South Bend Chapter Reading and Literacy

A Book for a Child Program

**Timing, duration, frequency of program**

This program is ongoing throughout the year as far as collecting books but they are distributed to children during the five months the Center is open as well as during the fiscal year for St. Adalbert for children in the school.

**Fiscal Information**

Value of in-kind donations (estimated total): $2,000 Books are donated by local organizations, former clients, school fundraiser projects, libraries

**Partnerships**

Better World Books

What role does your partner(s) have in the program? Last year they provided numerous boxes of used books and about 100 craft kits for us to distribute. They have partnered with us since our program began.

**Clients**

Number of children/families served your last fiscal year: 3352

Age range of clients served: Birth to 12

**Volunteers**

How many volunteers participate in this program (planning and working) 10

What roles do the volunteers have in this program? Volunteers collect, sort, store and distribute books on client days throughout the year. We often have high school students and community partners work on Sundays and evenings that we are open. Last year Knights of Columbus assembled new shelving for us.

**Program Description**

Overall goal of this program: To get books into the hands of children and to encourage family reading as well as those of the children. The earlier the exposure the better.

What service/materials do you provide to your clients? Books and other available educational materials

Every child, newborn to age 12, who receives clothing in the Clothing Program also receives an age-appropriate book. Because of more donations of books, each child received two books.

In addition to this, one Thanksgiving book or Christmas book is given to the family. The parent/guardian is then invited to choose a book to give to another family whom they know. This is only for the months of November and December. This gives the clients a chance to experience the joy of giving.

The Christ Child Society of South Bend distributed 7,400 books valued at $27,824 to underprivileged children of St. Joseph County in 2019.

Contact: southbend@nationalchristchild.org