

The Book and a Blanket project is a collaborative program between the Rochester Education Foundation (REF), and Buddies, Bridges and Brains, Inc.

REF is a 501c3 not-for-profit organization focused on gaining resources to help city school students succeed, and on building and supporting community partnerships. Since 2005, REF has donated more than 500 musical instruments to city students through its Spring for Music program; and more than 16,000 new books to city students through its Give Back, Give Books program. REF helps provide books for the Book and a Blanket program through its Give Back, Give Books program.

Buddies, Bridges and Brains, Inc., of Victor, is also a registered 501c3 not for profit and has linked the Victor community with Rochester City School #22 since 2003. The partnership provides a vehicle for connecting students and families in addition to sharing resources that improve education. Buddies, Bridges and Brains launched the Book and a Blanket project in 2004, delivering the sets to just one hundred children.

In December of 2006, over 900 children were recipients of a book and a blanket set. The 2008 goal is 4,000 sets! REF and Buddies, Bridges and Brains are committed to helping urban students gain tools for success that can be taken for granted in suburban schools, such as adequate classroom supplies, field trips and technological support as well as volunteers for special projects and classroom support.



Did you know?

- Rochester, NY has the 11th highest rate of childhood poverty in the nation!
- Children from low income families have been exposed to an average of only 25 hours of one-on-one reading time compared to an average of 1,000 to 1,700 hours for children from middle income families.
- Low-literate adults do poorly in the job market, lack the skills to help their children be successful in school, are more likely to suffer from poor health, and are more likely to receive public assistance.
- Among adults at the lowest level of literacy proficiency, 43% live in poverty. Among adults with strong literacy skills, only 4% live in poverty.
- One-half of all adults in US federal and state correctional institutions cannot read or write at all.
- Eighty-five percent of all juvenile offenders have reading problems.
- In some sections of Rochester, over 95% of the students qualify for free lunch.
- Most low income homes have less than 10 books.
- The only behavioral measure that correlates significantly with reading scores is the number of books in the home.

The Book and a
Blanket project gives
PreK to second
grade children in
high-need Rochester
city schools a book
and a handmade
fleece blanket to
keep. Volunteers
who deliver these
sets also read
the new books
to the children.

I Love This Idea! How Can I Help?

- Purchase a book or make a tax-deductible contribution to the project through www.rochestereducation.org or www.givebackgivebooks.org or (585) 271-5790.
- Organize a blanket making party—we can send you the details!
- Have a Book and a Blanket volunteer come speak to your civic, church or scout group.
- Donate fleece fabric, or new books, or sponsor a book and blanket set for \$5.00.
- Come with us to deliver books and blankets, and read the new books to young students.
- Contact us for more ideas:
www.buddiesbridgesandbrains.org
or (585) 329-4172.

This project is supported by a civic engagement grant to Rochester Education Foundation from The Community Foundation.

Design by Bremmer & Gort's Communications | www.gort's.com

Every child should
SNUGGLE
up with a good book.

BOOK & A BLANKET

