Have You Read?

A very popular author for children these days is Mo Willems. Willems started his career with Knuffle Bunny: A Cautionary Tale, then wrote Don’t Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus and the hilarious books that followed. He has just completed a series of early reader (shown here) starring Elephant and Piggie. They are easy enough for children to read and delightful enough for parents to engage in over and over, and over and over! Try them out today, you won’t regret it!

Women’s Storybook Project of Texas has been selected to participate in a charity competition with Tiff’s Treats to celebrate their 20th Anniversary. We get 10% of each sale when our special code is applied to an order. Share the code below with your friends, and place your order with Tiff’s Treats today! The organization with the most sales at the end of January will win an additional $20,000!

Here’s how it works:

- During checkout, you will find a box under the “I have a coupon or charity promotional code” section where you’ll put our code.
- Please note you cannot also use a coupon on these orders.
- Remember to use your code when ordering. Codes cannot be added after an order has been placed.
- CODE: STORY2019

Sun Connor, Women’s Storybook Project Operations Manager, was selected for the Leadership Austin Emerge class this year. Since September, she has been connecting with other community leaders and developing her skills. The Emerge program is a gathering of community-minded, high-potential young professionals who want to build relationships and gain leadership skills to make a difference in the Austin community. Emerge provides an exceptional opportunity to connect with other young leaders and strengthen the critical skills necessary for community leadership roles.

There was a 23% increase in applications this year and Sun was one of 55 candidates chosen for this program. Congratulations, Sun, we are proud of you! Here’s to a great second semester! The WSP team.

#LeadershipAustin

WSP volunteers were honored as “STARS at the Trail” in 2018 by the Trail of Lights Foundation! We brought 35 volunteers and a total of 85 people (with family members and friends) to enjoy this fantastic Austin experience. We’d like to extend a thank you to everyone who came out for the evening, a great time was enjoyed (cont.on next page)

Windham School District held their first ever Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon on November 9, 2018 in Huntsville, TX. Judith Dullnig, founder of their flagship volunteer program, was the guest speaker and received a beautiful commemorative award. A good contingent of volunteers and staff were able to attend. Some of the attendees were even able to tour the facility. It was a fabulous experience! WSP staff and volunteers in attendance were able to meet volunteers from other agencies, and principals and wardens from other units. We are looking forward to next year’s event in Gatesville.

We’d like to introduce our new Supply Chairperson, Dr. Paige Suffredini! Paige is a current WSP volunteer and some of you may have met her. She is excited to be taking on the role of supply chair now that she is an empty nester! Here’s an important detail you should know. She’s available for supply pickup all day Tuesday and Thursday mornings.
Our spotlight volunteer this month is Jon Dullnig, or as he is sometimes referred to – Mr. Judith Dullnig. It was my great privilege to talk to Jon and get to know him a bit better! He has a fantastic sense of humor, a great humility and he truly loves the Women's Storybook Project! As you can probably guess, Jon has been involved from the very beginning. He says, “I remember Judith telling me she was interested in doing this after her trip to Kentucky – and that was it! I tried to be as supportive as I could.”

What trends have you seen over the years?
One thing is the growth. Each year there seem to be more volunteers and more awareness of the program. The growth is amazing to me! Even though it’s been around for 15 years – there’s really a foundation for future growth.

What are your first memories of the project?
I remember gathering books, I painted the office. My first memory of the office is that it was just one room and I thought – well, this will work just fine. It was just Judith and some volunteers at that point. The first time she went to prison she had 4 volunteers. One of them ran out of gas, I had ½ a gallon from our lawn mower and so she had enough to get to a gas station. That was lucky!

Have you been to a prison?
I actually have, just once. Jude had some books at a building at Baylor. We picked up the books. And drove to a prison in Gatesville. Some of the offenders came out from the unit and got the books with a cart on rollers. They took it from there.

What do you wish more people knew about us?
I wish more folks could read all the letters the caregivers send about how meaningful the program is to the children. Jon's recent favorite story came about when he and Judith were in Maine and she ended up in the emergency room. While waiting, Judith told the doctors and nurses about the Storybook Project. They went to the website and played the video (she could hear it in the exam room!) One of the nurses came in and said she had to stop it because it was making her cry. The doctor ended up making a donation!

Jon's most recent volunteer hours were put in at the Barnes and Noble book drive, Thanks Jon! We appreciate ALL you do to support the Women's Storybook Project!

THANK YOU so much to our most recent donors!
- Shield - Ayres Foundation
- Grant Me the Wisdom Foundation
- Justin Paul Foundation
- St. John's United Methodist Church
- Sun City Women's Golf Club
- Griffin Middle School PTA
- South Austin Rotary Club
- Cedar Park United Methodist Church
- Westlake United Methodist Church
- Literati Books

by all, and an even bigger thank you to the awesome board members and volunteers at the Trail of Lights Foundation for the experience.

We were treated like royalty with our own VIP tent, a driver, and everything! If you couldn’t attend, please know that your service is appreciated and valued just the same. I hope you can stop by the Open House on the 10th of February so I can thank you in person!

Valentine’s Day Open House: 2/10/19
Please come over to meet our new Executive Director, Jill Gonzalez and some of our spectacular new volunteers, tour the new office and hear about all the exciting things going on at the Women’s Storybook Project! Sunday, February 10th from 1 – 3 p.m.
5524 Bee Caves Road, Building M, Suite 131
Austin, TX 78746
Refreshments will be served
PLEASE RSVP by February 6th to admin@storybookproject.org

THANK YOU to all the generous donors who contributed with end of year gifts!
Amplify Austin Day is coming up soon! This year, it’s February 28-March 1. We’d love for you to help us Amplify WSP – in fact, we think you’re going to want to help. We have a tangible goal that will make an almost immediate impact on every volunteer’s monthly visits to the prison program! Our goal is to raise $10,000 to REPLACE all our computers!

With new computers, volunteers will experience ease of use and moms will be able to trust that their recordings will be transferred correctly – the first time!

So – We’re looking for 10 volunteers to host a fundraising page for WSP. If just 10 volunteers step up and then we all help those 10 folks AMPLIFY and they each raise $1,000 – we’re done!

Easy Peasy! We can do this – who’s in? If you are a social media maven or a technology leader, contact Sun right away, heck, even if you’re not and you’ve got a generous heart and a bunch of friends or followers– let’s go!

Reach out – let us know you’re interested at admin@storybookproject.org, and thanks!

Volunteer Opportunities
We’re always looking for volunteers. Please check out our website for more info!

Prison volunteers, remember to sign up through our website so we can add you to our database and give you correct info on TDCJ trainings.

“Dear Storybook volunteers: You all have made a huge impact on me and babies life. It’s definitely lightened the burden on our hearts. I want you all to know you’ve blessed me and my family in such a tremendous way. I thank you all from the bottom of my heart.”

Reminder: No leggings or tight fitting clothes allowed in the units
I want to thank you so much for what you are doing. It gives my daughter inspiration to know she is doing something for her son. I believe it truly helps her to cope better with her situation. My grandson is so delighted to get something from his mom. You cannot begin to know what it does for him and just to get to listen to his mom read to him is priceless. Thank you so much for this gift. It is truly appreciated.

Thank you!

Matilda (mother and grandmother)
A Caregiver.