



Your Impact

Prepared for Adler & Lipkus Family Foundation

April 2021

April 9, 2021

Dear Sandy and Ted,

CNIB Foundation is most grateful for your steadfast support of braille literacy for children who are blind or partially sighted over the past three years. I am pleased to provide you with a report on the Printbraille Family Library Project in 2020-21.

Like many community programs, CNIB's Printbraille Family Library Project was impacted by COVID-19 and school closures this past year. In 2019 as you know, we shipped PrintBraille packages to school libraries. This year, however, with so many schools closed and students primarily learning remotely we decided to send packages directly to families. 50 English packages and 10 French packages were assembled and the majority of these have been distributed. We expect the remaining packages will be sent out by the end of April.

Many parents of children who become braille readers often do not undertake to learn braille themselves. Braille is typically taught to children once they are in school by specialized Teachers of the Visually Impaired. The past year has made it even more critical to place not only braille books and braille tools in the homes of these children, but also to provide parents and caregivers with the information and support they need to reinforce their child's braille literacy skills.

In addition to sending packages to families, we developed and offered two workshops to introduce them to braille and to help them connect with other parents and families. These recorded workshops are an exciting addition to the PrintBraille Family Library project, and over time, we hope they will inspire a community of families across the country who can support and learn from each other as they continue their braille literacy journey.

I hope the details below show you the impact of your gift and how much support you are providing to young braille readers – even during this turbulent year.

Gratefully,



Daniel Moore
Manager, Corporate and Foundation Partnerships

Family Workshops

The two workshops below were delivered live to families who requested to receive a printbraille package in English this winter. The recordings were attended by families live, and then uploaded to YouTube as a resource for later programming. The first workshop was led by the CNIB Foundation's braille educator, Karen Brophay, and the second one is hosted by a parent who shared her perspective on how she helps her child build their literacy skills at home.

Workshop 1: Hardboiled Braille:

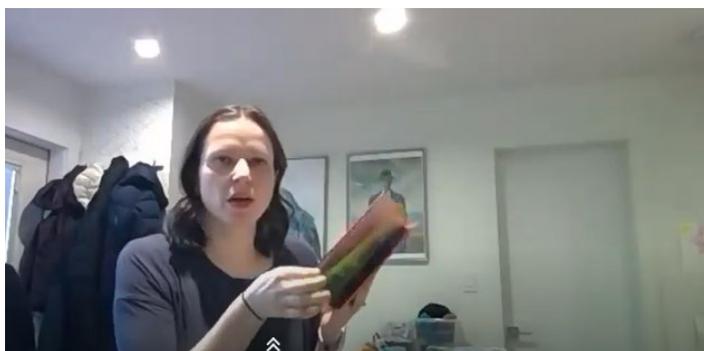
<https://youtu.be/lauIGlxameI>.



An interactive introduction to braille for sighted family members of children of all ages.

Workshop 2: Parent Perspective:

<https://youtu.be/CO9c2C4PWoM>



Other parents of children who are braille readers offer simple tips and tricks to help encourage their child's use of braille at home. Information about the curated package and how to use the braille learning materials is also featured.

Printbraille Picture Books

Two printbraille books were included in each English package. In these special books, braille is inserted into regular picture books on clear plastic pages so pictures underneath can still be seen as some braille readers may have enough vision to see large or high contrast images or the parent can still see the image in

order to describe it for the braille reader. National Braille Press, the producer, also offers specially designed activities online to accompany each book.

1. Grumpy Monkey by Suzanne Lang

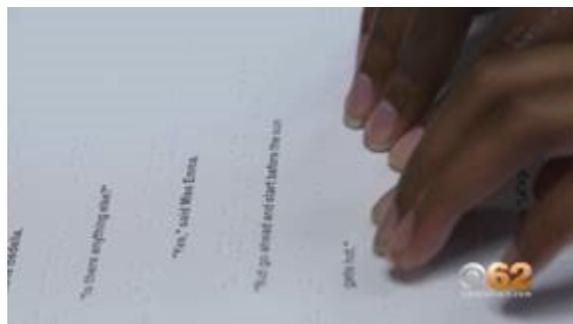
<https://www.nbp.org/ic/nbp/programs/gep/grumpy/grumpy-main>

2. Dragons Love Tacos by Adam Rubin

https://www.nbp.org/ic/nbp/programs/gep/dragon/ge_dragonmain.html

Uncontracted Braille Books

Print-and-braille books from Seedlings display the print equivalent for the sighted reader, interlined with braille. This is an important format to enable parents to assist their children with home reading. We had hoped to include two such books in the package for families. However, as Seedlings was unable to ship these books due to COVID-19, we purchased and included a \$25 Seedlings gift certificate in each English package (Seedlings does not produce French books).



Our recommendation to parents was that they use this gift certificate to purchase two books in this print-and-braille format. Sample titles include:

- **Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs by Judi Barrett**
- **Oh, the Thinks You Can Think! by Dr. Seuss**

Resource for Family Members to Learn Braille by Sight Just Enough to Know Better by Eileen Curran:

Students who learn braille are typically assigned a specially trained Teacher of the Visually Impaired, who works with them in the school environment. Many parents do not learn braille themselves, meaning that they cannot assist their child. This self-paced workbook teaches just enough braille for parents and teachers to read along with a child.

Learning Materials

Braille Flash Cards

This package included a set of braille Flashcards which we purchased from the Braille Superstore. Each set included 100 index-card-sized flash cards with large, raised print and braille, including upper and lowercase letters, numbers, punctuation marks, and two dozen commonly used words, enabling parents to practice braille reading skills with their children.

Pop-A-Cell - A fun and NOISY way to learn about braille!



Each PrintBraille Family Library package included a set of four colourful laminated Pop-A-Cell cards. The Pop-A-Cell provides a fun — even addictive! — way to play with and learn about braille characters. It is a large-scale braille cell presented on a card measuring 2 5/8 x 4 1/4 inches. Pop the durable plastic cell dots up or down to create various braille characters.

Braille Dymo Labeler

Each PrintBraille Family Library package included a Braille Dymo Labeler. As children are learning to read print, they see it everywhere. This handy device allows parents to add braille labels to items around the house, so their emerging braille reader has more exposure to braille. Parents can label tin cans in their cupboards to get the child involved in shopping and preparing meals or CDs so the child can pick the next movie the family watches together. The possibilities are endless! Visit <https://youtu.be/3X4hVk0zSgU>.

Parent Testimonial

"As the parent of a five-year old blind child, I would like to recommend the Printbraille Family Library Project. It was the perfect balance of review, offering tips and recommendations for at-home learning and listening to the stories of other parents and professionals who have walked in my shoes. I have already put some of the recommendations into practice, and I felt inspired to create a wonderful board game that is perfect for both my blind and sighted child."

2020 Braille Creative Writing Contest

Thank you for funding the cash prizes for the 2020 Braille Creative Writing Contest. This contest celebrates braille literacy and encourages children and youth impacted by blindness to flex their creative muscles while practicing their braille skills. Elementary and secondary school students submit short stories, essays or poems in English or French. Winners read their stories virtually at the awards presentation during the Connecting the Dots Conference, October 7-8 (Toronto) and October 16-17 (Montreal).

2020 Winners:

Group 1 Poetry (Grade K-2)

1st prize – Emily Wang

Group 1 Short Story (Grade K-2)

1st prize – Deepa Carroll

2nd prize – Juliet Pinter

3rd prize – Aiza Shah

Group 2 Poetry (Grades 3-5)

1st prize – Sofia Idone

Group 2 Short Story (Grades 3-5)

1st prize – Janna Cheung

2nd prize – Keaton Hamilton

3rd prize – Habiba Hafez

Group 3 Poetry (Grades 6-8)

1st prize – Alethea Moroney

2nd prize – Steve Kiema

3rd prize – Benjamyn Francey

Group 3 Short Story (Grades 6-8)

1st prize – Margot Wehrle

2nd prize – Dalaynie Conn

3rd prize – Matthew Silvius

Group 4 Poetry (Grades 9-12)

1st prize – Veronika Copping

2nd prize – Alyssa Burton

3rd prize – Eitel Houedakor

Group 4 Short Story (Grades 9-12)

1st prize – Makayla Conn

2nd prize – Calle Walton

3rd prize – Nathan Thomas

Visit <https://www.cnib.ca/en/explore-award-winning-entries> to experience the winning submissions.

Your generous gift was applied to the costs of researching, planning, and implementing the Printbraille Family Library Project to 60 families across the country as well as prizes for the 2020 Braille Creative Writing Contest. A breakdown of expenditures is summarized below.

Item	Expenditure
Braille books (\$4,555) and learning materials (\$4,296)	\$8,851
Postage	\$970
Planning, distributing packages, and hosting family workshops	\$4,879
Prizes-Braille Creative Writing Contest	\$5,000
Total	\$19,700

What's Happening Next

We hope the Family workshops will generate interest among families in a **Parent Meet Up** in Zoom, a casual type of peer support to be held in late Spring 2021, once they have had a chance to review the two recorded workshops and begin working with their packages.

If you have any questions at all about our report, please reach out to me anytime.

Daniel Moore

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CNIB MISSION

To change what it is to be blind through innovative programs and powerful advocacy that enable Canadians impacted by blindness to live the lives they choose.

ABOUT US

The CNIB Foundation is a charitable organization driven to change what it is to be blind today. We deliver innovative programs and powerful advocacy that empower people impacted by blindness to live their dreams and tear down barriers to inclusion. Our work as a blindness charity is powered by a network of volunteers, donors and partners from coast to coast to coast.

Charitable Number: 119219459RR0003

