

## Highlights & Accomplishments

- Recruited over 150 members in the Birmingham area and 40 in Montgomery.
- Collected over 30,000 books for children in Birmingham and the Black Belt to have in their homes.
- Planned and executed the Governor's Reading Summit in 2004 and 2005.
- Sponsored the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Alabama Book Festival in Montgomery with The Center for the Book. Repeated in 2007 with Patsy Riley as the Honorary Chair.
- Established a book repository in Montgomery for the Black Belt Superintendent's Committee, providing books for libraries in Black Belt schools.
- Successfully piloted "Books-on-Tape" program at Erwin schools putting 50 books on tape for student use in the classroom.
- Provided tutoring, specialized reading instruction, and mentoring by experienced, certified teacher volunteers for girls living at Grace House.
- Partnered 3 schools-in-need with giving schools sharing books, coats and school supplies.
- Conducted numerous book drives in schools, churches, neighborhoods, and businesses resulting in 5000 book donations.
- Initiated collaboration of Hale County and the Dollywood Imagination Library, supporting over 70 children in the program.
- Provided 60+ volunteers providing 3,000+ hours for Better Basics in Birmingham schools.
- Partnered with the Episcopal Diocese of Alabama for the creation and distribution of "Check It Out Bags" for children in Hale County.
- Partnered with UAB for the inaugural "Baskets for Books" campaign where school children compete at college basketball games to win books for their school libraries.
- Provided volunteers for the "United We Read" project sponsored by the Literacy Council of Central Alabama.
- Partnered Oak Mountain High School students with students in Hale County to create a Hale County Book Bus (over 1,000 books collected).
- Helped produce and sell *Precious Cargo: A Celebration of Alabama's Children*, a photography book raising awareness of and funds for the problem of illiteracy in Alabama.
- Pioneered the "Grand Slam Challenge", a high school book drive competition that collected 17,000 books for the Better Basics MORE program.

- Partnered with The University of Alabama on a book drive benefiting Black Belt schools and children.
- Distributed 10,000 books to Black Belt teachers and schools through the book repository at Huntingdon College.
- Co-sponsored Fall Fest, a family day in Montgomery providing educational and literacy programs for inner-city school children.
- Partnered with Auburn University's Center for the Book to present the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Festival for the Book in Montgomery.
- Participated in the inaugural Women's Day Conference at the University of Montevallo.
- Piloted a books-on-tape program for ESL children at Better Basics schools.
- Partnered with UAB students to create bookmarks to raise \$1000 for the Better Basics MORE program.
- Provided hundreds of books to the Downtown YMCA Youth Center library.
- Collected 70 boxes of school supplies from the Vestavia Hills City Schools to donate to Lowndes County Schools.
- Partnered with the Junior League of Birmingham to initiate Birmingham's Biggest Book Drive, which will become an annual event. The drive involves the efforts of 10 area high schools, the University of Alabama at Birmingham, the Birmingham City Council, and countless local businesses. 30,000 books were collected in the inaugural drive. These books were delivered to 15 local non-profit agencies, including Better Basics, the Fairfield Hope Center, YWCA Children's Programs, YMCA Youth Center, Jessie's Place, the Literacy Council, the Salvation Army, Children's Hospital, and the Black Belt Action Commission.
- Received commendation from the Mayor's Office for good works in the community.
- Raised and donated \$25,000 to purchase books for the Better Basics MORE Program.
- Developed web site updated and hosted by Walls Media to fight illiteracy statewide and beyond.
- Co-sponsored Spring Fest 2008 for 400 inner city children providing enrichment experiences at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens.
- Provided Better Basics with volunteers for serving at awards luncheons and judging student essays.