



Dear Community Member,

Combating low literacy among children in our community takes a village. A multi-agency initiative, called STARS and led by the Schenectady County Public Library, is keeping a spotlight on this issue. STARS (Schenectady Takes Action for Reading Success) was formed to improve access to books, to educate parents and caregivers, and to find ways to collaborate toward literacy goals.

The most visible result of our work are STARS bookshelves, located in community agencies serving children and families, including the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC), Sycamore Collaborative’s food pantry, and the Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS). These shelves provide new, free, diverse and developmentally appropriate books to take home. Another initiative, called Books for Babies at Bellevue, provides a free baby book to new parents at Bellevue Woman’s Center, with tips to start sharing books from birth. To date well over 36,000 books have been distributed by STARS.

Funds are needed to sustain our bookshelves and to support our action plan. All STARS donations are tracked by the Friends of Schenectady County Public Library (a 501c3) and are tax deductible. Checks payable to Friends of SCPL should include “STARS” in the memo line, and be sent to 99 Clinton Street Schenectady, NY 12305. For more information contact Kaela Wallman.

Please join corporate sponsors and individual donors in supporting STARS at the following suggested levels.

Bright Star - your choice donation (for example, \$50 will purchase a dozen baby books)

Bronze Star - \$800 will sustain a bookshelf for 1 month

Silver Star - \$2,000 would purchase 550 books

Gold Star - \$9,500 will sustain a bookshelf for one year

Donor’s Name (or anonymous): _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____ Email: _____

Amount of donation: _____

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