

Beacon Hill Circle donates \$1,650 to Raising a Reader MA

At its spring meeting, members of the Beacon Hill Circle for Charity unanimously agreed to donate \$1,650 to Raising A Reader MA, an award-winning organization that provides critical early-literacy resources to 8,000 children and families in need across the Commonwealth. Further, through Raising A Reader MA's inaugural Spring into Reading campaign, the Beacon Hill Circle for Charity's donation will more than double to \$3,630, helping families-in-need receive the critical early literacy support necessary for pre-school children to blossom into ready-to-learn students.

"Early literacy interventions are high impact – and cost effective," said a Beacon Hill Circle for Charity board member. "When we learned we would more than double our impact through Raising A Reader MA's \$1=\$2.20 Spring into Reading campaign, we were certain our choice was the right one. Our



Raising A Reader serves over 8,000 children in Massachusetts, including 4,500 in Greater Boston.

donation will change the lives of children and families in need."

The Beacon Hill Circle for Charity donates all proceeds to organizations that support the wellbeing of women and children in Greater Boston.

In many communities in Massachusetts – just miles from Beacon Hill – one child out of three from a low-income family will drop out of high school because they are entering kindergarten behind and

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will never catch up.

According to Donna DiFillippo, Raising a Reader MA executive director and a Revere Street resident, "The single biggest reason for this deficit is that 60 percent of children from low-income families in the Commonwealth are not read to daily by their parents, which is the most important factor in promoting school readiness. Without Raising A Reader MA, the children we serve, who lack access to high-quality early literacy environments, are up to eight times more likely to drop out of high school, face chronic unemployment or become incarcerated when they grow up. With the support of champions like the Beacon Hill Circle for Charity, we can reverse these trends and change the trajectories of children

in need."

Raising a Reader MA was founded in the spring of 2006 with the generous support of the GreenLight Fund—an organization that identifies groundbreaking, innovative, and results-oriented nonprofits in cities around the country and replicates those programs in Massachusetts. Since then, we have circulated over 32,000 books to more than 10,000 children (ages 0-5) and trained more than 3,000 adults in early literacy techniques. As a result, the children of Raising A Reader families will enter kindergarten ready to learn, so they can grow up ready to succeed.

Independent evaluations have repeatedly demonstrated that RAR MA's unique program engages families, builds kinder-

garten readiness skills and is cost effective and scalable.

For more information, visit www.raisingareaderma.org or contact Mary Bruce, director of strategic growth and development, at 617-610-9903 or via e-mail at

mary@raisingareaderma.org.

Founded in 1963, the Beacon Hill Circle for Charity is a non-profit organization of approximately 60 members that donates all proceeds from its activities to charities dedicated to improving

the lives of women and children in the Boston area.

The Beacon Hill Circle for Charity raises money by offering guided tours behind the brick facades of historic Beacon Hill and into private homes.

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