

# Raising Readers

Promoting Early Childhood Literacy for All Maine Children

# 2017 ANNUAL REPORT

[www.raisingreaders.org](http://www.raisingreaders.org)



## Message From the Director

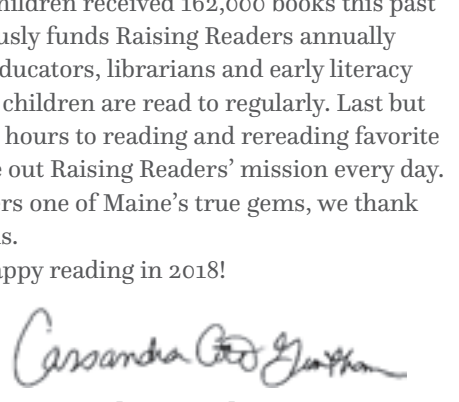
**A**s a native Mainer, I am proud of our state's natural beauty: the rocky coastline, sandy beaches, majestic mountains, vast forests, and amazing wildlife. But I am most proud of our people — those who make Maine's communities amazing places to live, work, play and raise a family. Many of these incredible Mainers made the accomplishments showcased in Raising Readers' 2017 Annual Report possible.

Like our natural beauty, Maine children's authors and illustrators are some of our state's most valuable treasures. On innumerable occasions, they have donated their talents and time to championing Raising Readers' success. Whether attending ceremonies and events or participating in [read alouds] all over the state, these artists have inspired Maine children's imagination, creativity, and literacy development. Since 2005, every 5-year old in the state has received a storybook created by members of Maine's literary community, with a special message about graduating from Raising Readers, taking time to explore public libraries and the joys of reading throughout life. This tradition is part of what makes Raising Readers unique and cherished by so many families.

Year after year, Raising Readers fulfills its mission of inspiring a love of books and reading with the support of many other dedicated Mainers. There are the healthcare teams and hospital staff who ensured that 68,000 children received 162,000 books this past year; the Libra Foundation, which so generously funds Raising Readers annually (17 years and counting!); and the childhood educators, librarians and early literacy organizations that partner with us to ensure children are read to regularly. Last but not least are the families who devote endless hours to reading and rereading favorite books so that they and their children can live out Raising Readers' mission every day.

To all those who help make Raising Readers one of Maine's true gems, we thank you and are so grateful for your contributions.

On behalf of the Raising Readers team, happy reading in 2018!



Raising Readers Director Cassandra Grantham pictured with her daughter Charlotte (6 years) and Maine author/illustrator Chris Van Dusen.

*Cassandra Grantham*  
Cassandra Grantham, MA  
Director, Raising Readers

### PROGRAM STAFF

**Cassandra Cote Grantham, MA**  
Program Director, MaineHealth

**Kate Bartley, MPA**  
Program Manager, EMHS

**Anne Quirion**  
Program Manager, MaineHealth

**Kara Norton**  
Program Coordinator, MaineHealth

**Kellie Stanhope**  
Program Coordinator, EMHS

**Mary Magraine Tee**  
Program Coordinator, MaineHealth

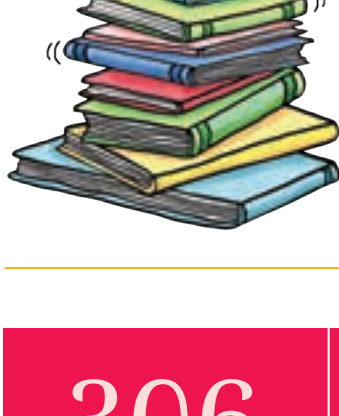
### ADVISORS

**Susan Bennett-Armistead, PhD**  
Early Literacy Advisor  
University of Maine, Orono

**Gabe Civiello, MD, FAAP**  
Clinical Advisor  
Franklin Health Pediatrics, FCHN

**Colette Sabbagh, MD, FAAP**  
Clinical Advisor  
EMMC Pediatric Medicine, EMHS

## STACK THEM UP Celebrating 17 Years of Raising Readers



Over **2.6 million** books given to over **260,000** Maine children since 2000

**68,000** Maine children served by Raising Readers in 2017

**162,000** Books distributed to Maine children in 2017



### Parent's Perspective

"The first book I ever read to my daughter was from Raising Readers. It was called *Time for Bed*. I remember reading it to her that first week in the middle of the night when we were up. I plan to keep it forever."

- Laura, Presque Isle, Maine

### Provider's Perspective

"The reach of this program goes beyond the immediate impact to these children. In a recent interview with a candidate for our residency program, we discussed Raising Readers as an example of what we in Maine do to promote [the success of our kids]. They were very impressed."

- Dr. James Jarvis, Director, Family Medicine Residency at EMMC Family Medicine Center



**11,900** Totes distributed in 2017

Privately funded by the Libra Foundation since 2000.

Data are gross estimates.

## ONLINE COMMUNITY

Raising Readers is building an early literacy community, one follower at a time. Our social media presence on platforms like Facebook and Instagram has blossomed into popular online spots for parents, caregivers, and other stakeholders to engage with each other and share early literacy messages and tips. Even better, our community keeps growing!



**FACEBOOK**  
75,000 followers



**INSTAGRAM**  
2,200 followers



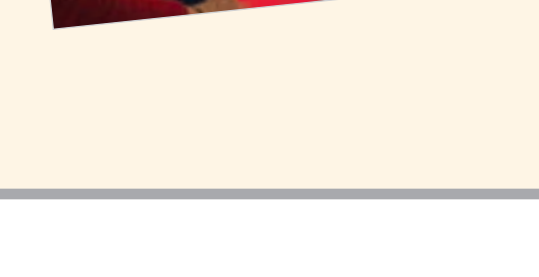
**PINTEREST**  
1,500 followers



**TWITTER**  
900 followers

## HIGHLIGHTS

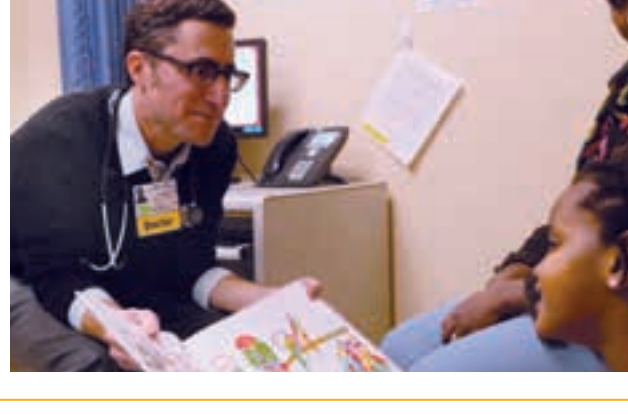
Donated the complete 2000-2017 Raising Readers book collection to the Fogler Library at the University of Maine (Orono), which Maine teachers, teachers-in-training, and faculty use in their early literacy studies and research.



Celebrated the 5-year-old book selections by Maine illustrator Kevin Hawkes and Maine author/illustrator Chris Van Dusen. Both events were done in collaboration with the Children's Museum and Theater of Maine.

## IT'S ALL ABOUT BOOKS!

Raising Readers' mission is to share the love of books and reading with Maine families. One of the most important ways we do that is by providing high-quality, developmentally appropriate books at birth and at well-child visits to help parents build their home libraries and share read-aloud experiences with their children. Included in this year's collection is the book for 5-year olds, *Circus Ship*, written and illustrated by Raising's own Chris Van Dusen.



## 2017 BOOK COLLECTION: Which book is your family's favorite?

<b>Newborn</b> <i>Who's My Mommy?</i> <i>Who's My Daddy?</i>	<b>2 Months</b> <i>Who's My Mommy?</i> <i>Who's My Daddy?</i>	<b>4 Months</b> <i>Kissed the Baby!</i>	<b>6 Months</b> <i>Baby's First Words</i>	<b>9 Months</b> <i>Who's Hiding?</i>	<b>12 Months</b> <i>My Big Word Book</i>
<b>15 Months</b> <i>Who's My Mommy?</i>	<b>18 Months</b> <i>Time for a Bath</i>	<b>2 Years</b> <i>Bear Sees Colors</i>	<b>3 Years</b> <i>Those Pesky Rabbits</i>	<b>4 Years</b> <i>Rufus Goes to School</i>	<b>5 Years</b> <i>Circus Ship</i>

Visit [raisingreaders.org](http://raisingreaders.org) to explore more Raising Readers books and resources.

## A Statewide Network: Raising Readers Partners With 358 Healthcare Sites and 1,200 Healthcare Providers Across Maine

<b>ANDROSCOGGIN</b> - Auburn Medical Associates - B Street Family Health Center - CCS Family Health Care - Central Maine Family Medicine Residency - Central Maine Family Practice - <b>Central Maine Medical Center</b> - Central Maine Pediatrics - Central Maine Sports Medicine - DFD Russell Medical Center - DFD Russell Medical Center - Turner - Family Health Care Associates - Franklin Health Livemore Falls Family Practice - Krapp Family Practice - Kurt Oswald, MD - Lisbon Family Practice - Margaret E. Matthews, MD - Mechanic Falls Family Practice - Minot Avenue Family Medicine - Pediatric Associates of Lewiston - Poland Community Health Center - Poland Family Practice - Spruce Mountain Medical Associates - St. Mary's Center for Family Medicine at Madison Way - St. Mary's Regional Medical Center - Western Maine Family Health Center	<b>AROOSTOOK</b> - Acadia Family Health Center - Aroostook Pediatrics - Aroostook Pediatrics-Caribou - <b>Cary Medical Center</b> - Fish River Rural Health-Fort Kent - Full Circle Health Care - Horizons Health Center-Doi Fairfield - Houlton Family Practice - Houlton Pediatrics - Houlton Regional Hospital - Katahdin Valley Health Center-Ashland - Katahdin Valley Health Center-Houlton - Maliseet Health & Wellness Center - Mars Hill Health Center - Micmac Services Unit - NIMCO Medical Practices-Family Practices - <b>Northern Maine Medical Center</b> - Fish River Rural Health-Fort Kent - Pines Health Services-Washburn - Pines Kimball Community Health Center - Pines Pediatric Care - Pines St. John Valley Health Center - <b>The Aroostook Medical Center</b>	<b>CUMBERLAND</b> - Bayville Midway - Be Well My Friend-Freaport - Bridgton Family Practice - <b>Bridgton Hospital</b> - Brunswick Family Medicine - Carl Schuler, DO - Camp Family Practice - Dr. Harry E. Davis Pediatric Center - Encompass Health - Fireport Medical Center - George Gardner Jr., DO - Greater Portland Health-South Portland - Greater Portland Health-Riverton Park - Greater Portland Health-Harborville Family Practice - Honey Bee Home Health - InterMed Family Practice at Foden Road - InterMed Family Practice in Yarmouth - InterMed Pediatrics at Foden Road - InterMed Pediatrics at Marginal Way - InterMed Pediatrics in Yarmouth - James Krish, DO - Lotus Family Practice - Maine Centers for Health Care-Westbrook - <b>Maine Medical Center</b> - Mercy Gosham Crossing Primary Care - <b>Mercy Hospital</b> - Mercy Primary Care South Portland - Mercy West Falmouth Primary Care - Mercy Windham Family Practice - Mercy Yarmouth Primary Care - <b>Mid Coast Hospital</b>	<b>HANCOCK</b> - Acadia Integree Medicine - Birch Moon Midwifery, LLC - Blue Hill Family Practice - Copper Regional Health Center - Cadillac Family Practice - Faith Family Health Center - Coastal Health Center - Community Health Center - Copper-Glimore Health Center - Eleanor Widener Dixon Memorial Clinic - Ellsworth Family Planning & Primary Care - Ellsworth Family Practice - Island Family Medicine - <b>Maine Coast Memorial Hospital</b> - Mt. Desert Island Hospital - Pam Dyer Stewart, CPM - Primary Health, LLC - Southwest Harbor Medical Center - St. Joseph Family Medicine at the Jackson Lab - The Family Health Center - Trenton Health Center	<b>FRANKLIN</b> - Franklin Health Farmington Family Practice - Franklin Health Pediatrics - <b>Franklin Memorial Hospital</b> - Josiah Antonucci, MD - Mt. Abram Regional Health Center - Paul Wooden, MD - Rangleys Family Medicine - Strong Area Health Center - Wilson Stream Family Practice - <b>HANCOCK</b> - Acadia Integree Medicine - Eastport Health Care - Eastport Health Care-Mechias Family Practice - Faith Family Health Center - Harrington Family Health Center - John Gaddis, DO - Milbridge Medical Center - Passamaquoddy Health Center - Pleasant Point Health Center - Regional Medical Center at Lubec - St. Croix Regional Family Health Center - Whiting Bay Family Medicine	<b>KENNEBEC</b> - Augusta Family Medicine - Be Well My Friend-Augusta - Belgrade Family Medicine - DFD Russell Medical Center-Monmouth - Elmwood Primary Care - Family Medicine Institute - Gardner Family Medicine - Halfwell Family Practice - Inland Family Care-Downtown Waterville - Inland Family Care-Three Rivers Family Practice-Waterville - Inland Family Care-Washington Street - Inland Family Care-Oakland - Integri-By Health-Manchester - Kennebec Midwifery - Kennebec Pediatrics - Lovejoy Pediatrics - Maine Family Natural Health and Birth Site - <b>Maine-Central Medical Center</b> - Oakland Family Medicine - IMP Sacca Pediatrics - IMPH-Biddeford - Pen Bay Family Practice - <b>The Birthing Center at Inland Hospital</b> - Inland Family Medicine - Waterville Family Practice - Waterville Pediatrics-Waterville - Winthrop Family Medicine - <b>Pen Bay Medical Center</b> - Pen Bay Pediatrics
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Bold text indicates hospitals

<b>LINCOLN</b> - Full Circle Direct Primary Care - Lifespan Family Health Care - LMP Family Care Center-Boothbay Harbor - LMP Family Medicine-Damariscotta - LMP Family Medicine-Waldoboro - LMP Family Medicine-Wiscasset - LMP Pediatrics-Boothbay Harbor - LMP Pediatrics-Damariscotta - Medomak Family Medicine - Midcoast Midwifery - Shapsgoo Valley Health Center - Waldoboro Family Medicine - Wiscasset Family Medicine	<b>PENOBSCOT</b> - Brewer Health Center - Capehart Community Health Center - Corinth Medical Associates-Dexter Family Practice - <b>Eastern Maine Medical Center</b> - EMMC Family Medicine-Brewer - EMMC Family Medicine-Hampden - EMMC Family Medicine-Husson Avenue - EMMC Family Medicine-Orono - EMMC Family Medicine Center & Residency - EMMC Pediatric Primary Care - EMMC University Medicine-Cutler Health Center - Evergreen Healing Center - Health Access Network-Hamlin Primary Care - Health Access Network-Lee Primary Care - Health Access Network-Lincoln Primary Care - Health Access Network-West Enfield Primary Care - Homestead Health Center-Dexter - Homestead Health Center-Newport - Katahdin Valley Health Center-Milford - Katahdin Valley Health Center-Patten - Millocket Regional Hospital-Family Practice - Newport Family Practice - Oostego Center for Family Medicine - PCHC Brewer Medical Center - PCHC Family Medicine - PCHC Helen Hunt Health Center	<b>PISCATAQUIS</b> - Dover-Foxcroft Family Medicine - Gulfport Medical Associates - Heritage Homebirth - Homestead Health Center-Dover-Foxcroft - Katahdin Valley Health Center-Brewer - <b>Mayo Regional Hospital</b> - Mayo Family Practice - Northwoods Healthcare-Greenville - Northwoods Healthcare-Sangerville	<b>SAGADAHOC</b> - Bath Family Medicine - Mid Coast Medical Group Topsham Family Practice - Northern Sun Family Health Care - Richmond Area Health Center - The Birth Center at Northern Sun - Topsham Family Medicine	<b>SOMERSET</b> - Bingham Area Health Center - Family Circle's Healthcare, LLC - Four Seasons Family Practice - Heritage Homebirth - Homestead Health Center-Canaan - Homestead Health Center-Pittsfield - Midway Family Practice - North Bridgton Family Practice - Patricia Phillips, DO, PA - Red Bank Midwifery - Root Coller Pediatric Clinic - Royal River Family Care - Sacoppee Valley Birthing Services - Scott Chase, DO - Steep Falls Family Practice - Stephen Barber, MD - The Birth House - Topsham Family Medicine - Tri-County Regional Health Center - Tree of Life Naturopathic & Midwifery Care	<b>WASHINGTON</b> - Arnold Memorial Medical Center - <b>Calais Regional Hospital</b> - Calais Regional Medical Services - Down East Community Family Practice - <b>Down East Community Hospital</b> - Down East Community Pediatrics - East Grand Health Center - Eastport Health Care - Eastport Health Care-Mechias Family Practice - Faith Family Health Center - Harrington Family Health Center - John Gaddis, DO - Milbridge Medical Center - Passamaquoddy Health Center - Pleasant Point Health Center - Regional Medical Center at Lubec - St. Croix Regional Family Health Center - Whiting Bay Family Medicine	<b>YORK</b> - Berwick Family Health Center - Family Medicine, Sanford - Galbraith Family Medicine - Great Works Family Practice - Jonathan Skell, MD - Judy Welch, MD, PA - Kittery Family Practice - Leavitt's Mill Free Health Center-Buxton - Malathy Sundaram, MD - Marshwood Family Care - IMSP Sacca Pediatrics - MPH-C-Biddeford - Nason Health Care - Nason Health Care-North Berwick - Naval Branch Health Clinic - North Berwick Family Medicine - Pediatric Associates of York Hospital-Wells Office - Pediatric Associates of York Hospital-Wells Office - Sacoppee Valley Birthing Services - SMHC Family Medicine-Kennebunk - SMHC Family Medicine-Saco - SMHC Family Medicine-Sanford - SMHC Family Medicine-Waterville - <b>Southern Maine Medical Center</b> - The Provider's Care - Waterville Village Pediatrics - Wells Family Practice - York Family Practice - <b>York Hospital</b> - York Hospital Family Medicine-North Berwick - York Hospital Family Medicine-Wells - Yorkids
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FIND US ON

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 800-397-3263

All photos featured in this report are of Maine children from Androscoggin, Aroostook, Cumberland, Hancock, and York counties.

Raising Readers is a statewide program funded by the Libra Foundation, led and administered by **MaineHealth** in collaboration with **EMHS** with support from **The Barbara Bush Children's Hospital**

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