

2014 Final Report to Island Savings

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Name of project: **1000 X5 Victoria Children’s Book Recycling Project**
Amount \$ received \$1,000
Charitable registration # BN886149236RR0001 Saanich Neighbourhood Place
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1000X5 Victoria Children’s Book Recycling Project Victoria

What is 1000X5? A Success by 6 Project with Saanich Neighbourhood Place

- The project is based upon the belief that if a child hears 1000 stories by age 5, he or she is much better prepared to enjoy and succeed in reading and indeed all learning.
- The project supports the research that documents home libraries as the most significant single variable in creating and sustaining literacy.
- Families at 30 Victoria School District 61 elementary schools donate gently used picture books for children birth to age 5.
- Retired teachers and administrators skillfully sort, clean, label and package quality books for the different age groups, birth to five.
- Beautifully labeled gift bags are then distributed through 24 different community agencies that have regular contact with “in need” families for their early home libraries.
- The Victoria component of the three 10005 project is the largest by a factor of three (Each project operates within one of the School District boundaries of Victoria, Saanich, Sooke)



Bulletin Board at Strawberry Vale inviting families to donate books
Giving the gift of literacy to babies and preschoolers

Thank you for the 2014 \$1000 Island Savings grant

So much progress has been made in the four years since Victoria 1000X5 began. The number of schools with families donating books has expanded from 12 to 30; the number of agencies distributing from 7 to 24; the number of children who may receive books monthly from 750 to 1200. In the last year, the Victoria 1000X5 project has distributed over 22,000 books to homes in need of books for babies and preschoolers, bringing our total to 78,000!

The money that you granted was used to buy much-needed books for babies – these are always in short supply amongst our donations, but in great demand from the families. Literacy growth that begins at birth creates a greater number of interested and successful readers and learners in later years. Your donation has filled a very significant gap. We hear stories weekly from the agencies that distribute the books. I would like to share one from a Strong Start Early Childhood Educator.

A Story from Craigflower Early Childhood Educator, Renee Klassen

Dear Eileen and Volunteers

I wanted to tell you about how grateful the parents and children are when they receive books from 1000 X 5. The children's faces light up and they smile instantly at the sight of the gold, blue and green cellophane bags. The children cannot wait to open the packages and have the books read to them. One mom said her daughter had her read the books first thing when she got home, then when her 7year old brother came home, she got her brother to read her the books again. What you have also impacted at Craigflower School is the older siblings are now reading with their younger brothers and sisters and parents who are reading even more to their children.

At times I have books left over so I go out after school and find families who have young children; some are registered with Strong Start, some are not. The books allow me to make a

connection with the young children and by giving them books it has brought in more families to Strong Start.

Today I gave a Craigflower dad some books for his 2 and 4year old boys and the dad said, "Oh the boys love these books. Thank you." I left a bag with a kindergarten boy for his 3year old sister and as I was walking by the father, he took the books and motioned towards his heart, tapping his heart and said thank-you. You and your volunteers fill the hearts and minds of the children. The children love your gifts and you are all making a difference.

Thank You on behalf of the children and parents of Craigflower School and StrongStart



Happy George Jay Strong Start toddlers enjoy 1000X5 gift bags of books



Volunteers meet weekly to sort and bag donations of books

You have made a huge difference to the lives of many local children and families.