



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



From its start in the Leelanau County Jail in 2016 to today, **Remain in Touch** has grown steadily, expanding its services to children and their incarcerated parents beyond expectations. We have established programs in Benzie, Antrim, and Grand Traverse County Jails, and recently launched in the Manistee County Jail in April. We could not have accomplished this success without the support of numerous community foundations, bookstores, service clubs, charitable organizations, churches and individual donors - that's YOU! You have contributed to our long-standing success, credibility, and sustainability and we are truly grateful and humbled by your confidence in **Remain in Touch**.

We are ready to **CELEBRATE!** and we invite you to join us!



Save the Date!

Sunday, September 13
5:30 - 7:30PM
Northern Latitudes Distillery

Music • Food • Friendship

We look forward to celebrating with you!

Special Outreach Project



For our 10th anniversary this year, and to thank the communities that have supported us so well, we held a special outreach project in each of our counties. Interested seniors in each county were given the opportunity to record a free Valentine's book to send to their great grandchildren in the same way that we work with the county inmates. There was no cost to the seniors or their residential facilities. Our wonderful facilitators volunteered their services, and **Remain in Touch** provided the books, CDs, and mailing.

Special thanks to the following senior facilities and their activities directors for making this project possible: Meadowbrook Manor (Antrim Co.), Frankfort Pines (Benzie Co.), Traverse Manor (Grand Traverse Co.), and The Highlands (Leelanau Co.).



Dear Remain in Touch,

Our family was very excited to receive such a wonderful surprise. A recording of a sweet book by Grandma is something we will cherish for years to come. Thank you for expanding out of your typical ministry to offer such a delight to us. We are filled with more gratitude than words can express.

Thank you for going out of your way to put a huge smile on our faces. Thank you for a truly priceless gift – one we hold close to our hearts.

Have a wonderful day and may you be blessed.

Sincerely, Grateful Hearts

"Research shows that reading aloud to a child every day, starting at birth, is the single most important thing we can do to ensure school success."

According to a recent Forum in the *Traverse City Record Eagle* entitled "Embracing the Science of Reading," the USA has an urgent literacy problem. Fewer than 40% of third graders are proficient readers and only half of our children are entering kindergarten with the skills they need to succeed.

The foundation for literacy is built before children enter kindergarten. Ninety percent of brain development occurs before age 5. The first five years are a critical window for language learning. The American Academy of Pediatrics encourages new parents to begin reading at birth to create a language-rich environment that makes reading and learning a joy. When young children are read to, their vocabulary grows exponentially. Yet, many parents do not know how essential this simple practice is to their child's development.

Through our work at **Remain in Touch**, we send information and encourage parents of children ages birth to 5 to sign up for *Dolly Parton's Imagination Library*. Once enrolled, the child receives an age-appropriate book from the Imagination Library every month until their 5th birthday. This along with the **Remain in Touch** books create a rich library for the enrolled child. Studies report that participating children are read to more often and gain kindergarten readiness skills. The longer the child is enrolled, the stronger the impact.

Reference: Moore and Workman, Traverse City Record Eagle Forum, February 14, 2026

Hello,

I am caring for both of my grandchildren. Their parents have both been able to send books to them through your program. Yesterday, their father passed away. I am so very grateful to have the voice recordings that we have to save for them.

Bless each of you for the time you have put into this.

—A grateful grandma

RECENT CARING CONTRIBUTORS

- Benzie County Community Chest
- Bookstock
- Pro Tech Computers
- Bay Books of Suttons Bay
- Horizon Books of Traverse City
- Grand Traverse Regional Community Foundation - DEI
- All the individual donors who generously contribute to the **Remain in Touch** literacy program.



THANK YOU!

As of April 30, 2026



478 incarcerated parents have selected and recorded books for their children.



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



2058 brand new books, along with recordings, have been delivered to children of incarcerated parents.

MILESTONE

We are excited to announce that we have delivered over 2,000 books and CDs into the hands and hearts of children of incarcerated parents!

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:

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

Email:
contactus@remainintouch.org

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

