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Please Help Author a Future!

Project FLIGHT has been characterized as a community “jewel” by Robert Bennett, past Chancellor of the New York State Board of Regents. According to Marion Cañedo, past Buffalo Superintendent, “Project FLIGHT has been an invaluable educational resource for our teachers, students, and families.” Dr. Muriel A. Howard, Past President of Buffalo State College, states that: “Even in this age of remarkable technological innovation, literacy itself stands as the greatest tool for access to a universe of ideas. We at Buffalo State College embrace and advance the goals of Project FLIGHT.

Our Book Bank is located in the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library (one of our major partners) in downtown Buffalo. In the years to come and with the support of people like you – we will continue our mission that all children will have books and be able to read them at grade level, that each child will live in a literate environment and that literacy will be an entrée out of poverty. We recognize the promise of literacy as an inalienable right and that the legacy of literacy is democracy and freedom. Project Flight is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) agency. We have given, free, over 3,000,000 million books to over 1,000 s of agencies and schools to children and families in need. Below you will find some excerpts from the past chairs of the Author a Future campaign who believe in the cause of literacy.

According to Professor of English, Barbara Bontempo, Honorary Chair for 2014: “We know that if children are given the chance, the process of reading enables children to **learn new words**, to **think new thoughts and take them places they have never been** where they meet people whose lives may be very different from their own, and encounter ideas that may challenge their familiar way of life and build their **capacity for understanding and empathy**. And this is not limited to print. Words are more important than ever in navigating, with a critical eye, the seemingly limitless and random amount of information available on the Internet. Finally, and this may be a book’s most valuable gift of all, children can **escape into their imaginations and just read for pleasure**; reading can be a positive “time-out” providing necessary relief from pain, stress (and for some children, from an atmosphere of fear or violence). Who knows what lives children may imagine for themselves through the magic of books? One thing is certain, without easy access to books, without books in their homes, in their after-school programs; children will be left bereft, and left behind.”

“As a child, I was fortunate enough to have had a mother who encouraged me to read. At the age of four, my mother came to the United States from Russia, and although her formal education ended after first grade, she was always enamored with reading. She has read the complete works of Shakespeare and countless others. Because of her, and my wonderful teachers in Chicago, I received direction and instruction that led me to realize how important reading was in helping a person prepare for so many of life’s meaningful undertakings. I find it so unfortunate that many children aren’t able to build a foundation of literacy, or love of reading, simply because they don’t have books available to them. That’s why I’m so proud to support the initiatives of Project Flight – and hope you will do the same.”
Sincerely, **Marv Levy, Football Hall of Fame ’01 Honorary Chair, 2009 Annual Friends Campaign.**



“Reading has always been an important part of my life. Some of my fondest memories of childhood involve a book – sitting on my big sister’s lap listening to my favorite stories, proudly collecting first editions of the Nancy Drew Mystery Stories, raising my hand in class so I could read aloud. As I grew, so did my love of books along with their impact on my life. The more I read, the more I learned about the world around me, which helped me become a better citizen and a better person. So it’s no small coincidence that I now read and write the news every night for television. Unfortunately, many children aren’t able to build a foundation of literacy, or love for reading simply because they don’t have books available to them. That’s where Project Flight comes in”. **Mary Alice Demler, Honorary, Chair 2010, WGRZ TV.**

While countless children have been helped, there is still much to do. Filling out the information on the enclosed envelope or by sending your donation in any amount to: Project Flight at 7954 Transit Road, PMB 205, Buffalo, New York, 14221 will make a huge difference. Thank you in advance for authoring a future and giving a child the gift of literacy and life.

Dr. Jim Cercone, Chair of Author a Future 2016

Dr. Elizabeth J. Cappella

Dr. Geraldine E. Bard-

Dr. Betty Cappella *Dr. Geraldine Bard*