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PO Box 16331
Chesapeake, VA 23328-0960



THE NEED

A recent survey found that **children account for 25%** of the urban homeless population. *Waxman and Trupin, 1997*



In 1997, one local shelter provided refuge to **415 women and children.** *H.E.R.*

Help & Emergency Response

Children at risk of poor reading outcomes are likely to come from homes where there is little reading, little interesting conversation, and little enjoyment of literacy activities. *U.S.House.*

1997 Committee on Education and the Workforce



Reading aloud to children helps stimulate brain development, yet **only 50% of infants and toddlers** are routinely read to by their parents. *Starting Points: The 1994*

Report of the Carnegie Corporation

Children having a greater array of reading materials at home and who read for enjoyment **displayed higher reading proficiency.** *NCBLA Facts About Literacy*

REACH NEEDS LIST

REACH is an entirely non-profit organization and needs your help to promote literacy in our area. The following items are always in need as REACH continues to serve the families living in shelters.

FOR BOOK BAGS



bags (cloth)
new books (all levels)
drawing tablets
writing tablets
copy paper
crayons/markers/colored pencils
scissors
tape/glue/glue sticks
pencils
coloring books
zippered pencil bags

FOR READING AREAS



shelves (free standing)
bulletin boards (3' x 4')
books! (new and *gently* used)
pillows/bean bag chairs
rocking chairs

FOR THE OFFICE

black and white/color ink jet cartridges
ink jet paper
ink jet labels
copy paper
postage stamps
envelopes (business size and large manilla)



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Providing Families Living in
Community Shelters with Positive
Literacy Building Experiences



READ-ALoud SESSIONS



One evening a week, REACH volunteers visit each of our area shelters to participate in the most important facet of our program: the read-aloud sessions. These sessions begin with the reading of a story and are continued with supervised, fun and educational follow-up activities. The children enjoy the small group setting, the great stories and the exciting activities prepared for them by our volunteers.

Families living in shelters , who are experiencing homelessness and domestic violence, are families in crisis. As parents work to rebuild their lives, their children's literacy development can be easily overlooked. That is where REACH comes in. We bring positive literacy experiences to families living in shelters, by providing services and activities that promote literacy at all ages.

When REACH volunteers are not present in the shelters, it is critical that the children still have access to a variety of quality reading materials and a quiet, inviting place to read. That is why at each shelter that REACH services, we have set up an area specifically intended for that purpose. The reading corner of each shelter contains shelves full of books for all age levels. In addition, we have also arranged for comfortable seating, such as rocking chairs and bean bag chairs, that offer a relaxing escape from the difficult time that a child spends within a shelter. Each corner is also adorned with a bulletin board decorated monthly with a reading-related theme.

READING CORNERS

BOOK BAGS

Ownership of reading materials is a critical step in encouraging children to read for pleasure. Often when children enter a shelter, they have no personal belongings. At the first REACH read-aloud session that a child attends, we present him or her with a new bag full of age-appropriate books and other literacy building materials for their enjoyment. We stuff the bags with drawing pads, crayons, pencils, notebooks, glue, scissors and coloring books. Our hope is that these books and materials will stimulate an interest in reading.



YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!

Please help us continue to REACH the children in area shelters.



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I would like to support REACH with a contribution (enclosed) of:

\$25 \$35 \$50 \$_____

Please tell me how I can become a REACH volunteer.

I want to know how my organization can help REACH.

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____

Email: _____ @ _____