



## Firefly Hi-Lights



We now accept donations online at our website [www.fireflykidz.org](http://www.fireflykidz.org)

"Books are the carriers of civilization. Without books, history is silent, literature dumb, science crippled, thought and speculation at a standstill. Without books, the development of civilization would have been impossible. They are engines of change, windows on the world and lighthouses erected in the sea of time. They are companions, teachers, magicians, bankers of the treasures of the mind.

Books are humanity in print."  
— [Barbara W. Tuchman](#)

### **Firefly Foundation**

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Sometimes you just lose track of time. We at Firefly Foundation have been so busy moving our goal of improving children's literacy forward that this newsletter is a bit late coming out. Our joint fundraiser with The Northwest New Jersey Regional Women's Center this past November was successful.

We provided Holiday gift wrapping services at Barnes & Noble in Morris Plains and Borders in Watchung. We were again recipients of books from Barnes & Noble in Livingston through their Holiday 2010 book drive. Our number of Firefly Kidz has grown to 250. We have also added a new reading incentive to our Firefly Kidz program. As of April 2011, our Kidz will have the opportunity to receive a bonus book in addition to their birthday book if they complete a book log and return that log to us. What a great way for our Kidz to grow their library. We will be updating our website to provide this new information and our revised forms.

We have added a new board member, Todd Cramer. He is the executive director of Noah's Ark Welfare Association. We were first introduced to Todd through his organization's donation of subscriptions of KINDnews, an award winning classroom newspaper that teaches children the value of kindness toward one another, animals and their environment. You can read more about Todd in our board member bio section of this newsletter.

Though the volunteer services of Megan Chiriani, ([Chiriani.design@gmail.com](mailto:Chiriani.design@gmail.com)) we now have beautiful note cards. These originally designed note cards will be our gift to anyone who sends in a donation of \$100 or more.

This Spring Randall Carter School in Wayne had a special fundraiser for Firefly Foundation. For one week in March, members of the Student Council went around the school and sold Hawaiian leis to their fellow classmates, teachers and administrators which culminated in a beach day. Children, wearing their leis, read to each other under "palm trees" and the cafeteria provided picnic style lunches. This was a fun day for the children and the Foundation received a generous donation. This truly represents our desire to encourage the concept of "children helping children".

If you or your school is interested in developing a fundraiser to support Firefly Foundation we invite you to contact us at [Dana@fireflykidz.org](mailto:Dana@fireflykidz.org)

Karen Cisco is the Executive Director of Give the Kids Hope, a non-profit organization which provides recreational opportunities to underprivileged children in New Jersey. These activities are provided at Camp Hope, a 62-acre recreational facility located in the northern most municipality of Passaic County, West Milford Township. Each year the camp entertains children throughout Passaic County.

During the months of July and August, children between the age of 6 to 13 years of age come to Camp Hope to enjoy the sun, and have a ton of fun, with all that there is to do. While on the campgrounds children swim in an Olympic sized pool, sing by a campfire, take nature hikes and enjoy all the fun of a summer camp. They dance, participate in arts -n-crafts, and play miniature golf, basketball so much more. There is never a fee for the children eligible to participate in our program. Visit Camp Hope's website [www.givethekidshope.org](http://www.givethekidshope.org).



### Need a Special Gift?

Make a purchase at [www.giftsthatgive.com](http://www.giftsthatgive.com) and select Firefly Foundation during checkout. A portion of your purchase price will be donated to us in your name.

Thank you for your continued support.

Congratulations to:

**Charis Thermitus**, our most recent winner of our Read It Log It contest.

Now all Firefly Kidz can receive a bonus book when they complete their book log and return it to us. If you lost your log, go to our website, [www.fireflykidz.org](http://www.fireflykidz.org) to get another one.

### Board Member Bio: Todd Cramer

Todd is the Executive Director of Noah's Ark NJ. He has over twenty years of management experience primarily in not-for-profit environments. Prior to joining Noah's Ark, Todd served for six years as a community initiatives director and regional manager for the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA). He started his career in animal welfare as the assistant director of operations for the Animal Protective Foundation in Scotia, NY.

In addition to his experience working with shelters, Todd has experience with the use of animals for disaster response and forensic investigations. Todd is a former member of the board of directors for the Animal Welfare Federation of New Jersey (AWFNJ) and a founding member of the New York State Animal Protection Federation. He is a popular national speaker delivering workshops on animal welfare topics at Petfinder.com Adoption Option events, the AWFNJ conference, and the Humane Society of the United States Expo.

Todd is our newest Board member and we are very excited that he is with us. His depth of board management expertise will be an asset to Firefly Foundation.

### Hot Summer Days... Cool Summer Reading

It is essential to keep your child's brain strong throughout the long summer months. Research shows that children lose 3-6 months of learning during summer break. Children learn best when learning is continuous. Parents/guardians can make a seamless transition into the summer months by setting aside 1-2 hrs a day devoted to learning. That doesn't necessarily mean that your child has to sit with a paper and a pencil during this time. Encourage a structured amount of time just reading and the rest of the time to education games. The internet has some great free websites that make learning fun, while continuing to help sharpen your child's skills.

Here are some helpful websites:

[www.readingrockets.com](http://www.readingrockets.com)

[www.scholastic.com](http://www.scholastic.com)



Free Interactive Websites for the Kids

[www.starfall.com](http://www.starfall.com)

[www.funbrain.com](http://www.funbrain.com)

[www.kidsknowit.com](http://www.kidsknowit.com)

### Coin Jars

*Giving a little,  
will help a lot*

#### Dairy Delight

6000 New Jersey Ave.  
Wildwood Crest, NJ

#### Florham Park Liquors

184 Columbia Tpk.  
Florham Park, NJ

#### Gluck U Chicken

148 Center Grove Rd.  
Randolph, NJ

If you are interested in having a coin jar at your place of business.

Email: [dana@fireflykidz.org](mailto:dana@fireflykidz.org)