



Books for Me!

NEWSLETTER • SUMMER 2013

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD:

So far, 2013 has been a year of amazing growth for Books for Me!

We are all so excited and pleased that we are now able to offer our program to so many more families via some new locations. As of May 1st, over 8,500 books have been chosen by children from all over the Vancouver area. For many of them, these are their first “forever” books. For others, their Books for Me! books allow them to start building their own small collection.

This is remarkable growth, since we started with just one location only a year and a half ago. We hope to expand further - there are always more schools and other locations asking for Books for Me!

We always appreciate feedback from the program locations and want to share some recent comments from the principal of one of our program schools: *...a resounding YES for the program! It has been a wonderful opportunity for children to get books into their homes when they might otherwise never have that opportunity...here’s quotes from some of our teachers: “...it’s fabulous, I think it’s fantastic, the kids love it...the children just love having their own books...even the older kids get really excited” I love how it supports our most important and crucial literacy goal.*

On behalf of the children we serve, Books for Me! thanks all its donors for their on-going and generous support.



OUR LOCATIONS:

We are currently presenting Books for Me! programs at seven locations:

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Bob & Kay Ackles YMCA
Nanook House

Collingwood Neighbourhood House

Collingwood Neighbourhood School

Frog Hollow Neighbourhood House

Henderson Annex

Queen Alexandra Elementary

Waverley Elementary
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OUR PROGRAM VOLUNTEERS:

We are pleased to profile Books for Me! volunteer Colette Massie.

Colette has recently retired from a rewarding career in speech language pathology, augmentative communication and assistive technology. She has worked in the UK, Ontario and BC. An avid reader, she also sings in a community choir, and enjoys cooking, travel, opera and “all things Italian”. She is married to an architect and has two grown children.

Colette considers herself fortunate to have grown up in a house full of books, and has tried to provide those same literary experiences for her children. Volunteering with Books for Me! has given her the opportunity to foster literacy skills and a love for books and reading in young people. She says “it is especially rewarding to see new generations of children re-discover many of my old favourites as they build their own collections.”

Books for me! programs can't work without our terrific program volunteers. We currently have 24 fantastic volunteers, and they are always ready to help children find a forever book! If you know of someone who would like to help, we would appreciate hearing from them. Thanks to all our volunteers!



DONORS MAKE IT HAPPEN!

Thanks to funding and other assistance from generous supporters like:

BMO Capital Markets, Chocolate Arts, Canada Gives, Anonymous, Stong's Market, The Kerrisdale Lumber Company, Charlton Contracting Ltd., Jennifer Greenhorn Communications Design and Catherine Intharangsy and from the MANY individuals who have made donations, Books for Me! has been able to open, and maintain, several new programs this year, with more to come!

Books for Me! will be opening new programs at two more elementary schools in Vancouver in Fall 2013. These new programs at Champlain Heights Annex and Moberly will reach over 600 children. Each month during the school year, each child will get to choose a book to keep for free.

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CWILL

Through a partnership with CWILL BC (Children's Writers and Illustrators of BC) Books for Me! has a program in place which allows CWILL BC members to give presentations at reduced rates to the schools that are currently part of our programs.

In January 2013, Books for Me! brought author Tiffany Stone, to Henderson Annex to do a reading from her new book, Rainbow Shoes. It was a fabulous presentation! Thank you Tiffany!!

Author and illustrator, Lee Edward Fodi, gave an amazing presentation at Waverley Elementary. "Mr. Wiz" had all the kids help him draw a creature, as well as draw their own creature! He explained that a drawing could be the inspiration to a story. Thank you "Mr. Wiz"!

Sheri Radford is an award winning children's author from Vancouver, BC. On a recent visit to Queen Alexandra Elementary School, she read from her amusing award winning books. She also talked to the kids about the book publishing process; how a story or idea becomes a finished printed book. The kids were fortunate to hear the inaugural reading of her new book "It's Following Me!" due out this summer. A big Books for Me! thanks to Sheri!



For more information on CWILL, or any of these authors, please visit:

www.cwill.bc.ca

www.tiffanystone.ca

www.leefodi.com

www.sheriradford.com



WHERE DO ALL THOSE BOOKS COME FROM?

All the Books for Me! programs have only donated books on their shelves and in their baskets.

We are so grateful for those individuals, schools, community organizations and businesses who conduct book drives on our behalf, and we also deeply appreciate the families who ask guests to bring children's books to birthday parties and other celebrations.

If you would like to host a book drive, or have books to donate, please let us know. We will do everything we can to help!

Please connect with us at:

www.booksforme Vancouver.org

604 617 3718

booksforme Vancouver@gmail.com



So far, this year's book drives have happened at:

Blueridge Elementary School, North Vancouver

Canyon Heights Elementary School, North Vancouver

Carisbrooke Elementary, North Vancouver

École Cliff Drive Elementary School, Tsawwassen

École Richardson Elementary School, North Delta

Holy Trinity School, North Vancouver

Jules Quesnel Elementary School, Vancouver

MDA, Richmond

Myrtle Philip Community School, Whistler

North Delta Soccer Club, Delta

Point Grey Secondary School, Vancouver

Rep1 Fitness Team, Vancouver

Shaughnessy Elementary, Vancouver

St. Pius X Elementary School, North Vancouver

Vancity Credit Union, Dunbar Community Branch

Windsor Secondary School, North Vancouver

Thank you to everyone who collects and donates books for us!