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Welcome to the First Book Newsletter

First Book-Charlotte is a nonprofit organization with a single mission; to help children from low-income families read and own their own books.

Books stir the senses, inspire the imagination, and spark a love of reading that can last a lifetime.

Access to books is essential to reading development, yet many children from low-income

families have no books at home or in the childcare centers they attend.



First Book-Charlotte is pleased to support Charlotte

and the surrounding area, including Mecklenburg and Union counties. We are also

pleased to publish our first quarterly newsletter. We are now able to provide our supporters with an ongoing update of our activities, successes, volunteer opportunities and community news.

We hope you enjoy this newsletter and look forward to your feedback.

A Few Words from our Chairperson



We at First Book-Charlotte hope that the first half of 2007 has been as fun for you as it has been for us. From our "Capture the Magic" art contest with the students at Pinewood Elementary School, to our author's event with the children at "A Child's Place" -- to hosting our Inaugural Gala & Silent Auction, it has already been an amazing 2007.

As you'll hear more from our Gala Chair, our "Evening of Magic" at ImaginOn lived up to its name for our attendees, and the funds we raised have allowed us to approve grants for a host of new programs for the 2007-2008 school year. A spe-

cial thanks to our speakers Cheryl Richards and Dr. Peter Gorman for bringing home the importance of literacy. We were humbled by the number of businesses and individuals who reached out to support our Silent Auction, which added an exciting element to our evening.



Book distribution party with the children of A Child's Place.

Be sure to visit our website: www.FirstBookCharlotte.org, to find out about some exciting volunteer opportunities as we celebrate book distributions with our new recipient groups. Watch newsstands for the August issue of "Charlotte Magazine" which will feature an article on First Book-Charlotte.

To all of our friends & supporters, thank you so much for your continued support in helping bring the magic of books to children in need.

--Colleen Ludington,
Chairperson.

Did You Know?



⇒More than 62% of low-income families have no books in the home

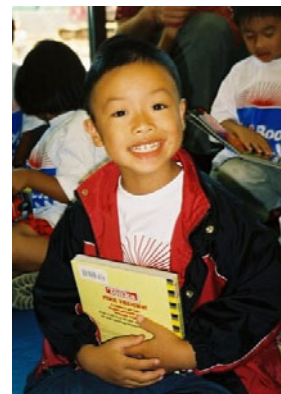
⇒In the average middle income family, there are 13 books per child, in the average low-income neighborhood, there is 1 book for every 300 children...

First Book-Charlotte is part of the national, all volunteer nonprofit network of local advisory boards whose sole mission is to help children from low-income families read & own

their own books. First Book has given more than 50 million books since 1992.

First Book-Charlotte serves the metropolitan Charlotte area, including Mecklenburg and Union counties. Through the generous support of friends, neighbors, and corporate sponsors, First Book-Charlotte is able to provide brand new books to children from low-income families.

Find out more at www.FirstBookCharlotte.org



"...we were able to raise enough money to distribute over \$100,000 worth of books."

Let me start off by saying that our Spring Gala 2007, An Evening of Magic, was not only an enjoyable evening for all who attended but a successful event through all who supported it.

It was an honor to be this year's Gala Chair and host such a wonderful event with First Book-Charlotte. I am happy to say that after months of preparation and planning it truly was a magical evening.

We could not have had such success without the amazing support of our Gala Partners through sponsorships and auction donations. I would also like to give big thanks to our FBC board members and our volunteers who helped put this event together and followed it through to the very end.

Through sponsorships, ticket sales, our silent auction and your donations, we were able to raise enough money to distribute over \$100,000 worth of books. Your support allowed us to bring the magic of books to even more local children.

First Book-Charlotte now has a jump start to fulfill the mission of providing books to children of low-income families. Not only does giving a child a book benefit them, but it benefits their family, their friends and everyone else in the community that has the opportunity to read or have that book read to them. This is truly the gift that keeps giving.

I am happy to say that their will be a second annual Spring Gala with the date to be announced soon. We hope that you will join us for

another magical evening in 2008. On behalf of the children we serve, we thank you for your generosity and support!

Jennifer Saltzman, Gala Chair



From Left to Right: Kehaulani Farmer, Jim Ludington of Time Warner Cable, Colleen Ludington-FBC Chairperson, Bill Farmer of Time Warner Cable & Jennifer Saltzman-FBC Gala Chair



Superintendent of CMS, Dr. Peter Gorman, recognizes one of our Capture the Magic winners



Charlotte Philharmonic Orchestra's Junior Guild Advisor, Sue Makepeace and Retired NFL player, Steven Israel.

This Year's Grants for 2007-2008



The children of Pinewood Elementary with their new books

All of the programs receiving books serve at risk youth, meaning that at least 80% of the children are from low-income households. Each book will be given to the child to take home as their very own.

The total number of books awarded is 13,327 which is over \$130,000 worth of brand new books awarded to local at-risk children. The books will be distributed as follows:

Nations Ford Elementary English as a Second Language program, which supports the English language learning of 180 Kindergarten-5th graders, received a

grant to award 1,080 books in six distributions throughout the school year.

Brookstone Schools, a non-profit school that serves students in grades kindergarten through 6th grade will receive 711 books that will be distributed to the 79 students who attend .

Athletes United for Youth will distribute 900 books through the Dell Curry Charity for Youth after-school program and educational learning centers. The 900 books will be given through many distributions during the year.

Starfish Academy After School Program of the YMCA of Greater Charlotte will be able to provide each of their 96 students with 6 brand new books throughout the year, totaling 576 books to assist with summer and after school literacy enrichment.

Parkview Community Foundation, Inc. will distribute 300 books to the 25 students in their community-based after school program.

Central Avenue Bilingual Preschool

will be given 1,152 books for the 96 students enrolled in their preschool which serves Hispanic/Latino children in Charlotte by preparing them for success in school.

A Child's Place of Charlotte will be able to distribute 600 books to the 100 homeless students they support and assist who are enrolled in Charlotte-Mecklenburg schools.

The School at Thompson will receive 144 books for 24 children.

Communities In Schools of Charlotte-Mecklenburg, Inc. will distribute 2,200 books to Kindergarten through 8th graders through many of it's community involvement programs like their school-based drop out prevention program and college access program.

Charlotte-Mecklenburg More at Four Pre-Kindergarten Program will receive 6 brand-new books throughout the year for a total grant award of 5,808 books to the 968 4-year-olds identified as at-risk who are enrolled.

Erin McClure, Recipient Group Liaison

Our 2007 Spring Gala Sponsors

Thank you to our Gala Sponsors and Silent Auction Donors!

- Time Warner Cable
- INT2
- Bearing Point
- Sun Trust Mortgage
- Hearst Service Center
- Big Band Networking
- OpVista
- HPI Management
- TimCorp
- Broadband Insight
- C-COR, Inc.
- Cedar Point
- Harmonic Inc.
- Nokia-Siemans
- Scientific Atlantic/Cisco

- Concurrent Computer Corp.
- Jim & Stephanie Price
- Perry's Jewelers
- Lowe's Motor Speedway
- Photography by Annell
- Knights Baseball
- Carolina Panthers
- Ruth's Chris Steakhouse
- The Club at Longview
- Sterling's Restaurant
- Table Restaurant
- 131 Main
- Brio Tuscan Grille
- Bob Ellis
- Coco Fleur
- Neiman Marcus
- Amy Grant & Vince Gill
- Warner Brothers
- HBO
- Team-Tex
- Beauty Brands
- Sweet & Sassy
- JoAnne & Mark McClain
- Total Wine & More
- Judy Stead
- Premier Designs Jewelry
- Motorola
- Beth Williams
- Robert Whitlow
- Kevin Grennan & BUNGA
- Skin Solutions
- Dennis & Sue Makepeace
- Colleen & Jim Ludington
- Tracie Vaughn Zimmer

Give a little magic

Bring the Magic of Books to Children Who Need Them by supporting First Book-Charlotte through Gift Cards.

Share the magic of books by purchasing Gift Cards

Through your tax-deductible contribution you can purchase Gift Cards for those on your holiday list. Your gift cards and tax deductible receipt will be forwarded to the address on your order form.



DO YOU
REMEMBER
THE MAGIC
OF YOUR
FIRST BOOK?

First Book-Charlotte

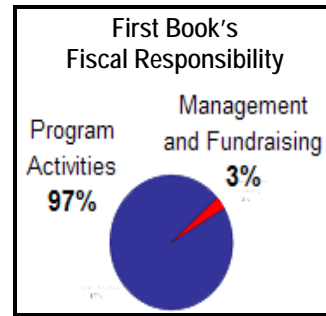
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Weddington, NC 28104

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Website: www.FirstBookCharlotte.org
National info: www.FirstBook.org

Looking for a way that your business can support the work of First Book-Charlotte? Consider holding a virtual book drive, where First Book can design a company-specific webpage for your employees or customers.

Donate to First Book

In 2007, First Book is celebrating its 15th anniversary and the distribution of its 50-millionth book. Thanks to donors like you, more than 18,000 programs in communities across all 50 states have been registered with First Book to receive brand-new books for the children they serve, and thousands more groups register each year. Please help First Book reach even more children — help us distribute another 50 million books.



Donate now to put new books in the hands of children in need.

Donate online at www.FirstBookCharlotte.org

Donate by mail with a check made payable to First Book-Charlotte and sending it to:
4027 Blossom Hill, Weddington, NC 28104



Our Local Board Members

Colleen Ludington, Chairperson

Erin McClure, Recipient Group Liaison

Tracey Adams, Secretary

Kristen Rogers, Treasurer

Jennifer Saltzman, Gala Chair

Tracie Vaughn Zimmer, Volunteer Chair

Betsy Thorpe, Board Member

Sue Makepeace, Board Member

Tom Mathews, Board Member

Ken Pack, Board Member

Wendi Reichard, Board Member

Picture courtesy of Charlotte Magazine. Read about First Book-Charlotte in the August issue of Charlotte Magazine.



From Left to Right: Erin McClure, Sue Makepeace, Emily Pearce, Betsy Thorpe, Ken Pack, Jennifer Saltzman, & Colleen Ludington