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Thank you for your support of *My Own Book* this past year. 2007 concluded our first complete year of existence. This past year we won a \$500 Youth Leader's in Literacy Grant from the National Education Association. We sponsored a six week Community Leader Reading Program at the Cordelia Library. During this time Mayor Price, Fire Captain Zazrivy, Officer Scarrott, Chocolatier Gary Guitard, and the 4-H guide Dog Project came to the library, read books aloud and then we passed out books to the children.



Captain Zazrivy (left) reads to children and the Dale Earnhardt Foundation Trophies (right)



In April we won the Dale Earnhardt Legend Leadership Award (www.thedalearnhardtfoundation.org) which was very exciting!

We also hosted a district wide coloring contest celebrating favorite books for all elementary children in the Fairfield Suisun School District. Winning entries were displayed downtown at the Quilt Shoppe and at the main Fairfield Library.



Quilt Shoppe Window



Gerry Mendez reading to children

We contacted each high school in our area asking for volunteers, and added new team members. Gerry and Javier Mendez, fluent in Spanish, continued to be an important part of our team.

Many of the schools we visit have children that speak mostly Spanish. We took part in the Spanish Storytime 10-year Celebration at the

Suisun Community Center and gave out many sets of brand new Spanish World Book Encyclopedias. Over the summer we were interviewed for a Podcast by Just One More Book (www.justonemorebook.com).

In June we visited all of Bransford Elementary's 2nd and 3rd Grade classrooms to read and give out books; earlier in the year we visited five other elementary schools.

We worked on getting more team members by having a table at the 4-H State Leadership Conference "Passport to Service" event, and telling other teens about our program at LeadAmerica. This fall, we participated at Farm Day at David Weir, gave books to Mary Lorenz for Kases for Kids,



Children choosing their very own books

and read and distributed books to all the k to 3rd graders at David Weir Elementary. We found it takes constant letters and talk to continue to receive books, recruit volunteers, and set up events. We also streamlined our visits so that we spend less time in the school office and more time reading and giving out books. We learned we can't miss school and must optimize the amount of children we read to at one time. We also are facing new challenges next year: Kyle, Gerry, and Javier will graduate. We have been laying the foundation so that the program will continue to grow and

thrive without their help locally.

We have been fortunate to have powerful supporters: Linda Higman at The Storyteller never fails to amaze us with her generosity; Barbara Mallon has been a constant source of support and has written countless letters of recommendation.

Book donations continue to be paramount to our program. So far, **we have given out 8,348 books** – our goal for the New Year is to reach 10,000 and grow the program in more communities. As we visit schools children now remember us, the book(s) they have received from our program and are eager to tell us about their reading. It is exciting. Making reading fun is good, having teens go out into the community is a great way to spread the love of reading, and giving out new books to children gives value to literacy.



An example of a bookplate

Thank you for your past help, and please spread the word about our program so we can continue to pass out more books and encourage more children to enjoy reading.

Please visit our website at www.myownbook.net for more updates regarding *My Own Book*.

Sincerely,

Kyle and Brady Baldwin

