

Hooked on Books for Kids,
P. O. Box 3059,
Erie, PA 16508
February 1, 2025

Dear Friend of Erie's Children and Youth:

Hooked on Books for Kids cordially invites you and your organization **to join the fun on April 1, 2025** for Hooked on Books for Kids' 16th annual corporate spelling bee at the Zem Zem Shrine Club on West 38th St. **Please note the change of venue!** If this event is new to you, here are the salient features:

- **All proceeds benefit Hooked on Books for Kids**, a non-profit dedicated to literacy, life-long learning, and the love of reading. Since 1990, we have distributed over 500,000 new books to the children and youth of Erie County.
- **Teams of 3 adults** sponsored by an office, company, or organization compete in an old-fashioned spelling bee. Team prizes are awarded for the bee spelling champion and runner-up, best costumes, and most spirit. We supply practice words to help your team prepare.
- During Happy Hour before the bee, **food and drink are available from Zem Zem's menu**. We also offer a Chinese auction of goody baskets, a traditional 50-50, and tip boards.
- At intermission, **everyone can compete in a new kind of 50-50** using "paddles" and a series of coin tosses to pick a winner.

We would love to have you join us by sponsoring a team and bringing your friends, co-workers, and supporters to cheer on your team. Information about sponsorship levels is included with this letter.

Your support will help us continue our mission, which we achieve by providing new books to underprivileged children and youth and by reading aloud monthly to students at Edison School; encouraging parents and caregivers to read daily to their children; and informing everyone about the necessity of in-home reading to prepare children for success in school and life.

Most importantly, we have no paid staff and very low overhead; we spend all we receive on books (In 2024 the average cost was just over \$3/book.) and direct operating expenses. We are an all-volunteer non-profit!

Save the date for this fun, team-building, and spirited event. **Please respond by March 15, 2025**

To see just how much fun the Bee is, go to our web site at www.hookedonbooksforkidserie.org and click on the "Spelling Bee" button. Entry forms and other information are available on the web site, too.

Sincerely,

Dean Baldwin,
President, Hooked on Books for Kids
See the event summary, overleaf.

Event Summary

Date: April 1, 2025

Venue: Zem Zem Shrine Club, 2525 West 38th St. **Note the change of venue!**

Starting Time: Doors open at 5:00 p.m. for Happy Hour, good food, a 50-50 raffle, a Chinese auction, and tip boards. Food and drink are available from Zem Zem's menu.

Spelling Begins: 7:00 p.m., ends 9:30 p.m. or before

Competition: Prizes for spelling champion and runner-up, best costumes, and most spirit

Extra Fun: Chinese auction, tip boards, a 50-50 drawing, and a 50-50 "paddle" game at intermission

Tickets: Reserve in advance or purchase at the door. \$15 each for supporters; team members are free. Admission includes a free raffle ticket for an outdoor patio ensemble worth \$300.

MCs: WICU and WSEE's Traci Teudhope and Connoisseur Radio's Allan Carpenter

Please respond by: March 15, 2025

Below: MC Traci Teudhope Strikes a Provocative Pose!



PLEASE CONSIDER HOOKED ON BOOKS FOR KIDS
AS PART OF YOUR ORGANIZATION'S 2025 CHARITABLE GIVING.
THANK YOU!