



**Canada's First Children's Book Bank Celebrates Milestone –  
Six Months of Operation and Over 15,000 Books Distributed to Kids  
Across Toronto and Beyond**

Toronto - November 27, 2008 - The Children's Book Bank, Canada's first storefront children's book bank, has celebrated its first six months of operation serving children across Metro Toronto and beyond. Located at 350 Berkeley Street, the Children's Book Bank has distributed over 15,000 new and gently used children's books. Built through school and community book drives and private donations, the Children's Book Bank has been established on a core principle of providing a valuable use for high quality children's books which would otherwise wind up in landfill.

"Due to social and economic factors, many children are not able to own books," said Kim Beatty, founder of The Children's Book Bank. "By recycling good quality children's books into the hands of children who cannot purchase their own books we are not only helping our environment, but we are also sharing the joy of reading and supporting the development of childhood literacy."

"Research shows that in addition to reading with children from infancy through early elementary school years, book ownership is a significant determining factor in a child's later literacy success," says Marguerite Campbell, principal of Rose Avenue Public School in St. James Town. "While our local libraries do an excellent job of promoting reading, the unique contribution The Children's Book Bank offers our community is the opportunity for children to build their own book collections and foster an ongoing love of reading."

Since opening its doors in May, The Children's Book Bank has hosted thousands of visitors, including a wide variety of families in the multiculturally diverse GTA, many of whom are eager to develop and improve English language skills, as well as local school, daycare and after school groups. "We have been overwhelmed by the tremendous community response and demand for our service," said Ms Beatty. "Beyond our own neighbourhood, we've have kids from coming Flemington Park, Dundas West, Etobicoke and even Hamilton. We've conducted outreach drives to kids in Jane/Finch and Markham Road areas. The children are so excited they can keep the books. We are absolutely delighted to be helping such an enthusiastic community of young readers!"

The Children's Book Bank offers books for infants and children up to twelve years old and has a staff of over 60 trained volunteers including retired teachers, librarians and student teachers who provide children and their families with support and advice on appropriate books for their interests and reading levels. The Children's Book Bank is open four days a week and offers informal literacy support such as one on one readings, along with story readings and other literacy events for visiting groups.

Inspired by a life-long love of reading and community service, Ms. Beatty left a career in litigation law to make The Children's Book Bank her prime focus. After a year spent researching and developing a business plan including her vision for a network of children's book banks across the country, Beatty built a core team of volunteers to make the first step in her vision a reality

"We have accomplished so much in such a short time due to the enthusiasm of the team and the responsiveness of the community," says Ms. Beatty. "We are grateful to our supporters, including the many children who have cleaned out their shelves to share their favourite books. We look forward to increasing our awareness in the community and working with our supporters to serve even more young readers, here in Toronto and hopefully in future locations as our vision expands."

**About The Children's Book Bank:**

The Children's Book Bank was founded by Kim Beatty, who left a career in litigation law to address a real need in Toronto supporting the development of literacy skills in children. The Children's Book Bank opened in May of 2008. With the help of a core team of enthusiastic volunteers, including retired teachers and librarians, student teachers and book lovers of all ages, the book bank has collected tens of thousands of new and gently used children's books. In addition to providing children with free books, the Children's Book Bank offers literacy support and advice to children and their families and works with local schools and community agencies to encourage children to develop a life long love of reading. Visit our website at [www.childrensbookbank.com](http://www.childrensbookbank.com)

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