



MINNESOTA

Update on our Breakfast, COVID-19, and the Importance of Sharing Books in Difficult Times



Wishing you well

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Dear friend,

Before anything else, we want to extend our well-wishes to you and your family in these unprecedented and challenging times. **To our many friends and partners in the medical field and other essential workers, we want to give our sincerest thanks for your hard work.** Your dedication to the well-being of our families amazes us today and every day. To those of you who are able to stay home, we hope you are surrounded by loved ones (whether in person or virtual) and supplied with enough good books to get you through the coming weeks!

Breakfast Going Virtual

Due to the spread of COVID-19, we've decided to suspend our annual Spring Breakfast Fundraiser scheduled for May 12th. Instead, we will be hosting a virtual event, where we plan to introduce our new Medical Director (look out for this news coming your way soon!), share the amazing leaps and bounds our program has made in the past year, and give a preview of our exciting plans for the future. Expect to see more details and a new date and time shortly. While we are saddened by the fact that we won't be able to see you all in person, we're also excited by the new possibilities a virtual format brings. Our virtual event will be more accessible to supporters both near and far and will give us a few new tools to keep you informed about the impact our growing program is having across the state.

The Power of Books in Challenging Moments

In these uncertain times, we believe that sharing a book now is more important than ever. As school and other children's programs are canceled, children crave and need the mental stimulation and emotional support that books bring even more! An abundance of studies show that sharing a book with a loved one mitigates stress children may experience during difficult times and helps develop resilience. **Remember: reading is a powerful way that children learn that they are safe, cared for, and loved.**

In moments like this, we are so grateful to partner with Minnesota's amazing medical community. We are especially proud that our program has been proven to build trust between families and their medical care providers. Nurses, doctors, and clinic staff are bravely leading us through these challenging times and we need to trust their guidance to keep ourselves and others safe.

It brings us great hope to think of the more than 180,000 young children and their families that we serve at home sharing a book that our program provided! We remain determined to provide this essential resource to these families and to new families in need across the state

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Resources for Families and Caretakers

Our partners at Reach Out and Read of Greater New York and the Reach Out and Read national office have compiled some fabulous resources to help families make the most out of their time at home. We encourage you to check out both lists and to share with others who have little ones at home.

[Reach Out and Read NY virtual learning resource list](#)

[Reach Out and Read national guide](#)

We're deeply proud of and deeply care for the community we have cultivated here at Reach Out and Read Minnesota. Thanks for being a part of it. With trust, patience, and resilience we'll get through this challenge together!

Please do what you can to keep yourself and those around you safe!

Wishing you well,

The Reach Out and Read MN team

Support our vital program today

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701 Washington Avenue North Suite 111-112 | Minneapolis, MN | 55401 United States

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