



PoWeR!

BOOK BAGS

Empowering children to
Play, Write & Read!

2024 Impact Report

It's been a fabulous year! Nearly 9 years into our 'little project' with the mission to increase children's experiences with language, literacy, and human interactions ... and we're making a difference in so many lives... one book and one book bag at a time!

Some of the best KNOWN ways to help children to have "better tomorrows" is to:

- increase the number of books in the home (the more the better);
- surround children with and offer them rich language experiences; and
- foster more interactions between children and their parents/caregivers.

With YOUR help, PoWeR! Book Bags DOES this!

You've helped us make a big impact!

In 2024, PoWeR! Book Bags, with help from YOU and other dedicated volunteers, donors, and grantors, delivered:

- +Over 100,000 brand new books &
- +Nearly 16,000 PoWeR! Literacy Bags into the hands of
- +Over 20,000 children
- +Across 27 counties!

In all, since we've begun, you've helped us to deliver over 600,000 books and 100,000 book bags into the hearts, hands, and homes of primarily underserved children throughout Michigan.

For our young friends, ages 0-5, every single book and PoWeR! Literacy Bag that goes into a home provides the families with tools and opportunities for increasing exposure to more language, deepening the early relationships between children and their families AND growing MINDS. This is a busy time when 90% of brain growth occurs, setting the stage for the rest of the child's life. With access to materials and interactions, children can thrive.

For our older friends in elementary schools and above, our materials provide them with opportunities to practice growing skills with written language at home. When children have access to writing materials and books that they've selected, they are much more eager to write and read, developing the VERY necessary skills to be literate while growing a LOVE for literacy that will help them be more successful throughout life.

In the upcoming year, while we continue to work with our community partners to serve children, we have some exciting things happening!

BLOCKS

We are adding blocks into the homes of each of the Maternal Infant Health Program families we serve through the county health departments. Blocks are a basic but powerful tool that invite development mentally, physically, and linguistically.

A New Building

We have just signed a new lease! We are moving into a building on M-22, closer to TC. We will be moving in the Spring.

There is more than double the room to host volunteers. We have BIG plans to invite more groups, organizations, and companies to come work & play in our space. Stay tuned.

A Fall FUNdraising Event

Thanks to you, our first fundraising event in 2024 was an enormous success, raising over \$25,000. We all had so much fun at our first fundraiser that we're hosting another and inviting YOU to join us!

Save the date: October 11 at Shady Lane Cellars, Suttons Bay.

You don't want to miss out on the fun this year.

Our friends little and big have some great things to say:

"We are so appreciative of these wonderful bags and monthly books! They are always of the finest quality. The children who are mobile always come to my bag looking for the next book after I arrive. They always love the new books I bring them each month. The parents are always so appreciative as well. Many of our families have made a little library for their children and are proud to show it off at our visits.

Almost every time that I give the child a book the mom will cuddle up with that child and start to read the book. It always warms my heart. Reading is such a simple act that promotes bonding and attachment. I really am so thankful that you are able to continue providing us with these wonderful books. They are educational and always fill their purpose of bringing families together. "

Lisa Harding, R.N. MIHP, DHD 10

- *"I like the puppets, notebooks, and the little guy on the purple bag."*
- *"I like to draw in the notebook. I like to act with the puppets."*
- *"I love the puppets! I love the books!"*
- *"I feel excited when I get a new bag!"*
- *"Book bags make me happy. I love the puppets!"*
- *"I like notebooks so I can study."*
- *"I always like to read books."*
- *"At home, I'm trying to make a puppet show. I already have two."*
- *"I really like the books. I read them all of the time."*

- From our friends at an elementary school

Margaret Mead may have said it best:

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed it's the only thing that ever has."

Thank YOU for helping to make a sincere difference in the lives of children! Together we can do so much.

We look forward to working more with you in 2025.



Learn more at:
www.powerbookbags.org