



Dear Community Member,

Combating low literacy among children and adults 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 as a community action group to improve access to books, to educate parents and caregivers about the importance of early literature and to find ways to collaborate toward shared 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), Schenectady Community Ministries (SiCM), and the Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS). These shelves provide brand new, free, diverse and developmentally appropriate books to take home. To date well over 10,000 books have been distributed. Our newest initiative, called Books for Babies at Bellevue, provides a free board book to new parents at Bellevue Woman's Center, with tips to start sharing books from birth.

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

Please join our corporate sponsors, community agency partners, and individual donors in supporting STARS at the following suggested levels. Together we will make a difference!

Bright Star - a donation of your choice (for example, \$50 would purchase a dozen board books)

Bronze Star - \$1,000 will sustain a bookshelf for 6 months

Silver Star - \$2,500 would purchase 700 books

Gold Star - \$7,000 will sustain a bookshelf for one year

Donor's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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