



Donor Spotlight – August 2014

Bring Me A Book

Founded in 1997 by Judy Koch, Bring Me A Book (BMAB) provides easy access to new, multicultural children's books in multiple languages to underserved preschools, elementary schools, after-school programs, shelters, community centers and businesses in the United States and seven other countries. BMAB's goals are to empower and help parents in their critical and important role as a first teacher, to promote greater family literacy by providing convenient and easy access to a library of quality, age and culturally-appropriate, hardcover children's books and to create a tradition of reading at home. To date, BMAB has provided libraries and read-aloud training to more than 450,000 children, parents and teachers in nine states and seven countries.



BMAB became involved with Sacramento Food Bank & Family Services (SFBFS) when they hosted two workshops at SFBFS' Oak Park facility and North Sacramento facility, the Saca Community Learning Center. Staci Howell, Regional Manager of BMAB Central Valley, had the opportunity to tour both SFBFS facilities during the workshops and thought a Bookcase Library would make a wonderful addition to SFBFS' Youth Education program in Playcare Academy. The Bookcase Libraries are filled with 30 hardcover books representing the best in children's literature. Titles are carefully chosen to best reflect the background, age and reading level of the community.

Playcare Academy, one component of Youth Education, is available for children ages 1-5 whose parents are enrolled in Adult Education technology, ESL or GED classes or Parent Education classes. Volunteers and staff prepare youngsters for preschool and kindergarten and encourage parental involvement through a co-operative system. Playcare Academy provides a safe and creative learning environment where children from the Oak Park neighborhood of Sacramento and surrounding areas work with volunteers, staff and parents to learn development skills. The books provided through BMAB's Bookcase Library offer parents whose children are enrolled in Playcare Academy important resources that provide support in the learning and development of their children. "BMAB's focus is early childhood and literacy opportunities for struggling families to use education to help children be successful,"



says Staci. "The most memorable part of the donation process for me was offering families an opportunity to get resources needed for their children."

SFBFS' work would not be possible without support from the community. As an organization, our staff, volunteers and clients are grateful and fortunate to receive the support of so many like-minded organizations, such as Bring Me A Book. Their generosity is a great example that together we can support families on their journey to self-sufficiency.