



A literacy program helping incarcerated parents stay connected with their children

IN THE NEWS

Winter 2020

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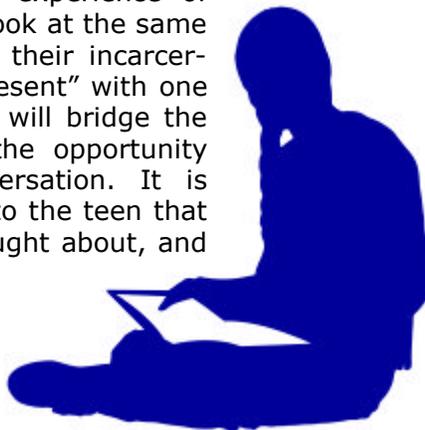
"Literacy is a bridge from misery to hope." —Kofi Annan

Greetings in 2020!

At the start of this new decade, **Remain in Touch** is excited to be piloting an *expansion* of its literacy program. In addition to providing books and recordings for children ages 0 to 12, we now are providing books for teens, ages 13 to 18! Read more below, and learn how the delivery of this new program differs a bit — both for our facilitators and for the inmates we serve.



- Children 13 to 18 years of age can now share a book experience with their incarcerated parent.
- The parent chooses an age-appropriate book from the collection of new books we have available for teens.
- The inmate will be able to introduce the book to their teen child with a recorded message.
- The book and recording will be sent to the child.
- The inmate may borrow a copy of the same book to read if they choose to do so.
- As they share the experience of reading the same book at the same time, the teen and their incarcerated parent are "present" with one another. Perhaps it will bridge the gap, and provide the opportunity for a future conversation. It is always a reminder to the teen that they are loved, thought about, and not forgotten.



Note:

The program for children ages 0-12 will continue unchanged. These children will receive a brand new book, along with a recording of their incarcerated parent reading the book aloud just for them.

RECEIVED



Thanks for your good work. It is so important to families and our society.

— a recent donor

... and thank you for all Remain in Touch does to help kids feel connected, loved and cared for while their parents are incarcerated.

— a supporter of our program

Comments from incarcerated parents:

“ ... This is an awesome program. I told my cell mates about it and talked them into it.

... This is the only way I can communicate with my kids right now. My daughter is not verbal, so it is very meaningful to her. My son is missing the summer reading program so he loves getting the books.

... [My children] love it and play [the recordings] all the time just to hear my voice. ”

Our Facilitators

Remain in Touch is delighted to welcome a new volunteer facilitator for delivery of our program in the Leelanau County Jail. That increases the number of facilitators in Leelanau County from three to four. In Benzie, we have three active facilitators delivering our program in the Benzie County Jail.

Without these valuably skilled volunteers who possess a passion for literacy, our program would not be possible. They deserve our heartiest appreciation!

P.S. It is our practice to protect our facilitators' identities. Only their first names are used in the jail setting, and we do not publicize their names in our literature.

- 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.

Quick Facts:

Since our program began in 2016, **YOU** have helped **Remain in Touch** achieve the following:



189

incarcerated parents have selected and recorded books for their children.



320

children have received new books and recordings from their incarcerated parents.



997

brand new books, along with recordings, have been delivered to children of incarcerated parents. We are so close to 1000! Watch for our "shout out" when we reach that milestone!

Thank you, Northern Latitudes Distillery!

Oh, what a fun time we had! On November 8th, Northern Latitudes Distillery in Lake Leelanau hosted a special *Cocktails for a Cause* event to help support **Remain in Touch**. We were invited to share information about our program, and we received a number of books and donations from the friendly folks who stopped by that day. On top of that, Northern Latitudes Distillery graciously gave us a portion of the day's cocktail profits! What a wonderful opportunity to spread the word and introduce our program to some new acquaintances!



You are amazing!

The response to our year-end fund drive was simply phenomenal! Thank you to all the individual donors who contributed generously to **Remain in Touch**.



You are helping incarcerated parents share the gift of literacy with their children.

In addition to monetary contributions, **95** books were donated in 2019, including **27** books, mostly hardcover, generously donated by **Bay Books** in Suttons Bay. Thank you Bay Books!



Grant from the Literacy Legacy Fund of Michigan

Remain in Touch is in grateful receipt of a \$500 JumpStart Financial Incentive Grant from the Literacy Legacy Fund of Michigan. The Literacy Legacy Fund of Michigan supports the improvement of a literate Michigan citizenry of all ages, and finds our program to have merit. The grant funds are designated specifically for books, which we will use to keep our book carts stocked at both of our program sites.

Grant from Benzie County Community Chest



Remain in Touch is the recipient of a \$1,000 grant from Benzie County Community Chest in recognition of our "outstanding work" at the Benzie County Jail. These funds will be dedicated to the implementation of our Benzie County program, giving "hope to those in need." Thank you Benzie County Community Chest!

IN OTHER NEWS:

Throughout 2019, **Remain in Touch** was one of 12 nonprofit organizations chosen to participate in *Pour for More*, sponsored by local beverage establishments. Thank you again to all who joined in this crowd-funding effort. Each of the twelve organizations received a share of the funds raised over the course of the year. What a fantastic way to promote good works in our community!

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.

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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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

