Our Mission
Connecting children with their incarcerated moms through the joy of literature.
A note from Judith

We’ve come a long way, but we still have miles to go. According to Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ), the number of incarcerated women in Texas hovers around 12,000. We also know that 60% of incarcerated women in the U.S. are mothers.

To respond to the demand, we continuously expand the number of prisons we serve. In October, Storybook launched its ninth prison – Hobby in Marlin, Texas. Talks are underway to open in a 10th prison in 2018.

The TDCJ trusts Storybook to provide a quality program with compassionate volunteers. Wardens know we come prepared and ready to complete the important task recording mothers’ voices that will bring comfort and pleasure to children who are living without.

Storybook team leaders continue to be the backbone of our organizations. Many of you have been with us since the beginning. If anyone is interested in taking a fun volunteer leadership role we have space. Reach out to me.

In terms of accomplishments, in 2017 we launched our first fundraising luncheon, surpassing our fundraising goal. Additionally, we received almost $30,000 in grant and foundation gifts, and hired our first executive director, which allows me to focus on cultivation. Please invite me to your next book club, faith class, community fundraiser, office brown bag and the like. I have a spiffy presentation box and a comfortable car.

Thank you for taking time to read our annual report. I’m very proud of Women’s Storybook Project and look forward to connecting more children with their incarcerated mothers through the joy of literature.

Fondly,

Judith Dullnig
Founder and Chair
info@storybookproject.org
Storybook achieved new heights with outreach & donations.

To help meet demand for our program, Storybook added a 9th prison—the Hobby Unit in Marlin, Texas. Team leaders, Vickie Bluhmgen and Crystal Wade, continue to work closely with Warden Vicki Wright to grow the number of participation mothers.

Storybook hosted its first Annual Fundraising Luncheon at the Austin Country Club. The event was a full house—new friends and donors filled 32 tables and pledged $160,000 over the next three years.

The luncheon was organized under fundraising consultant, Lisa Holleran, who serves as Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice at St. Edward’s University. In 2018, Lisa will also launch phase II of an impact study to measure the benefits of our program to the families we serve.

In addition to one-time gifts, many donors pledged three-year gifts, which helps secure the long-term position of Storybook. These donors and others are listed on the inside pages.

We also received $28,750 in grants. A full list of grants is supplied in this report.

Through social media we continue to reach more followers. We encourage all of our volunteers and donors to check us out on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter, and please share with your friends.

Through social media Patrice Karst, author of Invisible String, learned about Storybook. Thanks to Patrice’s discount, and the generous donation from the Scott & Lori Murphy Gratitude Fund, we have purchased enough copies of this lovely book to offer one to each mother graduating from our program.
Our 11th annual Barnes & Noble annual holiday book drive raised 752 books valued at $4,500. Special thanks to project chair Emilie Crimmins who organized super volunteers and signage encouraging customers at the Sunset Valley location to purchase and donate books.

For the 4th year, Storybook participated in Amplify Austin and raised over $8,000.

Our Annual Fund successfully raised $13,000 for Storybook expenses including salaries and supplies.

WSP continues to implement its Strategic Plan, which called for the hiring of its first executive director.

Volunteer Katy Sloan Mitchell, who works in advertising for Google, introduced Storybook to her company. Google engineers are in process of creating an application that allows Storybook to transition from CD ROMS to cloud technology.

Storybook participated in the LCRA’s Volunteer Appreciation Day. A dynamite mother and daughter who had participated in our program spoke about the impact of Storybook in their lives.

Another sign of our growth, Storybook adopted a new, more sophisticated donor management system called DonorSnap. Special thanks to Lisa Holleran, Sun Connor, Dugie Graham and Cynthia Winer for researching options and helping with installation.

“ I love your books. I hope we get some more. Thank you for all the books. I love hearing my mother’s voice because I only get to hear her once a month. Thank you. Bye. — Child
I have not heard from my kids in over a year no visits because I don’t want them to see me in a place like this. No phone because they are hard to set up and cost money. So they were left without being able to hear me or see me. Until story book project came into my life. Thanks to you all they are able to receive books and hear my voice and by hearing my voice the remembered me and wrote me a letter. A way of communication was opened for me! and I’m truly grateful. It is such a blessing from GOD. Words can not explain the way I felt when I received that letter... the way I STILL feel. So thank you sincerely form the bottom or my heart. May GOD BLESS YOU.

– Incarcerated mother

My name is Jack and my wife is serving sentence and away from our daughter. We received the CD and book package! Our daughter was so excited when we received the brown package with her name on it. And when she saw that it was the story from her mommy she was even more excited. It was as if she and mommy had come together. The timing of the package was so perfect because it was at her birthday and this was such a special gift because it was from mommy whom she loves so much. She has shown it to everyone who has been at our home. She cherishes this special gift and even wants to sleep with it. Thanks so much and I hope that the Project touches everyone as it has touched our lives.

– Caregiver
Mothers who recorded stories
1,512 Annual  15,000 Historical

Books/Recordings mailed to children
3,125 Annual  31,000 Historical

Prison units served
9

Volunteer hours
7,293 Annual  39,600 Historical

REVENUE
$202,539

EXPENDITURES
$207,829

Impact

Women’s Storybook Project remains lean by operating with a small staff, dedicated volunteers, and generous donations of cash and books throughout the year.

INVENTORY

11,700 books
$113,989 value
Financial Supporters

Support received through application process

Reader’s Circle
Pulitzer Partner
($5,000 for 3 years)
Ann McEldowney
Dugie Graham
Kathleen Hanson

“Best Seller” Partner
($2,500 for 3 years)
Ellen Balthazar

“Literary” Partner
($1,000 for 3 years)
Victoria Blumhagen
Christie Bybee
Amber Carden
Pam Cho
Linda L. Cox
Emilie Crimmins
Judith Darnell
Richard and Shannon Egan
Mary Nell Frucella
Meta Hunt Butler
Brenda Keilor
Anne and Mark McKinnon
Linda Messer
Anthony and Susan Orum
Karen Preis
Melissa and Sam Sparks
Michelle Strawn
Kim Weidmann
Patricia Yeargain

Genre ($5,000+)
Margaret E. Briley
Jon and Judith Dullnig
Lawrence and Karen Turner
Lola Wright Foundation

Shield-Ayres Foundation
St. Matthews Episcopal Church
The Trull Foundation
Westlake United Methodist Church

Series ($3,000–$4,999)
ECG Foundation

Book ($1,000–$2,999)
Sandra Carey
David Jamail
Paula and J. Parker
Jameson
Martin Loeber
Laurel and Michael D’Antoni
Lori and Scott Murphy
Ellen and Allan Muskin
Carolyn Patrick
Mr. and Mrs. Rick Rhodes
Anne Rioux
Rhoda and Eric Silverberg
Katy Sloan Mitchell
Michelle Strawn
Austin Pi Beta Phi Foundation
Dell Matching Funds
Pan American Round Table of Austin
St. John’s United Methodist Church
St. Luke’s Episcopal Church
St. Thomas Episcopal Church

Chapter ($500–$999)
Margene Beckham
Kyle and Nancy Botkin
Tamaran J. Braithwaite
Christie and Clinton Bybee
Linda L. Cox
Joyce A. Davis
Robert Davis
Carolyn Easter
Ryan and Sara Garcia
Patsy Graham
William and Martha Hudson
Susan Landers
Terri and Burwell McClendon
AnnMarie Olson
Jeanice Pantier-Mullen
Jan Pickle
Mrs. W. Arthur Porter
Debra Waltz Reasonover
Rose Roberts
Lauren Sawyer
Debra and Tom Smith
Scott and Jan Thompson
Austin Canyon Corporation
Del Web Hill Country Resort Luncheon
Fuller Law Group
St. Mark’s Episcopal Church
Sun City Texas Community Association, Inc

Sentence ($250–$499)
Carol Adams
Mary Aldrich
James and Shelley Austin
Holly Boerner
Deborah Ann Bowman
Linda Shelton Chapman
Cheer Up Charlie’s
Karen and William Donovan
Elizabeth Franke
Network for Good
Margaret H. Greenawalt
Norma McCauley
Sheri Miller
Karen Nalle

Robert Neblett
Patricia C. Newton
Susan K. Paulos
Susan Peroe
Roy and Barbara Poth
Kathryn B. Ross
Sarah Ruttan
Landon Shultz
Nancy Snyder
Lydia Soldano
Elizabeth Aston Sullivan
Elizabeth Turner
Mrs. Joe A. Young
Deborah S. Lyons, Phd., Inc.
HCR Needlecraﬅ Group
Pilot Club of Baytown, Inc.

Paragraph ($100–$249)
Mrs. Mack C. Adams
Susan K. Adler
Eleanor Albon
Kay and Henry Allen
Audrey A. Alpers
Traci and Charles Baldwin
Glenda Ballard
Dorothy Barnett
Leslie Beasley
Randall and Peggy Beaver
William Bennett
Patricia S. Bizzell
Corey and Misty Blahuta
Pamela E. Booton
Irene J. Branson
Valorie S. Bray
Kay Brazel
Carol Brown
Linda L. Brown
Nina Bzdak
Maureen B. Turner Carey
Brooke Gordon Cato
Li-Jung “Lily” Chen

Thank you for sharing your time, talents, and treasures with WSP.

Gratitude
Storybook benefits children across the country. In this year alone, we mailed books and recordings to children in 16 states.

"My grandson loves it. He immediately recognized his mother’s voice. He sits very still while I turn the pages for him and we do not have any distractions during this special time. It is what we do in the mornings to begin our routine for the day.

– Caregiver

"Hello, I am a 14 year old girl who lives in Colorado because my mom is in prison. My mom has sent me a book from your program and I would like to say I absolutely loved it, getting to hear her voice was just the best thing in the world. I love this program and I think it is amazing you guys are doing this. I opened the package and I was not expecting this but I bursted into tears of joy.

– Child
Support Storybook:

- Volunteer in a prison
- Host an Open Book Party to tell friends about WSP
- Schedule a presentation to a group
- Donate online
- Connect WSP with employer matching or corporate sponsor programs