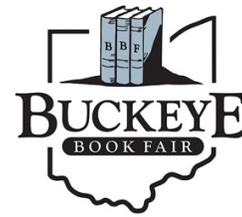


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 25, 2020

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BUCKEYE BOOK FAIR ANNOUNCES 2020 LITERACY GRANT WINNERS

Wooster, Ohio—Buckeye Book Fair has awarded a grand total of \$2,000 in grants to six Ohio schools, libraries, and literacy programs. Each literacy grant winner has a special project that promotes reading using books by and about Ohioans.

Buckeye Book Fair is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that promotes Ohio authors and Ohio literacy projects.

Highland County Library Hillsboro, Highland County

\$350

“Many of our patrons have a deep and sincere interest in their local community and enjoy opportunities to read the works of local authors or share their own writings. It was this interest that, three years, motivated the library to start holding an annual Local Authors Night as a way for area authors to have a platform to share their works and for library patrons to learn about the literary creations of their neighbors.”

For books to highlight the writing of local authors and to promote literacy amongst adults. *This award is presented in partnership with Consumers National Bank.*

Literacy Network of Greater Cincinnati Cincinnati, Hamilton County

\$350

“A recent study shows that students in 3rd to 5th grades lost, on average, about 20% of their school-year gains in reading during summer break. These numbers increase exponentially in economically struggling areas. Now add in what we are calling the “COVID slide” and these numbers, unfortunately, are going to soar even higher.”

To provide all age level reading materials to help stock some of the 80 Little Free Libraries to help students retain the reading skills they learn in the classroom, throughout the neighborhoods of Greater Cincinnati. *This award is presented in partnership with College Hills Honda.*

Mifflin Middle School
Columbus, Franklin County
\$350

“This program is imperative to our school as it promotes children reading WITH their caregivers. In the 3 years we have participated in the One Book, One School program and other similar programs, we are no longer an alternative school!”

For books for the school to participate in a One School, One Book program. One School, One Book is designed to create a shared reading experience across an entire school community. Following a common schedule across the district, every family reads that book together at home. To benefit 433 inner-city middle school students grades 6-8. *This award is presented in partnership with The J.M. Smucker Company.*

Public Library of Mount Vernon and Knox County
Mt. Vernon, Knox County
\$250

“Mr. Cowdrey is a superstar to our young patrons, and will be a great role model to aspiring writers and avid readers.”

For the library to have a virtual illustrator visit with Richard Cowdrey in October 2020. The illustrator visit will be a special event, advertised through a big book display about hippos, animals, and careers in STEM, and supplemented with arts projects. *This award is presented in partnership with D+S Distribution.*

Tutoring Tenacity
Reynoldsburg, Franklin County
\$350

“By reading books, children can come to understand the difference in how others think, differing worldviews, and varying dispositions of talented creators and authors.”

For books to give to the children participating in their tutoring programs to help build basic language and behavior skills, expand their vocabularies, and build an appreciation for Ohio authors and literature. To benefit 100 academically at-risk students grades K-5. *This award is presented in partnership with The Wooster Glass Company.*

Wooster-Orrville NAACP
Wayne County
\$350

“Change cannot happen without education, and the works of these authors provide an excellent foundation in racial understanding that potentially benefits all residents in Wayne County.”

To donate Black-themed children’s books to all seven branches in the Wayne County Public Library system. Books specifically by Ohio authors can help explore various aspects of how racism has played out in our home state. *This award is presented in partnership with the Friends of the Wayne County Public Library.*

Buckeye Book Fair's Literacy Award grants are funded from the proceeds of the organization's annual book fair and from sponsorship partners who make significant contributions to assist with the grants. With this year's awards, more than \$222,468 will have been distributed in proceeds from 33 annual Buckeye Book Fairs, all held in Wooster.

The organization's annual Buckeye Book Fair featuring over 100 Ohio writers, photographers, and illustrators autographing their new books, will be held online this year from Nov. 6-15, 2020. This event is sponsored by the Wayne County Community Foundation, the Ohio Arts Council, and ArtsMidwest.

The 6 winners were chosen from 8 applicants representing libraries and literacy programs throughout Ohio. Grant applications are evaluated upon the following considerations: the impact of the project, the financial need of the applicant, and evidence of careful planning in preparing the grant project.

Further information about the Buckeye Book Fair is available by calling Executive Director Julia Wiesenberg at (330)249-1455, or online at www.BuckeyeBookFair.org.

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