

**SUMMARY**  
**BORN TO READ PARTNERS MEETING**

March 7, 2017 3:00-4:30 pm  
Great Lakes Children's Museum - 5toONE Neighborhood Center

**Present:** Charlene Lutes, Eloina Fudge, Amy Shamroe, Missy Smith, PJ Kemler, Robin Hornkohl, Carolyn Collins, Andy Shuck, Jan Engle, Nancy Grote, Sharon Workman

**Born to Read Progress and Updates**

1. Sharon reviewed 2016 Born to Read accomplishments (we reached nearly 3,000 parents in 2016!), grants received (Friends of the TADL, the Community Foundation, and United Way); our 2017 budget (\$18,950) and 2017 goals.
2. Carolyn announced the READ for Books fundraiser scheduled for September 28<sup>th</sup> at the Traverse City Golf and Country Club and encouraged everyone to come and to donate items for the Silent Auction. All proceeds will support Born to Read.
3. Andy summarized progress made in TADL's texting project, which has been tested and expected to be fully operational by end of month. Posters will be available soon for promoting the service, which will provide weekly text messages related to early literacy.
4. Sharon showed everyone the enhanced newborn packets with newly designed logo and printed materials. Robin passed out copies of the new 5toONE Community Resource Guide that is being distributed throughout the 5 county region. Copies of this beautiful and very thorough Guide will go into the next round of newborn packets.
5. Eloina told several stories about her experience as our bi-lingual Born to Read Ambassador, describing some of the children and parents she has reached. PJ and Carolyn added stories about their experience reading with young children. The Ambassador program has been very well received and is clearly impacting children and parents reached at the 4 sites.
6. Sharon asked that everyone encourage friends and colleagues to participate in the 3/18 early literacy training so we can build our volunteer network. Missy requested that Ambassadors be placed at the 5toONE Neighborhood Centers to model for parent leaders and encourage them to participate in a future training and become Ambassadors. She will send Sharon a schedule so that we can invite trained Ambassadors to sign up at these sites for the spring quarter.

**Tasks Assigned**

1. Andy, PJ, and Missy will work together to develop a list of 0-3 books to be purchased and for book drives. Andy will convene the working group.
2. Eloina and Robin will work on getting help in translation of BTR materials into Spanish, starting with the newborn envelope and contents.
3. Carolyn, Amy, and Andy will work on enhancing and maintaining the Born to Read website and interfacing with the Twilight Rotary website and Facebook page. Carolyn will lead this effort.

**Dolly Parton's Imagination Library**

Jan and Nancy described Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, established in 1996. The local Grand Traverse chapter was organized in November 2015 and currently serves 3 zip codes with 181 children registered. Each child receives one book a month from birth to 5 years of age. Cost is \$25 per child per year. The Grand Traverse group encourages and oversees registrations and raises funds to cover this cost. Their goal is to expand to all TCAPS zip codes, and eventually to the entire 5 county region with an estimated 8,500 children birth-5.

We discussed how we will work together to raise funds and accomplish our common mission. We decided to start by adding Dolly Parton's Imagination Library to our Born to Read partnership. Jan and Nancy will attend quarterly Born to Read meetings so we can plan together and develop collaborative proposals to address shared goals.

**TADL Fundraiser** – Andy announced that TADL is holding a fundraiser for the early literacy area of the library on April 7, 6:30-9 pm, with a silent auction and fun activities. Please come!

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, June 20, 3:00-4:30 pm, location to be determined.