year, awards were given to two deserving Angels as part of the 10th anniversary festivities —

Jodi-Lee Mesirow led the book drives at Baker Demonstration School for every year her children attended. “Getting books for Book Worm Angels is a wonderful way for children to learn the importance of reading, and the value of sharing,” said Ms. Mesirow.

As a member of the class of 2008 at Dominican High School **Katie Trela** learned about Book Worm Angels and decided



Katie Trela
2008 Angel of the Year

she would collect and donate 2008 books, one for each year. She began her work, and before she was finished, she had amassed over 30,000 books, far exceeding her goal. Even more impressive, books continue to arrive from contacts she made long after the initial drive was over — an ongoing tribute to Katie and her efforts. The appreciative audience included Book Worm Angels very first Angel of the Year, Joseph Gartner. Joe was the principal at Byrd Academy, the school at which Kermit volunteered and came up with his brilliant idea. Joe enthusiastically endorsed and supported Book Worm Angels, providing the initial push for what has become one of the city’s most successful literacy-focused programs. Joe is a member of Book Worm Angels Board of Directors.



Jodi-Lee Mesirow
2009 Angel of the Year

Book Worm Angels added 28 schools in 2009, serving an additional 20,000 children.

Reading Scores and Survey Responses Show Book Worm Angels' Powerful Impact

Reading Scores

Over the past four years, Book Worm Angels has been tracking reading scores in Chicago Public Elementary Schools, comparing Book Worm Angels schools to the all-school average. In every year, Book Worm Angels scores rose at a faster rate than the all-school average. When Book Worm Angels began our early expansion efforts, we didn't know if we'd have enough books for all the schools who could benefit from the program. So we limited distribution to the bottom 25%, based on reading scores. As it developed, we received more books than we expected, so two years ago, we expanded to schools in the bottom 50%. Currently, Book Worm Angels serves 168 Chicago Public Elementary schools, over 40% of all traditional Elementary Schools.

Service to Kids in Jail and in Homeless Shelters

And we've gone beyond traditional schools. We are providing libraries for the Nancy B. Jefferson Alternative School, the public school attached to the Cook County Juvenile Detention Facility. Over 350 young men and women, who are in detention, live in dormitories at the school, and, like all CPS schools, there are never enough books. According to Marva Whaley-Anobah, Principal of Jefferson, "There are children here who have the potential to be successful in life, and we're doing everything we can to help them. Having books for them to read is a wonderful addition to our efforts."

Book Worm Angels has also begun providing libraries for families in 31 homeless shelters throughout Chicago. Here, the children get books from the Book Worm Angels lending library in the shelter.

"Our expansion of service to these deserving institutions represents an important demonstration of the power of literacy," said Elizabeth Barks, 2009 Book Worm Angels Chair. "We believe our efforts are well-spent wherever there is a need."



Survey Results

Book Worm Angels sends a yearly survey to participating teachers and lead literacy coaches to help assess the program and its impact on students. Overall, teachers are very pleased with Book Worm Angels.

Presence of classroom lending library – 100%

Satisfaction with the program – 87% satisfied or very satisfied

Satisfaction with books

- Number of books received – 76% satisfied or very satisfied
- Quality of books – 75% satisfied or very satisfied

Books taken home to read

- 51% report "most"
- 27% report "many"
- 6% report "few" or "none"

Book loss/damage

- 55% report less than 10%
- 24% report 11-20%
- 21% report 21% or more

Replenishment frequency

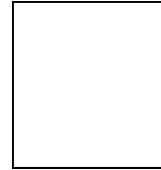
- 75% want yearly replenishment
- 19% want replenishment every other year



Students' reading progress with BWA library

- Reading levels
 - 11% "great improvement"
 - 59% "improvement"
- Recreational reading
 - 39% "great improvement"
 - 49% "improvement"
- Attitude about reading
 - 36% "great improvement"
 - 51% "improvement"
- At home reading habits
 - 21% "great improvement"
 - 50% "improvement"

From:
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Kids Who Read Succeed

10th Anniversary Edition

To:



Book Bag News

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President and Executive Director

Mindy Ferber
Associate Director

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James V. O'Connor
Michael Quattrochi
Lindsay Rubin—Kellogg Board Fellow
Christine K. Seidman
A. Robert Taylor

We wish you the warmest Holiday Greetings and thank you for your interest and support. Your donation at any level will help us continue to support the 100,000 at-risk kids now benefiting from Book Worm Angels, as well as helping us expand that number. You may make a donation with the enclosed envelope, on our website, www.bookwormangels.org, or send a check to:

Book Worm Angels
P. O. Box 578482
Chicago, IL 60657

And if you've recently donated to Book Worm Angels, please pass the envelope along to someone else who might be interested in being a supporter!

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