The year 2020 marks two milestones in the history of Hooked on Books for Kids.

The first is that we celebrate our 30th year of giving brand new, high-quality books to the underprivileged children and youth of Erie County, from birth to age 18.

The second is that some time this year we will give away our 500,000th book!

Distributions Chair Linda Smalley reported giving 31,446 books this year, bringing the total since our founding in 1990 to 488,271 books through 2019. Considering that we are an all-volunteer organization, with no paid staff, this is an amazing achievement!

And because we are all-volunteer, we have very low overhead. Acquisitions Chair Belle Koncewicz reports that we purchased 23,172 books in 2019 at a total cost of $32,701, for an average of $1.41/book. This is a bit higher than in previous years, because we decided to purchase more expensive books, like "Wimpy Kid" and "Bad Guys" that we knew would appeal to students at Lincoln and Edison schools.

Operating costs, including such items as rent, printing, postage, Internet, insurance, and advertising, represented only 14% of our total budget—and of course these expenses are unavoidable.

Most importantly, try to imagine all the children and youth over the last 30 years who would in many cases never have owned their own books were it not for the efforts of scores of volunteers—and the hundreds of generous donors—over the last three decades.

We began with an idea in 1990. Since then, our efforts to encourage literacy, life-long learning, and the love of reading have been richly realized. Stay tuned as we work on the next half million books!

THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO HELPED US REACH THIS MILESTONE!
March 31 at Junior’s Last Laugh on State Street in Erie will see the 14th annual Hooked on Books for Kids Corporate Spelling Bee.

This unique event features teams of three intrepid adults representing businesses, offices, and volunteer organizations from the Erie area competing against each other for first and second prizes in spelling and audience-voted prizes for best costumes and most spirit.

Entry fees for teams start at $300 and can go as high as $5,000. In addition to the spelling teams, the event offers a 50-50 game, a “Chinese Auction” for bidding on goody baskets donated by local businesses, tip boards, and this year silent auctions for two beautiful quilts.

As in past years, MC’s for the event will be WQLN’s Traci Teudhope and WXBB’s Allan Carpenter. Heading up our panel of celebrity judges will be faithful head judge, Mary Jane Koenig, who does the arduous job of selecting the words to challenge spellers at every level.

So come down and enjoy Junior’s good food and drink, the competition among the spellers, and the chance to win our unique paddle 50-50 game, bid on baskets or quilts, and enjoy the crazy costumes and spirit of the spellers!

To sponsor a team, call Dean Baldwin at 814-8164.

Thanks to New and Renewing Members

Major Donors $250 +
- Contemporary Ophthalmology (Spelling Bee)
- Don Y Dian Fund of the Erie Community Foundation
- Harry & Nicole Martin via the Moses Maimonides Fund of the Erie Community Foundation
- Monahan & Monahan, CPA (Spelling Bee)
- National Fuel (Spelling Bee)
- Shawn & Sharon Rooney Fund of the Erie Community Foundation
Barnes and Noble Patrons Give 2,615 Books

Barnes and Noble Booksellers selected HOBFK as recipients for its 2019 Book Fair, which ran from December 1-31, both in store and online.

In addition to hosting our readers and gift wrappers on the 14th, the store’s clerks asked patrons as they checked out if they would like to donate a book to Hooked on Books for Kids. As a result, we received 2,615 brand new beautiful books!

What made these books special is that they added tremendous variety to our selections, so that nonprofits had lots of choices when choosing books for their kids.

A million thanks to Barnes and Noble and to all its patrons who donated!

Check Us Out!
To keep up with our many activities, please “Friend” us on Facebook. There you’ll find photos of recent events, news of upcoming events, and comments by recipients of our books.

On our web site, you can find information about our programs, an application to receive books, a video of the hijinks at our spelling bee, and information about donating.

Remember: We are an all-volunteer organization, so we have no paid employees or officers and very low overhead. 85-90% of donations are used to purchase books; the rest goes for essential operating costs.

WE ARE GOOD STEWARDS WITH YOUR MONEY!

Benefactors $100+
AAUW Book Club
M/M James Milewski
Dorothy Negro
Dr. & Mrs. David Teufel
Rod Troester
Werner Books’ Patrons

Sponsors $25+ (cont’d)
M/M Calvin Morse, Jr.
Betty Motsch
Marilyn Redenius
Phil Rewers
Katherine Zlotnicki

Friends $10+
Norma Jeanne Grieshober
Lisa Welch

Patrons $50+
Jacqueline Ballay
Lorraine Benedict
M/M Craig Cunningham
Fred’s Furniture
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Sponsors $25+
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If you prefer to receive your newsletter by email, with your next donation, include your email address and a note asking for online delivery, Or send a notice to Dean Baldwin at dxb11@psu.edu.

However you get your newsletter, thanks for donating!
WON'T YOU PLEASE HELP US?

Please use this coupon to lend us your support. The children and youth of Erie County will thank you.

___ Major Donor $250+
___ Benefactor $100+
___ Patron $50+
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___ Friend $10+

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Donations to Books for Kids are tax deductible for those who itemize.