

Bright Star Books

Mission:

The mission of Bright Star Books, Inc. is to promote a culture of reading by increasing access to and ownership of books for limited-resource children in the Greater Akron region. We aim to do this at the earliest possible age to ensure children grow up habituated the potential of books as sources of learning and joy.

Our Programs:

Growing Young Readers Program



ENSURING AN EARLY START:

Partnering with Summit County Public Health, low-income children 0-5 receive free books while enrolled in a participating WIC clinic. When at capacity, the program will reach more than 7,800 children yearly, at least 2/3 of all children living in poverty in Summit County.

Bright Star Libraries



ENSURING ACCESS TO BOOKS:

The greatest barrier to early literacy is lack of access to books. With the average cost of a new children's book well over \$15, we work to identify book desert areas, building libraries where they're needed most for partner agencies like transitional housing facilities & health clinics.

Free Book Giveaways



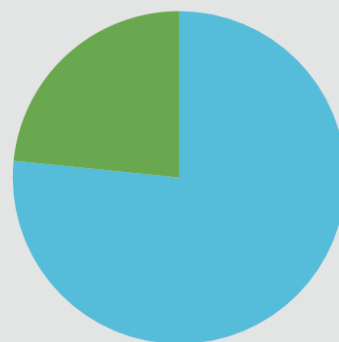
ENSURING CONTINUED READING SUCCESS:

We distribute donated books in many other venues. For example: hosting free book fairs at APS Community Learning Centers, delivering adult books to local food pantries, and providing older children's and teen books to a number of community partner sites.

The Result:

Bright Star Books is the only 501(c)(3) non-profit in Greater Akron that collects and systematically redistributes new and gently-used books year-round to make a lasting impact on literacy.

We partner with more than 20 Summit County agencies to get books into the hands and homes of the children who need them the most - when they need them most.



■ WIC Program (76.61%) ■ Other Programs (23.39%)

Bright Star Books began distributing books to the children of Summit County in April 2015. Since then, more than 80,000 books have made their way into children's hands.

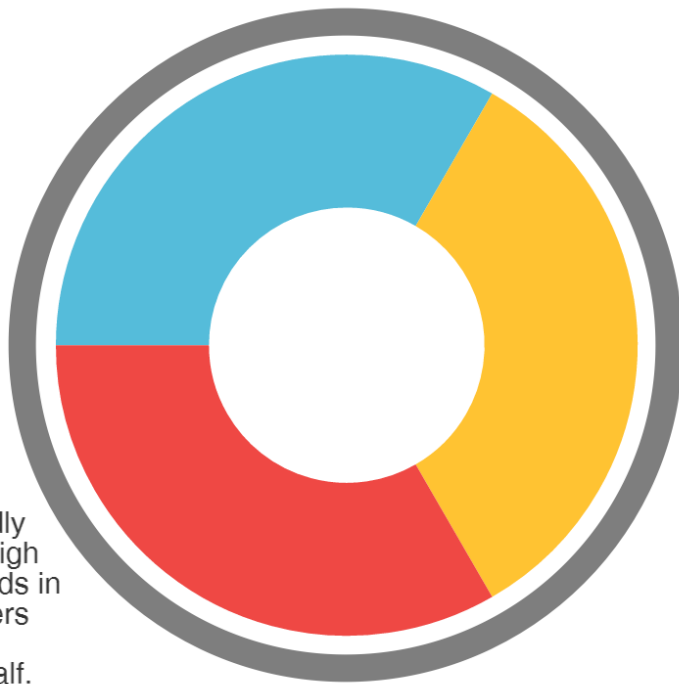
A Community-Based Approach:

STEP 1:

BSB partners with area schools, preschools, child care providers, businesses, civic groups, places of worship and individuals to collect new and gently-used books.

STEP 2:

BSB offers a family-friendly service connection with high impact potential for the kids in Summit County. Volunteers can sort, sticker, pack & deliver books on our behalf.



STEP 3:

BSB delivers books to strategic partners in Summit County. Our focus is on early literacy skills, parent involvement, kindergarten readiness, and fostering a love of reading throughout the lifespan. We work with organizations serving limited-resource families, refugees and immigrants, and struggling readers.

Did You Know?

More than 61% of low-income children have no age-appropriate books at home?

THE FIRST OF ITS KIND

"It is heartbreaking that any children, especially in our own city, don't have access to books at home, in a health clinic waiting room, or anywhere else parents need to entertain and educate their kids. Bright Star Books gave us the perfect opportunity to make a difference in the lives of children in the Akron area who may not have access to books."
- MaryAnn McMullen,
Student Activities Coordinator
Cuyahoga Valley Christian Academy

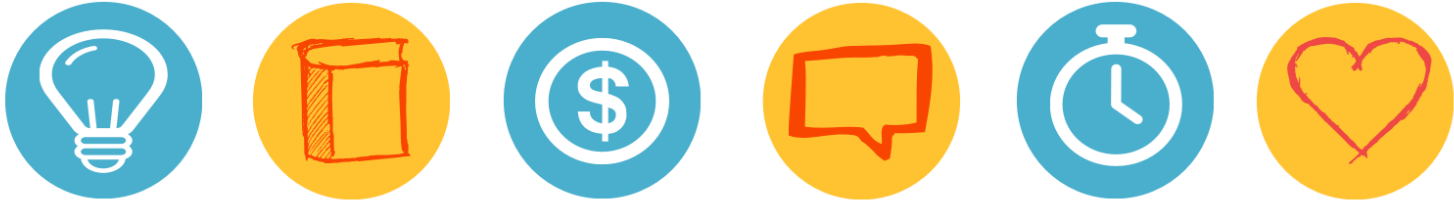
HOW FAR CAN WE GO?

Our goal of giving at least 10 books per year to each of the 7,800+ children in Summit County WIC is the first program of its kind in the nation. This comprehensive strategy is an excellent way to reach low-income children, while enhancing their overall experience with the WIC program, which provides crucial nutrition services.

67%

Percent of Summit County kids ages 0-5 living in poverty who will be reached through a fully scaled BSB WIC program

Want to Get Involved?



We need passionate individuals like you to share your ideas, in addition to time, money and books to help us achieve our mission.

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