



## Leading to Reading Annual Report 2023-2024

### Program Goals

Goals of the community outreach project are to provide books to children from low- and moderate-income families, increase parent involvement in their child's reading, and increase AAUW visibility. Leading to Reading has been an effective community outreach for 20 years! Started in 2004 by a small group, it has evolved as community needs changed. Plans are being developed for a celebration and ways to publicize our accomplishments.

Highlights this year included:

- The project moved to the United Methodist Church of Hyde Park, which provides free work and storage space. Our mission supports their community outreach goals.
- Funding was received from AAUW members, Stewart's Shops Holiday Match, United Way of Dutchess-Orange Region Holiday Helping Hand, IBM Matching Grants, and the Wappingers Retired Teachers Association. Books were received from the Barnes and Noble Holiday book drive and Friends of the Poughkeepsie Public Library District.
- Community readers were able to provide story times and distribute free books in pre-school classrooms.
- Books for Babies kits were supplied to Vassar Brothers Medical Center and Northern Dutchess Hospital.
- Family reading kits were distributed and book giveaways were held at Hudson River Lodging, all Dutchess County Astor Early Education Centers, Day One Early Learning Center, Angels of Light, Dutchess Outreach, Christ Episcopal Church summer camp, Rural and Migrant Ministry, several migrant families, and Harriet Tubman Academic Skills Center.
- Gift wrapping sessions were held at Hudson River Lodging.
- "Tabling" events were held at Dutchess Outreach and others are being planned.
- Laundromat Libraries, Barbershop Libraries, and Little Libraries are distributed throughout the area and maintained by AAUW members with books from the Friends of the Poughkeepsie Public Library District.
- In all, over 53,000 new books and countless used books have been distributed to local children over the course of the project.

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Project Coordinator