



A literacy program helping incarcerated parents stay connected with their children

IN THE NEWS

Summer 2019

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

Greetings from **Remain in Touch**! If you reside in Northern Michigan, we hope you are getting out to enjoy the summer weather that finally has arrived. While the beckoning sunshine and warmer temperatures rejuvenate our own spirits, we are reminded that there are those whose circumstances are far less fortunate. Thanks to your support, we can provide hope for families of the incarcerated by staying connected through literacy.

Remain in Touch invites the children who receive books and CDs from our program to write a few words or draw a picture about what the program means to them. What a delight to know that the books and recordings are making this child's life brighter!



Adult family members also are encouraged to offer feedback about the program. Here's what two individuals shared:

The following quotes are taken directly from their sources as written.

“

"This is the best. Stay in tuch with my grand kids. The feed back from my 5 year old grand daughter brang tears to my eyes. My grand daughter and I just love Remain in Touch. Keep this going."

"Our family genuinely appreciates this service. My kids love to read and enjoy getting something special in the mail from their [incarcerated] grandma. Reading stories together is a bond they can now continue to share."

”

Pour For More—All Year Long!

As noted in our last newsletter, **Remain in Touch** is among 12 Northern Michigan nonprofits chosen to participate this year in Pour for More, a crowd funded donation effort sponsored by locally crafted breweries, taprooms, wineries, and coffee shops. Even though we were the featured nonprofit for March, **the giving keeps going year-round!** Your purchases continue to benefit all 12 nonprofits throughout the year. Please look for and order the designated Pour for More drink at any of these participating venues to continue to support **Remain in Touch** through Pour for More.



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|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| -Rare Bird BrewPub | -Chateau Chantal |
| -Blk Mkt Coffee | -Tandem Ciders |
| -The Filling Station Microbrewery | -Red Spire Brunch House |
| -The Little Fleet | -Oryana |
| -Short's Brewing Company | -Blue Tractor Barbecue |
| -Eathens Ales | -Mama Lu's Taco Shop |
| -Harvest | -Planetary Coffee |
| -Terra Firma Brewery | -UBrew |
| -Taproot Cider House | -Monkey Fist Brewing Company |
| -The Workshop Brewing Company | -Poppycocks |
| -Cultured Kombucha Co. | -Mammoth Distilling |

A good time was had by all who attended our Pour for More Event at Workshop Brewery in Traverse City in March. We received



numerous donations, enjoyed great music and beer; and most importantly, we were able to share information and spread the word of **Remain in Touch** to the 100+ in attendance. Thank you to all who came out to join us!

- 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.

In Appreciation...

Remain in Touch is grateful for you - our many private contributors - who keep our book carts stocked and families connected during incarceration. We also would like to thank several **community retailers** for their generous support. **Meijer** and **Walmart** have awarded us grants each year since we launched our program, and **Target** and **Costco** have provided gift cards for the purchase of books and CDs.

In addition, several **churches** in our region have come forth to provide funding for our program:

- * **St. Andrews Presbyterian Church in Beulah**
- * **Presbyterian Church of Traverse City**
- * **Suttons Bay Congregational Church**
- * **Keswick United Methodist Church**
- * **Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Grand Traverse**

(and most recently)

- * **St. Christopher's Episcopal Church of Northport**

Thank you for your partnership!

Suttons Bay Art Fair

August 3rd & 4th
Suttons Bay Marina Park

Visit our booth! We will have free books for children, delicious cookies, and lots of information to share.

Since our program was launched in May 2016 to July 15, 2019:



incarcerated parents selected and recorded books for their children



children received new books and recordings from their incarcerated parents



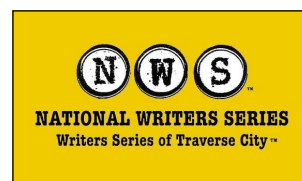
brand new books, along with recordings, were delivered to children of incarcerated parents

Remember that Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the charitable organization of your choice. You can support **Remain in Touch** by starting your shopping at smile.amazon.com. Thank you!

amazonsmile
You shop. Amazon gives.

Thank you, National Writers Series!

Remain in Touch was once again chosen to be the featured nonprofit at the National Writers Series event on June 27th at the City Opera House in Traverse City. This was a great opportunity to interface with people who love to read and promote literacy!



Connect with us on social media! Give us a "like" and a "follow" to keep up-to-date on all things **Remain in Touch**.



facebook.com/remainintouch

Give us a like!



instagram.com/remainintouch

Give us a follow!

If you receive this newsletter via snail mail, and would prefer to receive it electronically, please send your email address to contactus@remainintouch.org and we'll be happy to add it to our distribution list.

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

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 or make your check payable to **Remain in Touch** and mail it to the address below.

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231-499-0606

Email:
contactus@remainintouch.org

Visit our [website](http://www.remainintouch.org) 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

Thank You!