



A literacy program helping incarcerated parents stay connected with their children

## IN THE NEWS

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"Literacy is a bridge from misery to hope." —Kofi Annan

**Remain in Touch** is in its third year as a local non-profit! We are proud to continue helping inmates connect with their children through the power of reading. Thank you to all of our generous supporters; we couldn't do it without you.

Thank you to **Rare Bird Brewpub** and to those who came out to support **Remain in Touch** at our March 4 Pour for More Event! We received a number of books, CDs, and monetary donations. We appreciated the opportunity to spread the word of **Remain in Touch**. The beer was delicious!



### Pour for More + Remain in Touch

**Thursday, March 14th —  
6:30pm-8pm**

Join us for food, drink, and live music!

221 Garland St, Downtown  
Traverse City



**Remain in Touch** was chosen as one of the 12 non-profits to participate in Pour for More in Traverse City. Money is earned by purchasing the featured beverage. Mark your calendars, we hope to see you there!



### STORIES FROM OUR FACILITATORS

We have an inmate who has been recording for several months for his newborn son. The inmate talks frequently with his wife and she has played the recordings for the baby. If she holds the phone to the baby's ear, the baby listens and recognizes his dad and responds with coos and baby noises. When the father is able to go home, he will not be a stranger to his baby.

Recently a man struggling with incarceration recorded for his child. As he read, tears fell on the page, but he continued on and was very grateful to have the opportunity to have us send the book and recording on his behalf.

#### Look at us! We're on Social Media!

We're now on social media! Give us a "like" and a "follow" to keep up to date on all things **Remain in Touch**.



[facebook.com/remainintouch](https://facebook.com/remainintouch)

Give us a like!



[instagram.com/remainintouch](https://instagram.com/remainintouch)

Give us a follow!

- Children develop literacy skills long before they read
- Young children who are read to regularly have a larger vocabulary, a stronger foundation of language awareness, and literacy skills at a younger age
- Children who are read to regularly by family members experience social-emotional gains and an increased likelihood of overall school success

### From a child's heart:

*"A home that lacks a parent also lacks the feeling of security and an overall sense of safety. What a gift it would have been to open a book and hear the gentle voice of my father when I was scared, sad or sleepy. It would have been so much more than a book to me!" - Samantha Bennett*

**Since our program was launched in May 2016 to March 1, 2019:**



incarcerated parents selected and recorded books for their children



children received new books and recordings from their incarcerated parents



brand new books, along with recordings, were delivered to children of incarcerated parents

### Quotes from Supporters:

*"You and your staff are doing such a wonderful thing with this program. It not only impacts the inmates but makes a real difference in the life of the child."*

*"I am pleased to make a contribution to support the vital work you are doing for families in our region."*

*"I can't think of any charity that has more immediate impact on the people than this."*

*"Remain in Touch is a unique and valued program for incarcerated parents and their children."*

### Quote from an Inmate:

*"This doesn't only help me but it helps my family. It is a whole different blessing for each of us. This is like a visit with my daughter."*

### Community Support

In December **Remain in Touch** was awarded grants for both Benzie and Leelanau Counties by the **Youth Advisory Council of the Grand Traverse Regional Community Foundation** to purchase books to help restock the book cart in each jail. These youth applauded the efforts of our program and selected **Remain in Touch** with enthusiasm.



Our supporter, **Bookstock** has graciously continued to support **Remain in Touch** by awarding us another grant this year.



### In the News...

**Remain in Touch** was delighted to be the nonprofit featured in the August/September **Families First** publication. This is a free publication serving the Grand Traverse area available at many newsstands. Additionally, we were on the front page of the **Record Eagle** in September. Bringing awareness to our program is one way we are able to connect with the community. Lastly, **Remain in Touch** was the program presenter for the September **Michigan Association of Retired School Personnel** meeting and the November **Lunch and Learn** at Suttons Bay Congregational Church.

Remember: Our booklist is always available online at the Brilliant Books website: <http://www.brilliant-books.net/RemainInTouch>. Brilliant Books offers a 20% discount on books purchased for the **Remain in Touch** program.

*"Once you learn to read, you will be forever free."*  
—Frederick Douglass

Visit our [website](#) for:

- a complete list of our partners & supporters
- the latest news about Remain in Touch
- a description of our program
- numerous ways that you can help
- Secure online donation via PayPal
- a link to our booklist at Brilliant Books

### Donate

Your generous support provides hope for incarcerated parents and their children! Please invest in a better future by donating online at [www.remainintouch.org](http://www.remainintouch.org) or make your check payable to **Remain in Touch** and mail it to the address below.

Remain in Touch  
P.O. Box 553  
Suttons Bay, Michigan 49682  
231-499-0606

Email:  
[contactus@remainintouch.org](mailto:contactus@remainintouch.org)

*Thank You!*