



A literacy program helping incarcerated parents stay connected with their children

IN THE NEWS

Summer 2021

Vol. 5, No. 2

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



Oh ~~my~~ goodness!
your

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your

Remain in Touch is awestruck by the outpouring of financial support generated for four area nonprofit organizations during this summer's music series *Jazz, Jokes & Jesus* sponsored by Presbyterian Church of Traverse City. The series spanned five Wednesday evenings and featured the spirited, foot-tapping music of *The Back Room Gang*. Each of the five evenings, the free-will offering was matched by an anonymous donor, raising \$50,000 for the recipient organizations. That means that each of the four charities—including **Remain in Touch**—received **\$12,500** in support! Wow! Such generous giving enables us to expand our programs to additional jails and help an even greater number of incarcerated parents stay connected with their children.

The three other select charities that benefited from the series are Food Rescue, Justice for Our Neighbors, and Love Thy Neighbor. We are privileged to be among these outstanding service organizations chosen to be this year's recipients.

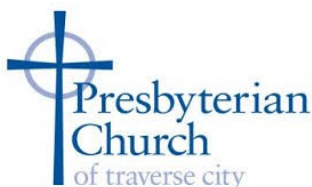
Our gratitude overflows—of course to the Mission Committee of Presbyterian Church of Traverse City—but also to the friends and supporters of **Remain in Touch** and all who attended the series events and gave generously toward these charitable causes.

Thanks to COVID-19 vaccinations and the implementation of safety protocols, **Remain in Touch** resumed its programming in the Benzie County Jail on July 6th. Yay! Our trained facilitators are excited to be back on site, rolling in the book carts to help inmates select titles and record readings for their children ages 0-12 ... and now, to select and share books with their teen children ages 13-18 too. This is such encouraging news. Programming in the Leelanau County Jail is tentatively planned to resume in October. We'll keep you posted!

WE'RE BACK!



We extend a huge thank you to Bookstock for its generous grant of \$1,000 in February 2021 to help fund our return to the jails following the COVID-19 pandemic. One of our consistently larger expenses is postage to mail new books and recorded CDs to the children of incarcerated parents. Bookstock responded positively to this need, expressing confidence and support for our programming. Thanks Bookstock!



Thank you!



- 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.

Top 35 ...

Have you ever wondered which books are most chosen by incarcerated parents to send to their children? Click [here](#) for a list of the top 35 titles chosen in our age 0-12 program. (This list also is available on the home page of our [website](#).)

Complete age-appropriate booklists for the **0-12** and **13-18** programs are always available in-store at Brilliant Books in Traverse City and Bay Books in Suttons Bay.



Speaking of Bay Books, **Remain in Touch** was delighted to benefit from their *Have a Heart* Valentine promotion earlier this year. Some patrons have arranged to donate one book per month to our programs as a result of this event. Twenty-six books have been donated so far. Thank you Bay Books!



197

incarcerated parents have selected and recorded books for their children.



334

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



1023

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



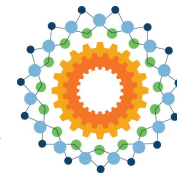
Follow us on facebook

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Individual donors play an important role in our ability to stock our book carts, purchase packaging, and mail new books and recorded CDs to children of incarcerated parents. Thank you to all who have supported our efforts!



ROTARY CHARITIES
Resources for change.

The Grand Traverse Regional Community Foundation awarded **Remain in Touch** a grant of \$300 in Rotary matching funds in June 2021. We are most grateful to members of the Suttons Bay-Leelanau Rotary Club who contribute to our program through this matching gift opportunity.

Remember, if you are shopping online, you can continue your support of **Remain in Touch** by designating us as your nonprofit recipient through [smile.amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com). Thank you so much!



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 complete booklists for ages 0-12 and 13-18 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 or make your check payable to *Remain in Touch* and mail it to the address below.

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