

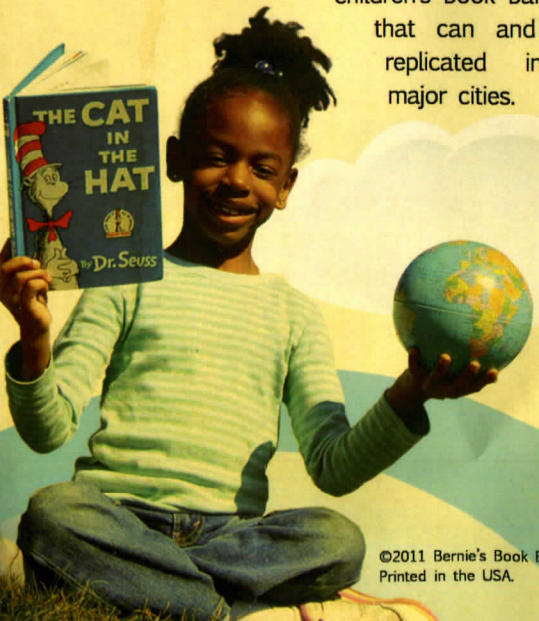
# A Children's Book Bank

**OUR MISSION...**Bernie's Book Bank facilitates the collection, processing and redistribution of quality new and gently used children's books so as to significantly increase quality **book ownership** among at-risk infants, toddlers and school-age children living throughout Chicagoland.

**WE KNOW...**reading is the single most important skill a child needs to learn in order to contribute and function competently within our society.

**WE BELIEVE...**children's book ownership, starting at a very young age, is imperative to gaining an appreciation for books, developing 'reading readiness,' supporting literacy growth throughout the primary years and ultimately becoming a skilled reader!

**OUR VISION...**is to develop into the most efficient "Children's Book Bank" in Chicagoland, becoming the experts in leveraging fully the value of "recycled" children's books. Through effectively creating awareness about our book bank and developing valuable relationships, we expect to make every child a book owner while creating a children's book bank model that can and will be replicated in other major cities.



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# History

In operation since December of 2009, Bernie's Book Bank collected and redistributed 140,000 children's books in its first 12 months. In this short time, Bernie's Book Bank has established itself as logistical experts when it comes to effectively and efficiently distributing un-utilized children's books. Bernie's Book Bank plans to be distributing **ONE MILLION** quality children's books a year by 2013. In doing so, Bernie's Book Bank expects to plant book bank sites in other major cities throughout the country.

# How Does it Work?

Collecting books is fun, then the hard work begins. Bernie's Book Bank exists to increase the efficiency by which un-utilized children's books travel from the point of collection to the point of distribution. While doing so, Bernie's Book Bank assures that these books become a part of long-term, sustainable program built to increase book ownership among the most needy! Bernie's Book Bank is continuously collecting new and gently used children's books through corporate and school book drive programs, neighborhood drop off spots and direct donations. Upon collection, books are purged for quality, separated into reading level categories, marked with the Bernie's Book Bank "fingerprint", bagged six to a bag and boxed for distribution. Distribution partnerships are forged with schools and programs serving large populations of at-risk children and with the understanding that books will be distributed six books at a time (three books for 5th and 6th graders) and at least twice a year. What Bernie's Book Bank distribution partners value most is that their jobs are made very easy by the fact that the books arrive to their facility or school "distribution ready"!

# Get Involved!

Bernie's Book Bank is **YOUR** community's book bank.

- Donate your household's un-utilized **children's books**
- Organize a **neighborhood children's book drive**
- Facilitate a **School or Corporate Book Drive Program**
- Become a **Book Drop Network Partner**
- **Volunteer**...it's easy and fun
- Participate in the annual **Birdies and Books Charity Golf Classic**
- **Sponsor** Bernie's Book Bank
- **Invest** in Bernie's Book Bank...nearly every \$1 donated makes one child an owner of six books

## Join us today!

Visit us online at  
[BerniesBookBank.org](http://BerniesBookBank.org)  
or call 847-780-READ (7323)



## Testimonials

*The books donated were amazing, perfectly packaged and tremendous quality...of course; your personal touch was the unexpected bonus!*

Jennifer Grumhaus  
NORTH CHICAGO COMMUNITY  
PARTNERS/GORTER FAMILY  
FOUNDATION

*It was just awesome to see how excited the kids were — that it didn't have to be electronics or video games to really make them happy...Thanks for bringing books and making reading exciting for my students!*

Jenny Chang-West  
NORTH ELEMENTARY,  
WAUKEGAN SCHOOL DISTRICT

*The young moms we work with are challenged to read to their children daily, and then you gave them materials they needed to do so. They were thrilled!*

Joan Bellito  
DIRECTOR OF  
STUDENT SERVICES  
TEEN MOTHER CHOICES,  
ARLINGTON HEIGHTS OFFICE

*As I watched the kids showing their new books to their fellow students I thought "Now this is what the joy of reading is all about." What a pleasure to work with Bernie's Book Bank to share the joy of books with these kids.*

Lynn Tracy  
MANAGER OF  
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT,  
UNITED WAY OF LAKE COUNTY



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*Bernie P. Di...*

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**KEEP UP WITH US ON FACEBOOK AND TWITTER!**



BERNIE'S BOOK BANK IS A  
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*Bernie P. Di...*

[BERNIESBOOKBANK.ORG](http://BERNIESBOOKBANK.ORG)

*Connecting Children  
Needing Books with  
Books Needing Children.*

*I love to read.  
Always have. Always will.  
Books are my passion.  
I love to look at them,  
touch them, feel them.  
Much more, I love to read them --  
lots of them.*

*-Bernie P. Di...*

