



CONNECT

The Read to Me! Newsletter
Winter 2012

Read to Me! has 80,000 reasons to celebrate!

2012 marks our 10th anniversary and the remarkable achievement of putting books into the hands of over **80,000** new parents in Nova Scotia. The simple act of delivering the Read to Me! bag to babies has been repeated every day, seven days a week, 365 days a year, for the past ten years at hospital bedsides across Nova Scotia.

Our founding partners understood that it takes more than good intentions to create a successful program – it takes long-term, sustainable funding. To ensure that Read to Me! would be around for future generations, the Read to Me! Foundation Inc. Board established an endowment fund. Thanks to generous donors both large and small, we are less than one million dollars away from our endowment goal to ensure the gift of books for every baby born in Nova Scotia - **forever!** If you would like to support the work of Read to Me! you can make a donation by visiting our website at www.readtome.ca

I would like to take this opportunity to give my personal thanks to everyone who has helped us reach this ten year milestone. Thanks to **Read to Me! Foundation Inc. Board** for ensuring that sustainable funding is in place; Honorary Spokesperson **Sheree Fitch** for a decade of passionate advocacy for early literacy; Honorary Chair **Dr. Richard Goldbloom** for his tireless fundraising efforts and enthusiastic championing of early literacy in a hospital setting; the over **100 nurses, ward clerks, librarians** and **volunteers** across the province who pack transport, and deliver Read to Me! bags to new families at the hospital bedside; **Halifax Youth Foundation; the Province of Nova Scotia;** our host organization, **the IWK Health Centre** and the 11 participating **hospitals across the province,** as well as the **Nova Scotia Provincial Library, Public Health, Subaru Canada, family resource centers** and the many supporting **literacy groups.** And of course I can't forget our most important partners – the thousands of parents who have snuggled up with their babies to read their Read to Me! books!

It has been an amazing first decade and with your help we'll keep this good work going in Nova Scotia for many years to come. Happy Anniversary, and let the celebrations begin!



Read to Me! celebrates 10 years of giving books to babies

Longtime Read to Me! Bag Packers Retire

An era at Read to Me! has ended – two of our longtime volunteers, Bryce and Hazel Gibson have retired after 8 years of packing Read to Me! bags for babies born at the IWK Health Centre. Bryce and Hazel have spent many hours in our office packing bags, regaling us with stories and brightening our day with jokes. Over the years, Bryce and Hazel single-handedly packed over 40,000 Read to Me bags! And not only were they dedicated to Read to Me! within our office, they also took their passion for the program to the streets, stopping new parents at the mall or the grocery store to ensure that the parents received their books and were enjoying reading to their baby. Thank you Bryce and Hazel for your years of passion and dedication to early literacy in Nova Scotia!

As one era ends, another era at Read to Me! begins, with the addition of two new bag packers, JiSoo Lee and Niharika Jha, who have taken over packing Read to Me! bags for the IWK Health Centre. The two grade 11 students are Social Action student volunteers from the Sacred Heart School of Halifax. The Social Action program gives students the opportunity to take an active part in volunteer activities in the wider Halifax community. Not only do JiSoo and Niharika pack bags for the IWK, they also assemble Baby's First Library Card for the entire province. Welcome to the Read to Me! Team, JiSoo and Niharika!

This is also a great time to give a shout out to our longtime dedicated provincial bag packers, Pat Othen and Donna Silvert. Pat and Donna go above and beyond for Read to Me! not only packing over 4000 bags per year but also packaging them with care for shipment so that they arrive at each hospital in perfect condition. Thank you Donna and Pat for your many years of volunteering with Read to Me!



Hazel and Bryce Gibson receiving tributes from Read to Me! on their retirement

Read to Me! Logo Refreshed



To celebrate our 10th anniversary, we've refreshed our logo. Our bears are now fuzzier, cuddlier and we think, even cuter!

Giving to Read to Me is Easy!



Read to Me! is a non-profit organization and we have actively fundraised over the past decade to build an endowment fund to ensure that funding is in place to continue our work of bringing books to babies in Nova Scotia.

People often ask us how they can make a contribution to help support the work of Read to Me! and with a new addition to our website, we've made donating easy. We have added the CanadaHelps Donate Now! button to our homepage at www.readtome.ca CanadaHelps is a registered charity whose mission is to engage Canadians in the charitable sector. They process online donations safely and securely, and within minutes of donating to Read to Me! online through CanadaHelps, you will receive an official electronic tax receipt.

All contributions to Read to Me! go toward the purchase of new, high-quality board books and reading resources for babies across Nova Scotia.



Thanks To ...

Read to Me! extends sincere thanks to the following who have made recent donations to support early literacy in Nova Scotia:

South Shore Regional Hospital Auxiliary
Cape Breton Regional Hospital Foundation
Aberdeen Health Foundation
St. Martha's Regional Hospital Auxiliary
Raise-a-Reader
CIBC Children's Foundation
Halifax Youth Foundation
RBC

Check Out Our Facebook Page!

Join the conversation! You will find up to date information on our anniversary events, new resources and the latest Read to Me! news on our Facebook page.

You can find us at: facebook.com/readtome.ns



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CONTACT US

Phone:

(902) 470-6683

Email address:

readtome@iwk.nshealth.ca

Mailing Address:

IWK Health Centre
5850/5980 University Avenue
P.O. Box 9700, Halifax, NS, B3K 6R8

Office Location:

Market Level, Spring Garden Place
5640 Spring Garden Road
Halifax

Fax: 902-470-8785

Website: readtome.ca

Want to receive our newsletter by email?
Email us at readtome@iwk.nshealth.ca

About Read To Me!

Read to Me! is a non-profit, province-wide early literacy program developed to help families enrich their child's early years with books and reading. We present parents with a bright yellow bag of books and literacy resources at the hospital bedside within 24 hours of the birth of their baby. The program is delivered at 11 hospitals in Nova Scotia that offer maternity services, reaching every baby born in the province.

What's in the bag?

Each bag contains:

- High Quality Baby Books
- The Family Reading Guide
- *Hey Diddle Diddle!* Nursery Rhyme CD
- Baby's First Library Card



Founding Partners:



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