

## books4kids2keep Fact Sheet

What **books4kids2keep** is:

- A program of the Columbus (OH) Rotary Club.
- A partnership with Half Price Books, Coca Cola Enterprises, Reach Out and Read, Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections and the Columbus City Schools.
- Determined to put books into the hands of our city's children for their personal enjoyment and ownership.
- Dedicated to fostering the future success of our children by encouraging the development of a life-long love of reading and learning, with an emphasis on family reading.
- Working to give used books additional lives, even beyond the children/schools (surplus books and books with content inappropriate for schools are passed along to the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections).

Our History:

- Started as an informal relationship between Half Price Books and the Columbus Rotary to benefit the children of Kent Elementary School.
- Had its beginnings in a 2002 Rotary Used Book Drive, which collected nearly 6,000 books.
- In 2002-03, Half Price Books donated over 12,000 books to the students at Kent (and their families).
- In 2003, Half Price Books began donating to South and Walnut Ridge High Schools (providing an estimated 13,000 books in the first semester). In 2005-2006 school year, an estimated 150,000 books were distributed. In 2007-08, that number topped 250,000.
- In early 2006, a Board of Trustees was established, and is made up of Rotarians and community leaders.

**books4kids2keep** Today:

- In February, 2004 launched a pilot program involving two Columbus elementary schools, and three high schools. In the 2008-09 school year, we served schools total -- fifteen High Schools, as well as thirty-six Elementary and fourteen Middle Schools.
- Is emphasizing programming in its distribution of books, and providing mini-grants to support those events (with an emphasis on family feeding to promote family reading and prevent hunger).
- Is working to develop a model (logistics, infrastructure, programming and funding) that will facilitate our ability to serve the entire population of the Columbus City Schools.

The Future of **books4kids2keep**:

- Extend program to include every student in the Columbus City Schools, from Kindergarten until their graduation.
- Develop additional sources of books (and funding).
- By 2010-11 school year, spin off program from Rotary and CCS – have already achieved 501(c)(3) not-for-profit status.
- Perfect the model so that it could be applied more broadly across the country, ideally in partnership with other local Rotary clubs.

For More Information, Contact:

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