

NEWS

2021

MISSION

Books 4 Buddies is a nonprofit organization providing (free) books, mentoring, and inspirational programs for elementary aged through high school boys in underserved areas within the Northwest Ohio area.

PO Box 268, Holland, OH 43528-9998 • 1.866.944.1119 • Books4buddies.com

We Know Where Great Futures Start



That's why Books 4 Buddies is proud to announce its Book House has found a new home at the Boys and Girls Clubs of Toledo.

The Book House was originally donated by Chick-fil-A to Books 4 Buddies during the Ribbon Cutting for its Central & McCord location. Owner Justin Amburgey and Emily Lange, of New Restaurant Marketing, selected Books 4 Buddies for the Book House because of its dedication to improving literacy. Mr. Amburgey presented the gift to Book Ambassador Jordan Topoleski who accepted on behalf of the program.

Books 4 Buddies is confident its new home will allow many boys and girls to make good use of the books contained therein. Thanks to Ryan Geske, Director of Operations and Gerri Peters, Director of Programming, for creating such an inviting space at the Boys and Girls Clubs of Toledo.

The future starts here!

Note inside Book Box from the carpenter: I entered A Better Way Ministries on October 13, 2013. I was a completely broken man & didn't care if I lived or died. At the age of 15 I started selling drugs to make a living for myself. At that time substance abuse started to slowly take over my life. Before I knew it, I had lost my children & was sitting in a prison cell on possession & manufacturing charges. After being released, nothing changed for me. I was involved in a bad car accident & broke my back. I don't know how I survived. Something like a voice in my mind began asking me why I was living the way that I was. I didn't believe in God at that time but looking back I'm positive it was His prompting. After coming to A Better Way Ministries, I now know that there is a God in Heaven & I am not worthless. A Better Way has helped restore my life & I have a completely new outlook. I've been working in the A Better Way wood shop helping to build these book houses for Chick-Fil-A. Every day I wake up & thank God for the second chance He has given me. I am redeemed.

Cody Collins www.betterwayministries.com

Donated by the Chick-fil-A Foundation and given to the local community in celebration of our newest Chick-fil-A restaurant, this Book House represents our love for this local community. It was built from reclaimed materials by the hands of reclaimed men at A Better Way Ministries. And the children's books inside were given generously by local Chick-fil-A customers. This Book House is a little gift with a lot of heart.
Learn more about the Chick-fil-A Foundation's efforts to prepare kids to be leaders for the future at www.chick-fil-a-foundation.org

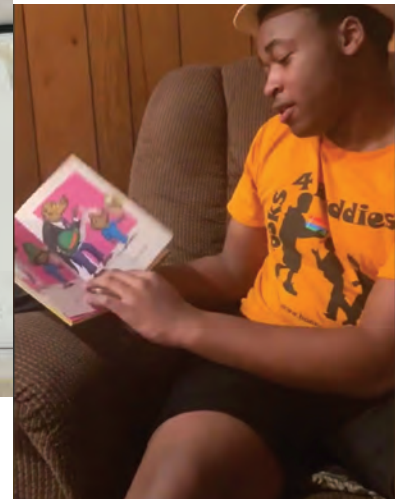
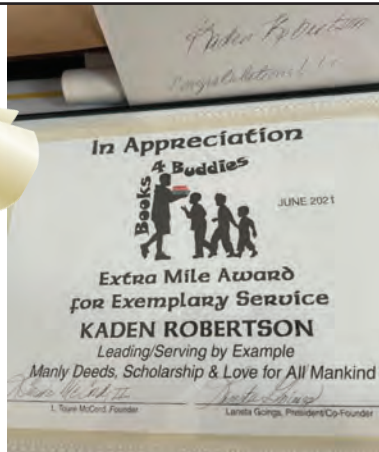


**Books 4 Buddies
First Ambassadors
from 2012**

Enhancing literacy for boys and young men and building leaders, one book at a time.



***Congratulations to Our
2021 Books 4 Buddies
Graduates!***



The 2021 grads are: **Jonathan Dolsey**, an Ottawa Hills grad and Morehouse bound and **Kaden Robertson**, a St. John's Jesuit grad and University of Toledo bound



2012-2019 STATS

AMBASSADORS

143 Ambassadors*, avg. 18 a year, avg. tenure 2 yrs.
* (total, not different)

HOURS

722, 181 yr. avg., 5 avg. Ambassador

EVENTS

100

BOOKS DISTRIBUTED

200,000+

We are a strictly volunteer-based 501c3 organization. Your financial support is needed to create innovative programs for Books 4 Buddies. Donations can be made via website: books4buddies.com, Facebook or mailed to Post Office Box 268, Holland, OH 43528



Welcome to Our 2021 Ambassadors

GLOBAL (ACES) AMBASSADORS



Brandon Dolsey
Ottawa Hills
High School



Ian English
Maumee Valley
Country Day School



Jaden Jefferson
Maumee Valley
Country Day School



Loay Aboelenien
from Egypt
Scott High School



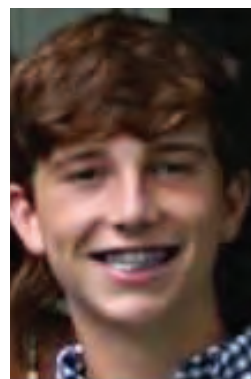
Paul Coyola
from France
Sylvania Southview
High School



Jalen Teamer
St. John's Jesuit



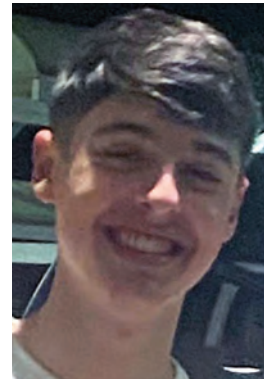
Justin Teamer
St. John's Jesuit



Jackson Topoleski
Southview High
School



Aaron Dunner
from Liberia
Start High School

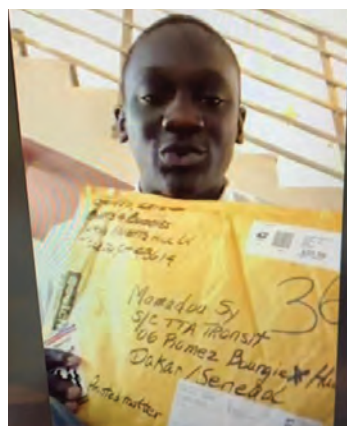


Miguel Hernandez
from Spain
Bowsher High School

AMBASSADOR SPOTLIGHT



LJ Hancock
is a Senior at St. John's Jesuit
and the Student Body
President. Congratulations LJ!



Global Ambassador Mamadou Sy of Senegal was thrilled to receive this package with the "Carter Reads the Newspaper" book from Books 4 Buddies.

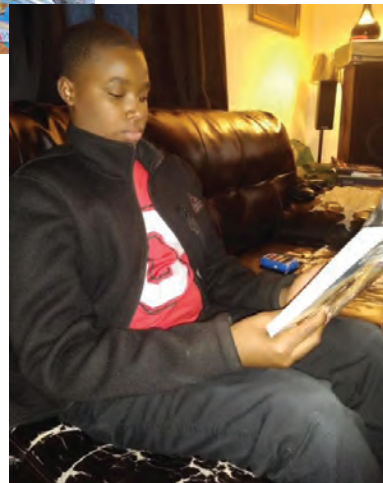
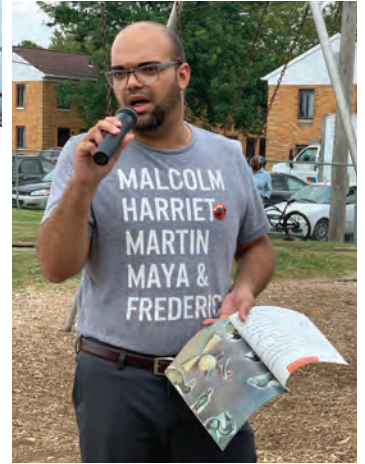


Danylo Lazariev
from Ukraine
Toledo School
for the Arts



Wilkan Taula
from Mozambique
Scott High School

Community



Archer, 9, reads a book as part of a Books 4 Buddies program during the Back-to-School Block Party at Birmingham Terrace in Toledo on Wednesday. From back left are Books 4 Buddies volunteers Justin Tenner, Jon Dols Dorian Myers. See video from the event on Blade NewsSlide.



Books 4 Buddies Board:

L. Toure McCord, II
 Founder
 (Freelance photographer, L.A.)

Laneta Goings,
 President/Co-Founder

Peter Hildebrandt
 Secretary, Librarian

Mel Honig
 Rotary Club International

Richard Jackson
 TPS, retiree

Robert Mendenhall
 TPS, Director of Curriculum

Andre Page
 Treasurer

Christopher Smith
 (Lead MENtor)





Community





A Note...

from Nick and Joe

First, thanks for picking up this book. Reading is the most vital skill you will need to sail the waters of life. Speaking of sailing, we thought we'd like to talk to you, here at the end of this story, about adventure. If there is one thing that is guaranteed in life, it's adventure. You'll see plenty of ups and downs. You will meet new people every day. Some of you will travel the world. Others will find your happiness right where you grew up. All of this is part of the grandest adventure that we call life.

We've learned that the biggest adventures happen when you are helping other people. Over the past couple of years, we have read our first book *Pete the Popcorn* to over 100,000 school children in over 25 states. This tour was funded completely through sales of our books and our own personal savings. It was important to accomplish this, to get children excited about reading... and to teach them how one simple act of saying something nice to someone else, can positively change the world.

Another prominent lesson is gratitude. In *Crusty Cupcake's Happy Birthday*, young Paisley Brooke Jackson learns that the real gift is having all of her friends present to celebrate her birthday. This is a lesson we can all think about daily. Look around. What are you truly grateful for?

We once heard that experiences are greater than possessions. The experiences that we've had: meeting thousands of children and parents, contributing to other organizations promoting literacy, partnering with local businesses that are looking to make a positive impact on their community through literature... We would absolutely agree that experiences are greater than possessions. Go out and give—find your experience.

Finally, whenever it is, *Happy Birthday!* On your birthday, take a moment and think about gratitude... and then make a wish, blow out the candle and eat that cupcake!



Friendships last forever... the authors, with a group of friends on one of their adventures.



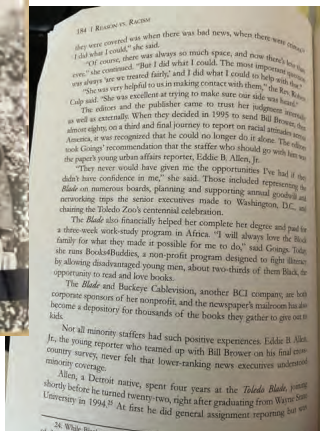
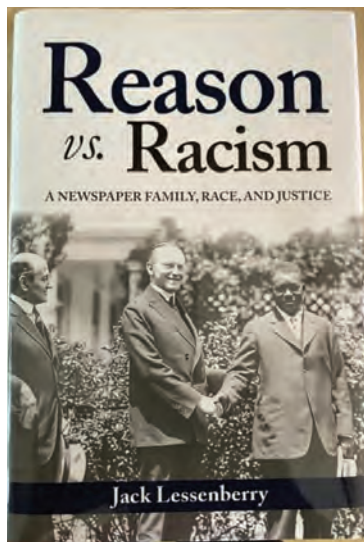
The authors, pictured at one of their hundreds of school visits across the country.



Joe Kelley and Nick Rokicki, pictured with...

We Love Books!

Especially those with roots to Toledo!



The Blade and Buckeye CableSystem (BCI) both corporate sponsors of Books 4 Buddies.



Ambassadors flanking Toledo Fire Chief Bryan Bird at Ottawa Park community outreach program. Bird is holding the "Carter Reads the Newspaper," by Deborah Hopkinson and illustrated by Don Tate. Tate has a dedication printed to Books 4 Buddies on the inside.

Books 4 Buddies 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

Testimonial From Afar

Hello there My name is Mohamed Abdallah. I am a 17 year old student from Egypt. I was hosted in Toledo OH in my Junior year at Sylvania Southview high school of the year 18-19. Currently I am a student in Helwan university majoring in business & Administration. One of my favourite books is a book written by Tupac Shakur called (The Rose that grew from concrete). It is a collection of poems he had written. Fun fact some of those poems were used in his songs; My favourite one is called "Untitled" but anyway people ask why is reading so important? when thinking generally about such a question one tends to feel like this is the very reason reading is not that appreciated; but back to the question reading is not important it is essential as it is the best teacher one can have, it teaches about feeling & being a kid a young man an adult & an older wiser person at the same time from the ABC's down to Einstein's general relativity theorem down to Romantic Novels, Horror Novels; Reading is like a gate that opens the door to the ocean of life that never dries out branching to science, emotion, way of thinking. It teaches us how to love how to respect & appreciate 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? & bec of all I just mentioned I encourage with all I have everyone from the 3 year old kids to the 80 year old men & women to read, as reading is the best nutrition element for the brain you can find.

Subject : _____

Date : _____

Urge
as I also ~~support~~ everyone to support & keep supporting books & buddies for the amazing work not to mention it expanding globally over the years to be a tall standing still organization dedicated to helping people everywhere in the globe.