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Breaking News!

Author/Illustrator **Don Tate** dedicated a book he illustrated, ***Carter Reads the Newspaper***, to Books 4 Buddies. When asked by B4B cofounder Laneta Goings why he so generously did so, he replied with the following:

“Honestly, the thing that most impressed me about our meeting that day was 1) You. Your love for those boys really impressed upon me. Your giving back to your community by uplifting young men, who then uplift younger men – through the gift of reading. What a treasure you are.

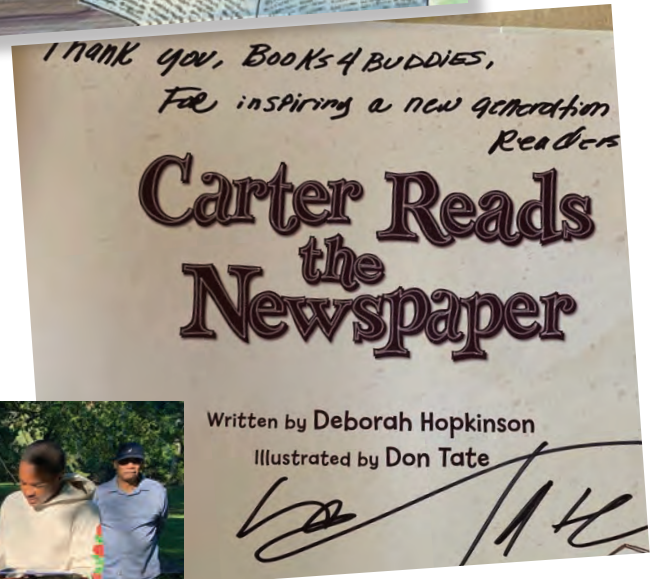
2) I was impressed with the young men. So often, I meet our young black men and they have no confidence. They lower their heads and do not look me in the eye when speaking. Oftentimes, they can be a bit aloof even, which may be more worrying about what others around them will think. But the young men at Books4Buddies were enthusiastic when greeting me that morning. I didn’t feel like they were forced to be there, they were genuine. They smiled when they met me, shook my hand confidently. Then each shared with me some of their goals and their artwork. Obvious readers themselves, they were articulate in the way they expressed themselves. They are our future leaders, and I was proud of them – and you. And I hoped my little dedication would show my gratitude.”

Carter Reads the Newspaper is a biography of Carter G. Woodson, historian, author, journalist, Howard University Dean and “the father of Black History,” who was born in 1875 to two formerly enslaved parents. He read to his illiterate parents and coworkers as a young man, and dedicated his life to the importance of black history and education.



To the inspiring young men of Books 4 Buddies in Holland, Ohio (books4buddies.com). Thank you for promoting literacy and building young leaders one book at a time.

—D. T.



Books4Buddies Ambassadors reading “Carter Reads the Newspaper” at Sickie Cell event Ottawa Park, 2019. Ambassadors left to right: Jaden Jefferson (w/ camera); Jalen Jefferson (back turned); Ian English; Jonathan Dolsey and Jason Dolsey (reading)

University of Michigan Stephen Ross Business School Community Consulting Club Works with Books4Buddies

Reprinted from The Sojourner's Truth

The University of Michigan Community Consulting Club (CCC) was established in 1999. It is designed to work with small nonprofits and the students focus on core programs (impact and outcomes).

The CCC students, who hail from a variety of local communities, as well as from far away as New York and Beijing, traveled from Ann Arbor to meet the Books4Buddies board, including cofounder Laneta Goings; Library officials; a Lucas County Sheriff's representative and an American Cultural Exchange Services (ACES) administrator to discuss the global literacy program.

The UM/CCC, Stephen Ross Business School and Books4Buddies collaborated on a 10-week program designed to develop strategic planning tools, said Marites Seitz, CCC team leader.

"Over the course, we have had the privilege of spending time with some key stakeholders in Books4buddies, including Laneta and see the passion and focus in which B4B operates. The organization is extremely mission driven and they know it does have an impact in the Toledo and global community and want to measure and deepen that impact. Everyone we've spoken with is very knowledgeable of the needs of the greater community, which is inspiring to see," said Seitz.

The CCC students presented its strategic recommendations at the end of January 2020. They advised B4B on strategy and, just as importantly, helped "in measuring their impact, both internally and externally, so that they can leverage information to achieve their goals of growth and deepening the B4B community ties," said Seitz.



SPOTLIGHT on Global Ambassador Brandon Jackson

Books4Buddies ambassador Brandon Jackson (a B4B founding member), a Rogers High School and The Ohio State University grad, and Evan's scholarship recipient, is now a professional caddy and a global B4B ambassador. We asked him to tell us about his experience as a professional caddy.

What is caddy life like on tour?

Life on tour is pretty hectic especially during these times but also a lot of fun. The travel takes some time getting used to but I'm slowly getting used to it.

What is it like to be a caddy?

I have been caddying since I was 13 years old so caddying is almost like second nature to me at this point. But, caddying on tour has added a little more focus and concentration in my preparation which has been really fun.

How were you chosen?

I was helping out at Stone Oak Country Club and I ran into Bianca Pagdangan on the golf course. We ended up talking about the Inverness Club tournament that was coming up and one thing led to another. It was truly a blessing how it happened.

How long can/will you be caddying and can you turn professional?

There really isn't a set time it just depends on results and how our relationship grows over time.

I am technically considered a professional caddy now.

How many African American male/females are on the tour?

Mariah Stackhouse is the only fully exempt African American female on tour and there are about 10-15 African American caddies.

Can you tell us a bit about Bianca Pagdangan, the golfer you caddy for?

Bianca Pagdangan is 23 years old and is from the Philippines. Bianca played golf at Gonzaga University for two years and then transferred to Arizona University for her last two years. This is her first year on tour and she has currently played in seven professional events. As far as caddying for just her, it all depends on how the relationship goes and the results we produce.

There are a lot of cases where caddies move around to different people because the results aren't what the team is looking for. But, as far as my situation goes, I am locked in with Bianca until she tells me otherwise.

I am happy with the little time that we have spent together and the relationship that we have started to build. Hopefully we can continue to build off the good vibes and continue to get better each and every event.

What have you learned? What didn't you realize before about caddying?

I studied Professional Golf Management at Ohio State University. I have learned a lot in the first few weeks on tour but the most important thing that I have learned is just how important it is to stay calm no matter the circumstance. The more I can keep my composure, the more confidence that I can give to Bianca. What I didn't know was just how much

preparation it takes to fully prepare for a tournament. I have so much appreciation for my fellow caddies that have been on tour for a while.

Tell us about your experience as a Books4Buddies Ambassador.

I was a Books4Buddies Ambassador for two years (2012-14). During that time, it taught me how to make a difference; I learned just how important it means to give back to others and how impactful I could be in others' lives. Being able to give to those less fortunate a gift is incredible, but to give them a gift such as a book will impact their lives forever. Books4Buddies reiterated to me

just how blessed I am and how I can be a blessing to others.

What is your long range goal?

Eventually I hope to pursue my dream of getting into sales in the golf business but for the moment I am enjoying the opportunity on tour and hope that we can continue to have success in the future.

We are proud of Brandon, one of our Books4Buddies founding members, and wish him much happiness and success in his career!



B4B Ambassadors Send Importance of Reading Messages during Pandemic Quarantine 2020 from Near and Afar



Kaden Robertson
St. John's Jesuit High School

Books4Buddies Ambassadors partnered with **BGSU's Distance Learning, FlipGrid** on the importance of Reading during Pandemic Quarantine from Near and Far. Visit our website at Books4Buddies.com/News to see videos of our ambassadors reading books aloud and giving book recommendations locally and as far away as Africa, Asia and Europe.



Justin Teamer
St. John's Jesuit High School



Dorian Myers
Clay High School



Jaden Jefferson
Maumee Valley Country Day School



Ivan Dye, Jr.
Miami University, Ohio



Jason and Jonathan Dolsey
Ottawa Hills High School

Books4Buddies Sponsors include: The Blade, Buckeye CableSystem, Toledo Lucas County Public Library, Franklin Park Mall, Hart Associates, LMHA, Lucas County Sheriff John Tharp and Toledo Public Schools

We Salute Our Books4Buddies Global Ambassadors

My name is Mohamed Abulallah and I am 17 years old, from Egypt. I was hosted in Toledo, Ohio my senior year at Sylvania Southview High School (2018-2019). I am a student in Heluran University majoring in business and administration.



Mohamed Abulallah
from Egypt

One of my favorite books is written by Tupac Shakur, *The Rose that Grew from Concrete*. It's a collection of poems he had written. **Fun fact:** Some of those poems were used in his songs. My favorite one is called *Untitled*.

People ask why reading is so important. When thinking generally about such a question one tends to feel like reading is not that appreciated. But back to the question: Reading is not just important; it is essential as it is the best teacher one can have. It teaches about feeling and being a kid, a young man, an adult and older, wiser person at the same time. From the ABCs down to Cindteh's general relativity theorem and down to romantic novels or horror novels, reading is like a gate that opens the door to the ocean of life that never dries out, branching to science, emotion and ways of thinking. It teaches us how to love, how to respect, be appreciative, how to study, how to think, how to act, generally, how to live. So I think the real question is, "Why isn't it important?"

I encourage everyone from 3-year-old kids to 80-year-old men and women to read as reading is the best mental nutrition element. I also urge everyone to keep supporting Books4Buddies for the amazing work, not to mention expanding over the years, while dedicated to helping people everywhere on the globe.



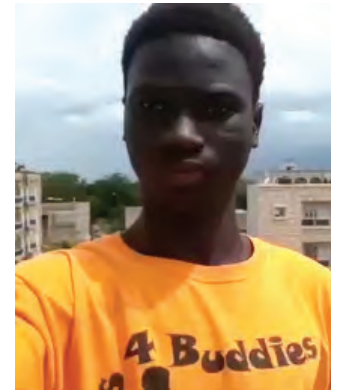
Mamadou Sy, Senegal
(Ottawa Hills High School
2019-20)



PrinceAsh Saeed,
Tanzania (Scott High
School 2018-19)

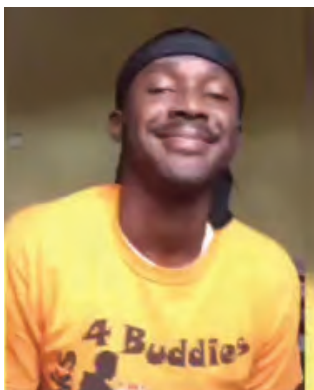


Ahmed Saidi, Tunisia
(Scott High School
2019-20)



Birama Ndyiae, Senegal
(Scott High School 2016-17)

WHERE BOOKS4BUDDIES GLOBAL AMBASSADORS LIVE



Gil Kuzo Rutazihana,
Mozambique
(Start High School
2017-18)



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2020

In Memory of Clyde Scoles

We fondly remember and truly miss the late Clyde Scoles who was an integral part of the formation and success of Books 4 Buddies.



Left to right: Ben Cathey, former Toledo now Knoxville, Tennessee meteorologist; Jordan Topoleski, B4B Global Ambassador and Harvard Student; the late Clyde Scoles former Toledo Lucas County Public Library Director and Fiscal Officer; and Christopher Smith, Lead B4B MENTor

*Congratulations to our Ambassador
June, 2020 Graduates!*

We are so proud of you!

Donovan Bridges from Ottawa Hills High School, Ottawa Hills, OH
John Hopkins University Bound

Jalen Jefferson from Maumee Country Day School, Toledo, OH
University of Toledo Bound

Dorian Myers from Clay High School, Oregon, OH
Owens Community College Bound

Tyson Robinson from Toledo Technology Academy, Toledo, OH
University of Toledo Bound

Nathaniel M. Stroman, Jr. from Bishop Alemany High School, CA
Grand Canyon University, Phoenix, AZ Bound



We are a strictly volunteer-based 501c3 organization. Your financial support is needed to create innovative programs for Books4Buddies. Donations can be made via website: books4buddies.com, Facebook or mailed to Post Office Box 268, Holland, OH 43528





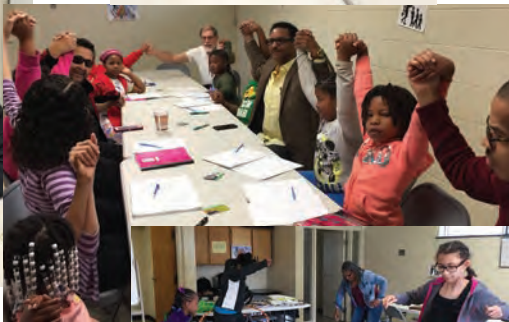
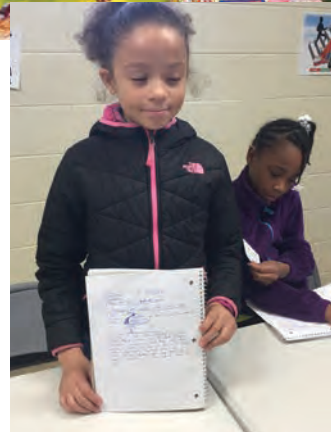
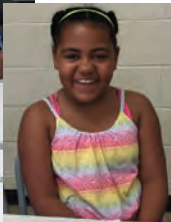
SATURDAY SLAM

A FUN CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP

'HOOK IT UP'

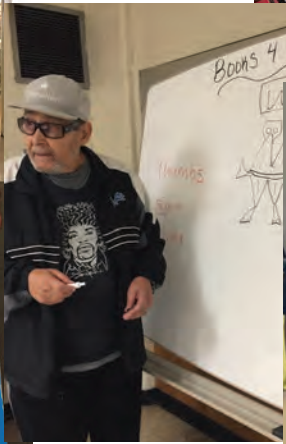
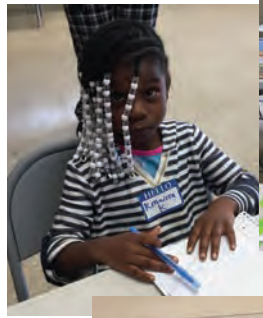
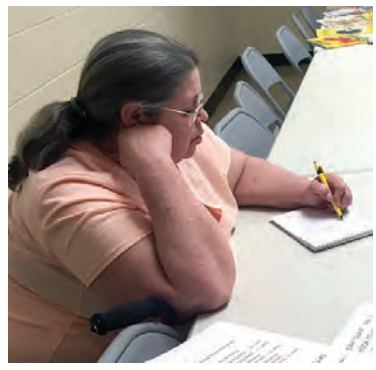
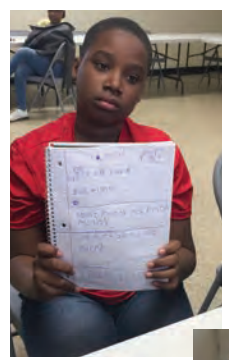
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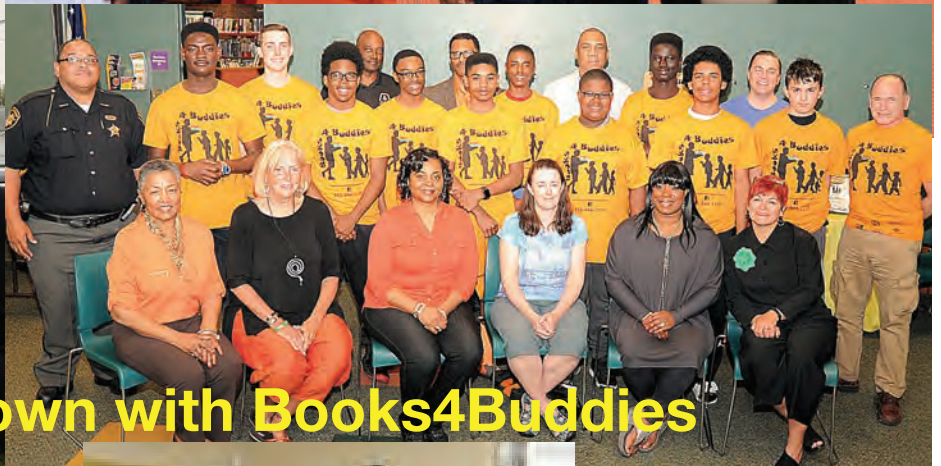
In the Spring of 2018, Books4Buddies held an 8-week (Pilot) Creative writing program called Saturday Slam - "HOOK IT UP" at Birmingham Terrace. Creative writer, Dr. John Scott of ScottVisions Productions & Publications, worked with the children to bring out their creativity in words and encourage a love of writing.





'Hook it UP'
 Hook it up!
 Write something 'bad'
 Hook it up!
 Pick up your shoes
 Hook it up!
 What's your favorite song!
 Hook it up
 That's what the kids are saying:
 Hook it up!!!





Around Town with Books4Buddies





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