SHARING THE POWER OF BOOKS
DEAR FRIENDS OF BOOK HARVEST,

"The first thing my baby and I do every day is read our Book Harvest books together."

"I found some of my favorite books – and I get to keep them forever!"

These statements capture the power of the Book Harvest community – the power of parents to embrace reading with their babies from birth, and the power of young readers to select their own books and experience the thrill of a good story.

2014 was a powerful year for Book Harvest. It was a year in which we sent 82,596 books home with more than 14,000 local children in need and in which we gave our Community Book Bank 23% of our total book donations. It was a year in which all our programs grew by 15% and our Book Babies program grew by more than 100%. It was a year in which 280 volunteers gave 5,118 hours of service to our cause, running 112 book drives, collecting and sorting 103,000 donated books, and stocking shelves at 43 sites. It was a year in which our generous community donated 33,677 books in a single afternoon during our MLK Day Dream Big Book Drive at the Carolina Theatre of Durham.

Our vision is simple, bold, unprecedented – and, yes, powerful: for every child, regardless of family income, to grow up in a home rich with books.

Alongside partners such as First Book, Durham Public Schools, Durham Connects, Durham County Library, and Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools, we are pushing toward that vision. We are creating opportunities for children and their families to own lots of age-appropriate books – to read, treasure, hug, and keep forever, from the time they are born through elementary school and beyond.

We continue, as we have from the start, to draw on research to make our programs the most effective they can be. We continue to innovate, to ask ourselves tough questions, and to measure the impact of our work, assessing how all these books are changing both the landscape of underserved communities and the school readiness and academic performance of our children.

We are delighted and honored to count you as part of the Book Harvest family. We are excited by the work that awaits us all to place books within reach of every one of our community’s children.

With gratitude,

Ginger Young
Executive Director

Michele Lynn
Board Chair

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BOOK BABIES

The power of PARENTS to place their children on a path to kindergarten readiness.

The power of STUDENTS to tackle summer learning loss with books.

A LACK OF BOOKS AND SUPPORT

for developing reading routines at home - starting at birth - sets young children up to start kindergarten without the literacy skills needed to succeed in school. 80% of a child’s brain develops in the first three years of life.*

BOOK BABIES PROVIDES PARENTS WITH THE BOOKS AND SUPPORT

they need to help their children’s early literacy blossom. Every six months from birth to age five, we bring 10 new books to each family and make a home visit to give parents the tools they need to be their baby’s first and best teacher. Between home visits, we provide a host of supports such as texts to parents and family gatherings.

IN 2014, BOOK BABIES PROVIDED 2,040 NEW BOOKS and 150 home visits to 102 families with Medicaid-eligible newborns and one-year-olds.

SUMMER, WITH ITS LACK OF ENRICHMENTS, can take a devastating toll on the academic progress of low-income children. Summer learning loss accounts for 80% of the income-based achievement gap.*

Books on Break invites elementary school students on free or reduced lunch to select and fill a NEW STRING BACKPACK WITH 10 BOOKS to take home at the end of the school year, to keep forever. Included in the backpack are resources for parents, to help them tackle summer learning loss at home.

IN 2014, BOOKS ON BREAK PROVIDED 22,100 BOOKS to 2,210 students in 15 elementary schools in Durham, Chapel Hill, and Carrboro.

OUR 2014 BOOK BABIES PARTNERS INCLUDE:
Durham Connects • Durham County Library • First Book

OUR 2014 BOOKS ON BREAK PARTNERS INCLUDE:
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busy schedules or transportation problems, and parents in economic distress or with make it difficult for low-income families.

Two out of three children living in poverty do not have books in their homes.*

In 2014, children’s books were distributed to 46,584 children in low-income neighborhoods throughout the Triangle.

**Indicates an MLK Day sponsor.

If you made a donation to Book Harvest in 2014 and we missed you, please let us know!