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Dear Circle of Supporters:

October 1, 2012

Ten years ago as a volunteer in my children's elementary school, I saw how challenging it was to keep pace with the reading needs of hundreds of students: their enthusiasm to have new books to read combined with the rapidly changing world was showing its strain on the collections in their library. I vowed to take action and began enlisting business partners to help boost the inventory. When parents asked how they could help, the following year I hosted what would become the first "Bring a Book, Bring a Friend" Fun'raiser in my home. It was a happy success with neighbors, educators, and friends attending. Hundreds of books were collected along with monies to purchase more books for the students. The event grew larger and stronger each year and we began to feature guest authors and students activities, as well. A grassroots movement had been born.

I could never have predicted that those first efforts would one day inspire the formation of K is for Kids Foundation, or that under its umbrella, one community gathering benefiting the students of one school would expand into the "Bring a Book, Bring a Friend" for Children's Literacy Month benefiting many schools. Also that year, high school students formed our first Teen Advisory Team, becoming the energy and inspiration fueling our mission as they helped to lay the foundation for multiple reading and writing events for children and their families to be held each year throughout the month of February.

Reading and learning, dreaming and creating, expressing and communicating, standing up and leading – These are the cornerstones of our organization.

Now, as K is for Kids approaches its fifth anniversary, I am honored to see how many of you have joined our cause. Today, thanks to each one of you, we are impacting children's literacy and leadership throughout Collier County, and with the boost of business partners, in Lee, too.

Thanks to your generosity and compassion our growth in 2011-12 was impressive across all levels: Benefited educators and students doubled; distributed books tripled; volunteers (adult/youth) quadrupled; and supporters skyrocketed. Another awesome milestone: 100% of our first "class" of graduating high school seniors continued on to college!

May I finish by sharing the words of one of our top teen leaders 2009-12, Matthew Colligan, Gulf Coast High School's Valedictorian Class of 2012, and now, University of Pennsylvania freshman: *"When I first got involved with K is for Kids Foundation, I looked at it as an easy way to get my volunteer hours.... I soon realized that this experience would benefit me in so many ways and give me skills I could use for the rest of my life. What I liked...is how it allowed me to understand different components of running a business [and] the importance of communicating with everyone....K is for Kids was an invaluable experience for me and I hope that many more*

teens are able to have the same experience I had as the foundation continues to grow and bring awareness to a great cause."

We owe it to you that K is for Kids is a prolific young powerhouse helping the future shine brighter for our children. Together we are helping to "Encourage today's readers. Inspire tomorrow's leaders!"

Respectfully yours,

Karen D. Clawson

Founder & Executive Director

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"Encourage today's readers. Inspire tomorrow's leaders."

K is for Kids Foundation is a nonprofit organization that promotes children's literacy and leadership. Our teens and volunteers teach kids that reading is fun. Each year we partner with community leaders to engage children early and often about the excitement of reading and the power of words. From toddlers to teens, K is for Kids' mission is to give kids in need more books to read.