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Available upon request.

July 11, 2012

Dear Circle of Supporters:

I am pleased to report that we have had an exciting record-breaking year on all levels. Following you will find the summary list of our achievements in 2011-12.

Over ten years ago while volunteering in my children's elementary school, I saw how first-hand how challenging it was for the library's media specialists to keep pace with the reading and information needs of students: faced with fading funds and escalating demands for new books, information resources and technological tools, they had a daunting task. After seeing how many collections needed replenishing or *replacing*, I vowed to take action and began engaging business partners to help us boost the inventory of books for students to enjoy.

Little did I realize then that those initial efforts would grow into a grassroots movement that would lead to the launch of K is for Kids Foundation in February 2008; nor could I predict that so many of you would embrace our cause and conviction that readers are leaders. I know that each of you will agree that when armed with the best books available, in hand and online, each child has greater opportunity to succeed in school and in life, and that ALL children deserve this chance.

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

Together we are increasing children's access to books both in and out of school. Together we are encouraging children to read more, to write more, to share their stories and dreams, and to offer opportunities for our youth to flex their communication and leadership skills.

Today, thanks to your continuing commitment, K is for Kids is reaching its goals of promoting children's literacy and leadership in our communities. Our growth continues to be remarkable thanks to you, especially during these sobering economic times: Efforts that first benefited 1,200 children at one elementary school in north Naples a decade ago, now impacts 25 schools and organizations serving over 16,000 at-risk children in Collier County. And thanks to organized efforts from new business partners in Lee County, we were able to benefit children there as well this year.

The results have been encouraging: **Grant recipients** are documenting that our book donation programs have produced dramatic, measurable gains in the numbers of books their students are reading. **Parents** are reporting that their children who have written stories for K is for Kids' Young Authors books have been inspired to write more. One mother shared that her daughter is now scoring the highest scores possible on her county and state writing assessments, and that she attributes her daughter's passion and success with being one of K is for Kids' young authors.

Volunteers have strengthened their forces, too with our nine-member Board of Directors and eighteen-member Advisory Council. Teens continue to be our primary volunteers, setting records this past year: K is for Kids' teen leaders implemented countywide projects year round benefiting other students; and area youth representing almost every high school, two middle schools and both Edison State College and Florida Gulf Coast University performed over 2,200 community service hours, a 300% increase from the year before! The students hit another important milestone: **K is for Kids had its first 'class' of graduating seniors, 100% of whom are continuing college this year.**

K is for Kids is indeed a prolific young powerhouse and the future shines brighter for the children in our programs. With your continued support, children of all ages throughout Southwest Florida will continue to see gains in literacy and leadership.

In closing, please consider the testimonial of Gulf Coast High School's Valedictorian for the Class of 2012, Matthew Colligan, who was one of K is for Kids' top teen leaders and spokespersons. 2009-12; and who will be going to the University of Pennsylvania this upcoming year:

"When I first got involved with the K is for Kids Foundation, I looked at it as an easy way to get my volunteer hours out of the way. I soon realized that this experience would benefit me in so many ways and give me skills I can use for the rest of my life. What I liked most about volunteering for K is for Kids is how it allowed me to understand different components of running a business, especially when it came to fundraising. I realized the importance of communicating with everyone and publicizing events, whether by writing press releases or shooting PSA's. It was amazing to see how much this organization grew during the time I was involved, and this showed me that when you persevere, you can take small ideas a long way. 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."

Respectfully yours,

Karen D. Clawson

Founder & Executive Director

"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.



Photo at left: Kids Celebrate Reading Book Fair 2012 with Mayor Bill Barnett and graduating Collier County high school seniors and young authors; Center: Commissioners of Collier County present the proclamation for our Bring a Book, Bring a Friend for Children's Literacy Month to K is for Kids' teen leaders George Hiller (Barron Collier High) and Danielle Verduchi (Naples High); Right: Florida's First Lady Ann Scott with author Margaret Cardillo, our teen leaders and young authors at Kids Celebrate Reading Book Fair 2011.

Next --

Achievements & Milestones: 10 Reasons to be proud you're part of K is for Kids!



***K is for Kids' Top Rising Readers 2011-12
Golden Terrace Intermediate***

Achievements & Milestones: 10 Reasons to be proud you're part of K is for Kids!

(1) **Kids We Help:** K is for Kids is benefiting more 25 schools and organizations serving more than 16,000 at-risk students throughout Collier County! And in 2012, we began assessing the needs and benefiting children in Lee County as well. (A complete list of our grant recipients for 2012-13 along with their "wish list" for needed books is available upon request.

(2) **Youth Volunteers:** Teens continue to be our primary volunteers, serving members on our **Teen Advisory Team** and as spokespersons. Teens have again set records in their positive impact upon other students and engagement with their community. * Youth representing six Collier County high schools, two middle schools, Edison State College and Florida Gulf Coast University performed over 2,200 community service hours, a 300% increase from the year before! * K is for Kids' teen leaders implemented community projects that drew in other teens from around the county while raising books for K is for Kids' Rising Readers program benefiting elementary school children. They also extended their volunteering year-round. * Another milestone was reached when **K is for Kids had its first 'class' of graduating seniors, 100% of whom are attending college this year!**

In 2011-12, with community encouragement, K is for Kids initiated **college internships** and began offering students the chance to earn service learning hours. Our first intern, a public relations major, had his first television interview thanks to K is for Kids, and the second, a broadcasting major, had his first two radio interviews. Both were FGCU seniors, and the former worked closely mentoring our high school students in planning future projects while the latter forged new relationships and awareness on campus and in the surround community.

(3) **Programs:** K is for Kids' primary program promotes children's literacy and leadership; however we have subprograms to achieve our goals as well as to help us tailor activities to organizations' needs. Now, thanks to K is for Kids' newest initiative introduced in 2011-12 -- Rising Readers -- we now give books to children to take home and keep. Rising Readers works closely with media specialists, literacy specialists and reading coaches to encourage students to read more while recognizing their reading achievements. Students are given the opportunity to choose a new book to take home and keep, building their personal libraries!

(4) **Literacy Month:** **Bring a Book, Bring a Friend®** for Children's Month has grown from one "fun'raiser" hosted each year in a parent's home in 2003 to a month-long celebration featuring multiple "fun'raising" events and activities for children. Community awareness and participation continues to grow as K is for Kids expands its message. Book drives are now conducted in February (and throughout the year!) by Barnes & Noble Booksellers at the Waterside Shops and Coconut Springs Mall; Starbucks of Collier and Lee counties, the Collier County Sheriff's Office, Health Management Associates (HMA), teens and families.

(5) **Recognition:** K is for Kids Bring a Book Month has been recognized by Governor Rick Scott for two years, with proclamations by the Commissioners of Collier County for two years, and the Mayor of Naples for four years.

(6) **Educators:** The "wow" factor came this year when more than 100 educators were given the chance to "shop" for free books for their students during K is for Kids' "Big Book Giveaway" and annual book distribution. The record number was made possible by the 10,000-book donation from the Book Warehouse when it closed, and the many organizations and businesses that collected books for the community's children.

(7) **Parents:** Moms and dads volunteer for our cause, but parents are also calling us to report that their children who have written stories for K is for Kids' Young Authors books have been inspired to write more. One mother shared that her daughter is now scoring the highest scores possible on her county and state writing assessments, and that she attributes her daughter's passion and success with being one of K is for Kids' young authors.

(8) Young Authors Book & Power of the Word Art Contest & Traveling Exhibition: Children of all ages may write their own personal page in K is for Kids' Young Authors book, a highlight of our "Kids Celebrating Reading" book fair held each year at the height of our literacy month. Participants write a book together then receive a complimentary picture to accompany their story, courtesy of a professional photographer.

K is for Kids' art contest for middle school students, "Power of the Word" has expanded into a traveling exhibition. The exhibition is a partnership with the Fine Arts Department of Collier County Public Schools and the Naples Art Association at the von Liebig Art Center offering students the unique opportunity to visually express the power of words and the impact on words on others.

(9) Board of Directors, Advisory Council and Adult Volunteers: We have nine professional and business leaders serving on our Board of Directors, plus sixteen Advisory Council members forming our "reservoir of bright minds." In addition, each year, members of the community volunteers serve as mentors for our youth volunteers, guest speakers and authors.

(10) Sponsors & Donors: This past year, businesses, organizations and donors deepened their support, resulting in a 160% rise in cash contributions, in-kind services and donated books. (A financial statement is available upon request.)



Pictured above: Some of the children in Immokalee, Florida who have benefited from our programs.