

P.O. Box 1845 Charleston, SC 29402 <u>www.dictionaryproject.org</u> 843-388-8375

History of The Dictionary Project

Dictionary Project

LEARN O READ EAD TO LEARN

1992 – Annie Plummer of Savannah, GA, begins by donating 50 dictionaries to a school close to her home.

Early on, Bonnie Beeferman of Hilton Head, SC, learns of Annie's effort and begins selling crafts to raise enough money to provide dictionaries to students in Hilton Head.

By 1995, Bonnie has so many requests from local schools that she contacts a Charleston, SC, newspaper explaining the project and asking for support.

Mary French reads the article and thinks that this is a project for her. After realizing that covering schools effectively would take serious fund raising, she starts a 501(c)(3) organization with her husband, Arno, in 1995 and The Dictionary Project is born.

Since 1995, with the generous support of countless sponsors and volunteers, more than 15 million dictionaries have been distributed.

Dictionary Project

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How The Dictionary Project Works

A local individual or organization sees the benefits in providing children, most aptly third graders, with a powerful tool for learning - a dictionary.

That individual or organization can realize this by sponsoring a dictionary project in their area through a tax-deductible donation to The Dictionary Project, a 501(c)(3) organization.

Through the donation, a certain number of dictionaries, selected by the donor, will be sent to a location specified by that sponsor.

A volunteer, typically the donating individual or organization, takes the delivered books, and in a classroom event, distributes the gifts among the children.

The donated books can be customized by inserting a label or message from the donor inside the book.

On our website <u>www.dictionaryproject.org</u> Find this button to sponsor a project in your community:

Click now to

Literature The Dictionary Project Offers

Dictionary Project

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The Dictionary Project offers 25 different pieces of literature for distribution, printed by several publishing houses. The cost per book starts as low as \$1.25 and includes shipping within the continental United States.

Each donation to The Dictionary Project is tax-deductible.

Any book can be reviewed and ordered through our website.





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Facts about Literacy in the USA

Dictionary Project

Literacy is crucial to economic success and prosperity of a country. (Literacy in America and Economic Impact, www.caliteracy.org/economic/, 2009)

Crime rates and unemployment are correlated to levels of illiteracy. (National Assessment of Adult Literacy (NAAL) Report 2003)

21% to 23% of adult Americans were not "able to locate information in text", could not "make low-level inferences using printed materials", and were unable to "integrate easily identifiable pieces of information." (National Center for Educational Statistics, April 2002)

The National Assessment of Educational Progress reveals that 37% of U.S. fourth graders fail to achieve basic levels of reading achievement. (National Early Literacy Panel Report, 2009)



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Facts about Literacy

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Literacy is strong in developed countries, but even here, not everybody is literate or can be considered sufficiently literate.



Being Literate is not a privilege - It is a necessity! <u>Reading makes a country great!</u> TO READ READ TO

Why Dictionaries are Important

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Dictionaries are useful in many ways. They are an aid to learning definitions of words, spelling, pronunciation, grammar, and contextual use of words in a written & spoken language.

A dictionary is the key to:

Communication

Education

Career and Personal Growth

Self-Confidence



http://www.nhusd.k12.ca.us/node/604

Additionally, a dictionary helps in preserving the wealth of a language.

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Sponsors and Volunteers

Sponsors and Volunteers are the heart and soul of The Dictionary Project – We could not do it without them!

The generosity of those who see the benefit in the gift of words, and those who enjoy putting the books into the hands of children, is the essential part of The Dictionary Project.

The involvement of individuals, civic organizations and communities in making a gift to a child is of special value to the children. It is an eyeopening experience for them to learn that the community they live in is very much interested in them and in their education. In return, the enthusiasm and excitement of the children is usually most gratifying for the sponsors who personally deliver the dictionaries to the students.



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School Information Lists

On our website (<u>http://donations.dictionaryproject.org/Mapping/</u>), we offer a resource to easily visualize current nationwide participation and present a listing of covered and not-yet-covered schools. You can use these lists to see where you are needed.

The lists can be sorted by state, district and school year, and the resulting listing of the schools can also be exported to Microsoft Excel for further analysis of the data.

The information provided is based on the responses of our sponsors and updated frequently.

In order to keep those maps and lists accurate and current, we kindly ask every sponsor of a project to submit to us the names of all schools where the dictionaries will be distributed.



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Experiences of Sponsors

The Projects section of our website (<u>http://www.dictionaryproject.org/projects</u>) has links to National Projects and International Projects. Here you will find maps that show specific projects, with pictures and stories submitted by our sponsors. The National Projects Map shows each public school in the United States, with information about its sponsor, if it has one, and any news or photos we' ve received about that project.

In addition, the Supporters section of the website includes Sponsor Profiles, where each sponsoring organization is featured, with their accomplishments and links to their stories and pictures. We hope that these pages allow our many sponsors to share experiences and inspiration with each other, as well as highlight their good work.





Gratitude of Children and Parents

Children as well as parents are excited and most grateful for the gift of a dictionary. Hundreds of letters from children give proof that receiving a dictionary from an individual or organization is special to them, and that special feeling will be with them whenever they use the dictionary to look up words and their meanings. The gift of a

dictionary will be appreciated and utilized!

Thank you for the dictionary. I am grateful for the gift. I appreciate it. It is a useful book. Thank you for believing in me. Thanks again

Rosie Deridder, LA

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Dictionary Project

Thank you for the dictionary. When I was writing this letter I had to use it to help me spell words. You were so nice to come and give us a dictionary. Thanks again.

Paige West Plains , MO

Thank you for the dictionaries. The dictionaries will help me discover other words that I haven't seen in my life and to pronounce other letters. I appreciate you giving us those wonderful dictionaries.



Guadalupe Riverside , CA

At Naatzv Decenit Denr Mr. Schilling TATER 1277 ennessee Ways dice and Wai hove on mat - word TPTPVEL Up TON DP. WORK 00 Your friend James C Zmer-Blosse, Ive. All rights reserved.

Mr. Mortimer Mountainside Rotary Club Borough Hall Mountainside, New Jersey 07092

November 22, 2010

Dear Mr. Mortimer and Members of the Mountainside Rotary Club,

Thank you for the thesaurus? I have been using it every day in my writing. One time I looked up the word "great" and I got "spectacular."

My writing has gotten a lot better. Every day I bring it to and from school, so I always get super words.

Thank you for the thesaurus again and I hope to see you next year.

From, Michael

Next Steps

Dictionary Project

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Being literate is crucial in our developing world, and still much needs to be done, and can be done, to help and enable students to reach their potential.

In 2010, a little more than **2.46 million** books were distributed in the US. Our goal is to serve all third graders each year, an estimated **4.17 million**!

Plans are underway to also strengthen our international impact by collaborating with donors and volunteers in foreign countries. For that purpose, we are also intending to partner with organizations that would ensure effective and efficient shipping of books throughout the world.

The world has become a global stage, and literacy will benefit everyone on it!



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Closing Comments

Dictionary Project

The Dictionary Project appreciates your time and consideration!

With your support, we can achieve our goal:

Student by Student! State by State! Country by Country!

- For further information -

please visit our website: www.dictionaryproject.org or give us a call : 843-856-2706 or 843-388-8375