

# THE BUFFALO NEWS

**Margaret M. Sullivan**

*Editor and Vice President*

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Dear Child Advocate,

It's almost time for the start of the 2009 "News Books for Kids" drive.

This is the 15th year for this special community effort by The Buffalo News, Project Flight and Quebecor World Buffalo in partnership with Wegmans, Buffalo State College, the United Way of Buffalo and Erie County, the Buffalo and Erie County Public Libraries and the Junior League of Buffalo.

Our goal is simple — to put books in the hands of disadvantaged children.

Most of us learn the joy of reading as children. If we are lucky, we grow up having many favorite books. There's usually a special one we read with a parent or loved one. Unfortunately, many children don't experience the security of falling asleep to the soothing words of a favorite story coming to an end. Many never have a book they can call their own.

Over the past 14 years, "News Books for Kids" has placed more than 1.4 million new and used books into the hands of children in need. The goal this year is 70,000. During the drive, which will be held April 1 – April 30, we are hopeful that many in our community will donate new books.

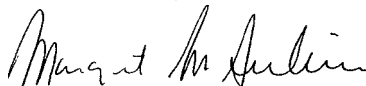
As the leader of an organization that helps young people, you can boost this project by signing on to distribute books to children. Each book will have a bookstamp with a place for you to write the name of the child receiving it.

So we can plan for this distribution, we need to know what types of books you can use and the amount. You can provide the information by filling out the enclosed application and returning it to Project Flight by May 15.

Prompt return of the survey will help us launch another successful drive. Last year, over 95,115 books were distributed to children in our community, both individually and through community agency lending libraries. The drive also raised more than \$17,331.64 for the purchase of braille, large print and other specialized books.

On behalf of the project sponsors, I thank you for your interest. I'm sure you share our belief that the love of reading will inspire every child to achieve a successful future.

Sincerely,



Margaret Sullivan  
Editor & Vice President