HONORING OUR HEROES OF EDUCATION

A VIRTUAL EVENT

APRIL 13, 2021
We’re committed to shaping the great leaders and thinkers of tomorrow. That’s why, in 2019, we partnered with non-profit organization Books for Kids to help build a reading and relaxation room at a New York City school. Because we’re a company that cares about the future.
BOOKS FOR KIDS

HEROES OF EDUCATION EVENT

HONORING

the educators and early childhood leaders who have continued to uplift and inspire while meeting the challenges of the COVID-19 crisis

TUESDAY, APRIL 13, 2021
A virtual event | 7pm ET

Books for Kids promotes literacy among preschool-aged children in under-resourced communities. We create libraries and implement literacy programs in order to help children develop the critical early literacy and social-emotional skills they need to be successful in kindergarten and beyond.
A LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

On behalf of our Board of Directors and the wondrous Books for Kids staff, I would like to begin by expressing my hope that you and your loved ones are well and continuing to stay safe. What a year this has been! And though the pandemic is not over, we seem to be moving toward the end. Here’s hoping that meaningful, celebratory events like this one give us the motivation and energy we need to get through the homestretch. We are aware of the many virtual events clamoring for your attention these days and we are moved that you’ve chosen to join us in celebrating Heroes of Education. We could all benefit from experiences right now that warm our hearts and enrich our souls and we are delighted to share this particular experience with you.

This celebration recognizes educators who have continued to educate and inspire despite the challenges of the COVID pandemic, as well as those who have improved the landscape of early childhood through their work. We’re excited to introduce you to these extraordinary people who have enriched so many lives. Among our heroes are Mike Curato whose Little Elliot books are favorites among the children in our programs and Penguin Young Readers group that donates thousands of books to us each year that we happily distribute to children.

Among our heroes are:

- **Dr. Lisette Caesar**, who has worked tirelessly to enhance her school’s collection of diverse books so that her students see themselves among the shelves;
- **Heather Ayala**, who comforts her students and supports them by any means necessary;
- **Ghislaine Viard**, who prepares nutritious meals for her students to make sure they have the energy needed to be productive and cooked extra food throughout this pandemic to feed their families too;
- **Susan Savino**, who sees the unique talent and potential in every child and tailors her programs to meet their specific needs, regardless of their developmental challenges;
- **Rafelina Peña**, known to her community for her hard work, dedication, passion and creativity;
- **Farzana Akhter**, a leader who works with parents and uses Google Classroom to upload all sorts of activities to keep her students engaged in remote learning;
- **Robin Smith-Luftig**, who has been described as a kind, nurturing, friendly, playful, and strong teacher who looks out for students, parents, and her colleagues alike;
- **Janay C. Smith**, who works at a family homeless shelter, personally delivers books to families and has conducted biweekly Zoom art sessions during COVID, as she knew so many of the children were interested in exploring their artistic side;
- **Sosha Lund**, who jumped in at the onset of the pandemic and creatively devised plans to best serve and motivate her 5th graders, who in turn encouraged each other’s strengths and created a sustainable system that is working beautifully, whether students are learning in-person or virtually;
- and, finally, **Dr. Janice Gray-Pierre**, who arranged for book bags filled with learning packets aligned with the curriculum, books, and arts & crafts supplies to be distributed to the children in their homes and, as the closure progressed, worked with her Social Staff to advocate for her families to strengthen their coping skills and ensure that their basic needs were met.
These recipients of our Educator Award never lose sight of the importance of their work and their responsibility to children. We take this opportunity to thank them and the many educators across the country who put their students first and rise to any challenge, even the challenge of a pandemic, to meet their students' needs.

In the spirit of celebration, we acknowledge each of you for making the work we do possible. We extend special thanks to all of our sponsors. Your contributions are invaluable to the organization and will be used to promote literacy and a lifelong love of reading for all children, starting in early-childhood. We are proud of the accomplishments of this organization over the past 35 years and recognize that we could not have delivered on our mission without support from all of you. We look forward to your continued partnership in providing access to books, literacy resources and programming to many more children.

Cheers!

Robin Adelson
Executive Director

A STATEMENT FROM BOOKS FOR KIDS

We mourn the lives lost to the COVID-19 pandemic and extend comfort and love to all who are grieving.

It must be acknowledged that this year we have been in partnership with schools and families in work that, while always necessary, has been exceptionally urgent since the pandemic began: finding a way to guide children with honesty through discussions about what they are seeing in the world around them and helping them cope with the tremendous loss and anxiety they are enduring. We mourn for the lives lost and the lives uprooted during the last year. We stand firmly against the rise in violence and acts of hatred against our loved ones and neighbors in the Asian American community. Books have been a lifeline during these times, for children and for us all. They have the power to uplift us and make us feel seen, and they are there to hold us in moments that seem too heavy to bear.
TEAM BOOKS FOR KIDS

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Moms Don’t Have Time To...
In 1986, John Graham Tucker co-founded Books for Kids with a handful of others who shared a commitment to making a difference in the lives of children in their community. He served as the organization's first Executive Director for four years upon its earning not-for-profit status in 1990. In 2015 we established the annual John Graham Tucker Leadership Award to recognize those who show the same level of long-term commitment and generosity of spirit exhibited by John. We could not be happier to present this year's award to Penguin Young Readers for their commitment to Books for Kids and their dedication to providing high-quality books to young students.

This year's honoree, Penguin Young Readers group, a division of Penguin Random House, is all about connecting children with books. Penguin Young Readers group donates 10,000 brand new books to Books for Kids each year. These books are then put directly into the hands of the children we serve as part of our Build a Home Library program, encouraging children to build their own home libraries and giving them the books they love to make it possible. We are deeply grateful to Penguin Young Readers group for their partnership and leadership.

The award will be accepted by Jennifer Loja, President
There is a \textit{Little Elliot} book for when the seasons turn. And there are \textit{Little Elliot} books for exploring our beautiful New York City.

But the book that our staff and students often turned to during this difficult year was \textit{Little Elliot, Big Family}. This pandemic is not over. The difficulties and hardships persist, but we feel so grateful to have books like this to continue to share with our young students. When so many of us feel lonely and far from our loved ones, Mouse’s big, welcoming family is there with open arms to hold us until we can be with our own loved ones again.

Story Time featuring a \textit{Little Elliot} book is always followed by chants of “More! More!” To Mike Curato, we also say “More! More!” But more importantly, we say: “Thank You from the bottom of our hearts” and “It is with great pleasure that we present you with the Books for Kids Book of the Year award.”
Farzana Akhter Educator Award Winner
Bishop Sexton Head Start, NYC

Farzana Akhter is an Assistant Teacher at Bishop Sexton Head Start. She was born in Bangladesh, and it was there that her love for reading and learning began. She moved to the United States as a teenager and attended high school and then Touro College. She is still pursuing higher education, and she has CDA credential and certification in Medical Training. She began volunteering with Jumpstart while attending Touro College which is how she first found herself at Bishop Sexton Head Start, one of the schools she currently teaches in. Farzana has been teaching for over seventeen years and is a beloved teacher at two early learning centers.

“It takes a village to raise a child,” Ms. Farzana says. “And I will continue to work with children to empower them, help them develop their skills, and have a wonderful experience learning.”

Stepping up during COVID

Ms. Akhter created a remote learning environment for all her classes. She created a Google Classroom for all the classes at Bishop Sexton in which she uploads forms and interactive things for the children at home to do. She does Google Meets with two rooms at Bishop Sexton and substitutes for teachers who are absent at St. Mark’s Head Start.

— Robin Smith-Luftig, nominator
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Educator Award Winner
Bishop Sexton Head Start, NYC

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Heather Ayala
Educator Award Winner
Dewitt Reformed Church Head Start, NYC

Heather Ayala, along with her younger brother and sister, was born and raised in the South Bronx by her single mother. After her family moved to the Lower East Side, she graduated high school and then attended SUNY Canton University where she received her Associates Degree in Early Childhood and then her Bachelors in Applied Psychology. She was her mother and father’s first daughter to graduate from college. She is now pursuing her Masters in Early Childhood Education Grades Birth-2nd from Touro College. She has been teaching for eight years.

Of her experience, Ms. Ayala says, “My experience has been amazing, full of joy and laughter. Teaching isn’t just fun to me it’s a huge blessing to be a memory in a child’s life as well as teach them how to be independent and find fun through their education. My road to success does not stop here, I want to continue to be the reason why a child smiles, the reason they laugh, a part of their growth, and a memory they will never let go. I am extremely grateful to be part of the Education team. Let’s continue to change the world, Teachers!”

Heather Ayala is by far one of the most caring and enthusiastic teachers I have ever met. Since COVID-19 happened she has ensured the safety of students by always sanitizing their toys and maintaining social distance. Ms. Ayala is extremely supportive when it comes to the need of her students and parents. She is always there to comfort and support the education of her students by any means necessary.
— Kayla Batista, nominator

"Working remotely was not easy at all but I must say we aced it! We all worked together to make our homes into mini classrooms which eventually motivated students to do the same. It was amazing to see how parents were so engaged and helpful throughout this challenging process. The parents became so supportive that it motivated teachers to perform stronger and become more creative remotely. My favorite success throughout this challenging journey this year was being able to think outside the box during remote learning as it was nothing any teacher was fully prepared for." — Heather on teaching this last year
Dr. Lisette Caesar
Educator Award Winner
Mosaic Preparatory Academy, NYC

Dr. Lisette Caesar better known as Dr. Liz is an educator with over 25 years of experience. Dr. Liz is the founding principal of Mosaic Preparatory Academy, a small school in East Harlem, New York. The experience of learning how to read sparked her interest in teaching. At the age of eight, she made a promise to herself that one day she would be a teacher and a doctor. As a teacher and literacy staff developer, she worked tirelessly to build diverse libraries in all the schools she has worked in knowing the importance of students being able to see themselves positively in texts. Today, Dr. Caesar has continued the work of fostering a love of reading in her students at Mosaic Prep, even during a pandemic. During the 2019-2020 school year, she started her YouTube channel Reading with Dr. Liz. This channel grew out of her desire to stay connected to her students while battling colon cancer.

Helping kids see themselves

Dr. Lisette Caesar shows how learning can be fun and engaging. She supports their individual growth by having daily small group instruction. In addition, children are given multiple opportunities to share how they learn best, what they want to learn and how the school can support them. The principal has worked to promote a culturally responsive education so that kids see themselves in the curriculum.

— Estela Caesar, nominator

Upon her return to the principalship on July 1, 2020, she saw a need to develop home libraries for her students, so she went to work applying for grants, book giveaways, writing letters for donations, and creating Amazon wish lists. Since July, every student has received more than 20 books to keep, monthly school supplies including art materials, STEM kits, math board games for family game nights, and just recently caterpillars, ladybugs, bugs books, and bug collection kits. Dr. Caesar has also connected the school with over 30 children’s books authors who donated their time to read aloud their books to the students.

Not only does Dr. Liz work as a principal, but she also spends her free time helping to build leadership skills in aspiring school leaders as she recognizes the importance of helping prepare future leaders to take over for when she retires. She is also currently working on publishing her first children’s book.
Dr. Janice Gray-Pierre
Educator Award Winner
Northern Manhattan Head Start, NYC

Janice Gray-Pierre, Ph.D. is the Administrative Director at Northern Manhattan Head Start where she has served in the capacity of senior leadership for over twelve years. Her scholarly work includes: Leadership and its effects on early learning in Head Start; Strengthening the 0-8 year lifeline: An operational collaboration between Head Start and Healthy Start in Harlem and The Benefits of Play in Early Childhood Settings. Motivated by her passion and unwavering commitment to her role as early childhood educator, Dr. Gray has dedicated her professional life to the cause. She is an advocate for young children and has worked in the field of Early Childhood Education for most of her adult life advocating for children since they cannot advocate for themselves. Dr. Gray passionately believes that being on the cutting edge of lifelong learning is both enlightening and empowering and is keenly motivated to transfer this passion to her teachers.

She believes teachers have a tremendous impact on children's development during the formative years. In her quest to achieve this goal, she has served as a Mentor Coach observing and assessing classroom activities and providing on-the-job guidance and training to improve teacher quality. Grounded in her earliest years as a Preschool teacher herself, Dr. Gray's career has encompassed all levels of educational leadership, professional development, and management in transforming Early Childhood programs. Dr. Gray earned her doctorate in Leadership and Educational administration from the School of Education at Capella University, a Master's degree in Early Childhood Education from Brooklyn College and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Elementary Education from Lehman College in New York.

An unwavering mission

Fueled by her passion and unwavering commitment to her role as an early childhood educator, Dr. Gray has dedicated most of her professional life to the cause....Her educational philosophy aligns with the collaborative leadership approach to teaching and learning. Given the state of our current educational system, Dr. Gray strongly believes that there is an urgent need for a systems reform, one that emphasizes high-quality early childhood education as a prerequisite for lifelong learning, hence her devotion to the early years as the crucial years along a child's educational journey.

— Marclyne Bernadel, nominator

Each child was given a book bag that was either distributed at home or through curbside pick up to ensure that each family received one. The book bags included learning packets aligned with the curriculum, books and art & craft supplies. We also worked with families who had lost their jobs to obtain food from neighboring pantries. We were also able to send home bagged meals for the remote learners and assist families in obtaining electronic devices.

— Dr. Gray-Pierre on supporting students and families during the pandemic
Sosha Lund began her educational career in 2008 teaching reading and writing to 5th-8th grade students in a rural intermediate/middle school. She saw firsthand the power that literacy held for her students to see themselves represented in texts, but also to build knowledge about the world around them and empathize with others. After earning her masters degree in literacy from UW-Madison, she changed districts to teach 3rd and 4th grade in a Title 1 school. There, she began working on committees for teaching, learning, and equity in her district and using any funding opportunities to grow her classroom library to represent their diverse student population. She now teaches 5th grade in Madison, WI in one of her district’s most culturally diverse schools, and she loves watching the passion, skills, resiliency, and empathy in her students grow every day.

Her district has put anti-racist teaching practices as their top priority. She says, “I am doing my part to continuously learn more and do better each day in supporting my students’ needs.” On COVID she writes, “For the past year, my ‘lucky’ 13th as a teacher, I have been teaching 100% virtually, which brings its own unique challenges and highlights the inequities that have persisted in education for too long. This year has brought me an immense amount of knowledge about using technology and insight into my students’ lives outside of the school building.”

Outside of school, she lives with her husband, two children, and dog in Madison, WI. They enjoy gardening, bike riding, and exploring the city.

Instilling confidence & high self-esteem

Mrs. Lund continuously pours love into everything she does and everyone around her. She instills confidence, higher self-esteem, and an optimistic attitude in each student every day. She considers helping students find their voice as one of the most important parts of teaching. In anticipation of her school’s transition back to in-person learning, she propagated and potted plants to place on each child’s desk, ready for their return back to school.

— Hannah Kowalczyk-Harper, nominator
Rafelina Peña has been teaching preschool children for six years and is an assistant teacher at UFBCO Childcare Center. Rafelina showed interest in working with children at the young age of thirteen when she signed up at this very childcare center to complete community service hours. She is a great believer in giving and serving the community she grew up in. After completing her college degree at SUNY Albany, Rafelina returned to the neighborhood of Washington Heights to assist with the children's education.

Her passion for helping others learn and grow stemmed from her own experience as a child migrating to the United States with her family. When Rafelina is not teaching, she continues to pursue her education in the medical field and enjoys volunteering in the neighborhood's hospitals and clinics. She also travels the world to experience new cultures and their foods.

In June 2020 I found myself at a dollar store with a mask and gloves on buying balloons and graduation props. I was getting ready to decorate my home with graduation props for the first time ever. It was not for my own graduation, instead it was for my graduating class of preschoolers...it was something that none of us could've foreseen. We so gracefully rose up to the challenge and made the best situation out of the hard times we were experiencing at the moment with COVID-19. — Rafelina

Dedicated, hardworking, and passionate

Rafelina has done an outstanding job teaching ELL students and being a flexible and inspiring teacher. She brings many curriculum and activity ideas to the classroom that the children love. She is dedicated, hard working, and passionate...Even with the limits put in place by COVID, she still finds interesting ways to engage the children in the classroom while staying safe.

— Veronica Percello, nominator
Susan Savino has been a teacher in Lyndhurst, New Jersey for over 40 years. As a child, she always knew she wanted to teach, but it wasn’t until high school that she realized she wanted to be involved in special education. She graduated from Seton Hall University with a double major of Education and Special Education. She obtained her Master’s Degree from New Jersey City University, as well as a certification as a Learning Disabilities Teacher-Consultant. In 1979 she started as the first Resource Room teacher in Lyndhurst, and in 2010 she switched to a self-contained class for grades 3, 4, and 5. In 2012 she became a Pre-K teacher for 3 and 4 year olds in a self-contained setting. For the last 2 years she has taught an integrated Pre-K.

Susan Savino
Educator Award Winner
Community School, Lyndhurst, NJ

Susan shared, “I have two wonderful children, Victoria and Steven, who I am extremely proud of! I would not have been able to enjoy this job for so long without the love and support of my entire family. Although the last year has been a bit challenging, I have maintained high expectations for my students, and have continued to offer a loving and caring learning environment.”

Potential in every child

Susan sees the unique talent and potential in every child and tailors her programs to meet their specific needs, regardless of their developmental challenges. Verbal and non-verbal children are given special care, attention and understanding when they enter Ms. Savino’s classroom. Navigating the challenges of remote learning is difficult for any student, even more so for special needs 3 year old students. Susan partnered with parents and guardians to provide support and guidance for every child in her class. Susan has returned to the classroom in person to the delight of her students, who have missed her and the classroom experience throughout the pandemic. Susan has infinite patience and compassion, which is evident in her 40+ years of service to special needs students.

— Jelena O’ Shaughnessy, nominator
Janay C. Smith
Educator Award Winner
Edward L. Grant- Westhab, NYC

Janay C. Smith was born and raised in the Bronx by her mother, a single parent. She is the youngest of five children. Her place to hang out was in the New York Public Library. "Education in her household was law and reading books was an unspoken tradition" for the family, she wrote. Aside from the Library, her mom would take them to Barnes and Nobles. Janay wrote, "If they had an attendance sheet we would’ve had perfect attendance for Saturdays and twice a week during summer vacation." One day when she was in about 5th grade her teacher assigned a book report, using a book she had at home. The teacher asked students to raise their hand if they didn’t have a book, and she was shocked to see how many of her peers didn’t have a personal library at home let alone owned a book. From that day on she was subconsciously helping others by sharing and giving books to her peers. She graduated with honors from Potsdam State University with her bachelor’s degree. She is currently the Recreation Specialist at Edward L. Grant-Westhab, a shelter in the Bronx serving families experiencing homelessness.

Ms. Smith writes, "I take honor in helping children because when I see them I see myself. Having financial barriers and lack of support shouldn’t stop children from thriving in their education. I want to give underprivileged children the support and resources they need to succeed while inspiring them to use their obstacles as stepping stools to reach their goals in life. I have to give the future leaders an example of being a young black educated woman. 'The person who never gives up is destined to always see victory.'"

She never let COVID stop her work

Ms. Smith never let COVID stop her work. When children were no longer allowed to come to the library in person, she brought books to them. When they could no longer attend story time, she arranged for Zoom story time. Many of the children she works with engage in online learning and Ms. Smith makes sure they do not get left behind in their literacy, via arranging tutoring, providing them with age appropriate books, and making sure they have the technology needed to attend learning sessions...Giving support to families and children so they can succeed in education and life is what Ms. Smith stands for.

— Nicole Mylan, nominator

My student began to express to me that he didn’t like reading because he didn’t understand and didn’t like the subjects. This student taught me something very important, as literacy leaders, we have to take time to listen to the individuals we are helping. Having listened to him I was able to ask for books he was interested in. Before I knew it he was checking out a new book from the library every week.

— Janay
Robin Smith-Luftig
Educator Award Winner
Bishop Sexton Head Start, NYC

Robin Smith-Luftig is an accomplished Early Childhood Educator at Bishop Sexton Head Start Program in Bedford Stuyvesant Brooklyn, New York. She earned her bachelor's degree in Childhood Education from Long Island University in Brooklyn, New York. Immediately following graduation, she was offered a position at Hale A. Woodruff Elementary School in East New York, Brooklyn where she taught sixth grade. During her tenure she recognized the importance of investing in early learners. Early childhood has been her passion ever since. In 1999, a tough decision to take a reduction in pay was made to transition from the New York City Department of Education to Freewill Day Care Center in Brooklyn, NY. It was here that she found her passion and recognition for her life calling. A couple of years later, many early child care organizations closed or merged. During this shuffle she became an Early Childhood Educator with Bishop Sexton Head Start managed by St. Marks Head Start.

She became so engrossed in working with this age group she decided to return to school where she earned a master's degree with a dual major in general and special education. Since then, she's been able to provide her students with research-based best practices which informed their learning as well as her instructional practices. Robin Smith-Luftig's teaching philosophy is simple... “remember their brains are like sponges and soak them with the knowledge they need to grow successfully academically, physically and social emotionally." She shared that, “working in Bedford Stuyvesant, Brooklyn has been a dream come true.” She diligently works hard to discover her student's strengths and develops their weaknesses. She shows her caring nature by forming relationships with her students, families and colleagues.

On top of her game

Ms. Robin goes above and beyond the call of duty. She personally makes calls to see how student and parents are doing when a child does not show up for her class. She supports them anyway she can and if she can't help she will take them to the people that can help them. She is kind, nurturing, friendly, playful but a strong teacher. Personally and professionally she supports all that are in need of her help. She willingly offers her help and takes their work load to help a coworker out. I have witnessed it time and again...She is on top of her game...She works as a team with all who work with her...She is a loving teacher and mother.

— Farzana Akhter, nominator

This past year teaching during this pandemic has been challenging for me because I had to educate myself on technology, especially teaching virtual classes. I remember when we first started this I was somewhat fearful, but I knew as an educator I would continue giving my all and all...

I did a lesson on precipitation to show how raindrops form clouds...After doing the lesson remotely, one of my students said that snow was also a form of precipitation because it falls from clouds too. I was so amazed because I now realize that although this was being done during virtual learning, I am still reaching the children. A day later I did the experiment with the children in the classroom. They too were in awe. — Robin Smith-Luftig
Please meet Ghislaine Viard. She was born on the island of Haiti and came to the United States in 1975. In 2010 she began working for Sheltering Arms Children's Center as Head Cook. Of her role, she says, "Over the years my love and dedication has grown for the children and staff. I will continue to go above and beyond to give services to the staff and the children at Marcy Children's Center, who I love and consider my second family. Thank you."

Ms. Viard also known as Ms. Gigi loves the children and families she serves. She makes sure students have nutritious meals, especially breakfast for them to have the energy needed to be productive. Even if the children arrive late and breakfast is over, she does not hesitate to provide a meal, especially if they have not had something to eat. Ms. Gigi assists the teachers to encourage the children to eat healthy and provides the necessary ingredients for cooking experiences. Many times she adjusts the meals to add foods that the children enjoy to ensure they eat. During this pandemic, Ms. Gigi cooks extra to give to families who are in need. When there is a special event, she also give the leftover food to some families within the neighborhood.

— Rosilyn Wright, nominator

Gigi is the person whom the children love to be around. They look forward to seeing her every day. She knows the children very well...Although she is a cook she is also a great educator and knows when and where to support the children and staff and always makes herself flexible for any situation...She has gone above and beyond her work.

— Sylvia Paczynski, nominator

Ms. G. Viard is a very compassionate person who takes her job seriously. Her concerns for the children are like they are her own. She will give the shirt off her back to help the students when they are in need.

— Mrs. Santiago, nominator

Cooks good food, is very helpful for whole center...Good human being, very honest, helpful in all the ways.

— Zehra Jabeen, nominator

She comforts the children, and many of them are attached to her. She is very loving and goes the extra mile to do a great job. She continues to excel and go beyond the job and helps out in the classroom.

— Delia Epiphane, nominator

When it comes to celebrations Ms. Viard 's creativity is unbelievable. She will spend countless time preparing and arranging the display of the food for the children, parents, staff and any invited guests. She takes great pride in her work as a head cook, making sure the children are learning and trying new foods.

— Carol Wilson, nominator

She knows and does her job very well. She cares for all the staff and children. She makes sure that the children love what she cooks for them and she always makes sure to put some fun in what she does.

— Linsey Leveque, nominator
CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2021 BOOKS FOR KIDS HONOREES

“One book, one pen, one child, and one teacher can change the world.”
Malala Yousafzai

Thank you for your hard work and dedication that allows Books for Kids to fulfill our mission to promote literacy for all children.

With gratitude,
Becca & Marc Strongin
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With gratitude,
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Books for Kids thanks for their incredible support of our students, our work, and this event honoring education heroes.

Books for Kids thanks

MOMS DON’T HAVE TIME TO...

for their incredible support of our students, our work, and this event honoring education heroes.
Penguin Young Readers is honored to be a partner of Books for Kids.

Thank you for your tireless work and dedication to children’s literacy.
Sussman Education is a proud supporter and partner of Books for Kids and the work being done each and every day to bring stories to life. We congratulate all of the honorees for their outstanding dedication to enriching the lives of our nation’s young readers.

Books for Kids libraries across the country are filled with books from...
CONGRATULATIONS TO

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THE LITTLE ELLIOT SERIES

Book of the Year Award

Macmillan is a proud supporter of Books for Kids.
Books for Kids thanks HarperCollins Children’s Books for their incredible support of our students, our work, and this event honoring education heroes.

“One of my students refuses to miss school on Wednesdays because she loves library time.”
- Brooklyn Teacher
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Konica Minolta

EDUCATOR AWARD GIFTS
Steven Fuchs & Brian Lancaster

SPECIAL THANKS
Wenting Deng Fisher
Sarah Leibman
Amanda & Bret Hirsh extend their congratulations and their gratitude to the incredible honorees of this event. Thank you for the countless ways you astonish children every day.

Books for Kids thanks...