

**Sample responses from groups who benefit from  
BE THE STAR YOU ARE®!**

- ❖ “On behalf of the Child Abuse Prevention Council of Contra Costa County, Inc (CAPC), I would like to extend my warmest appreciation for the generous donation of new books valued over \$1200. We are truly grateful for your support of our agency’s mission to prevent child abuse enabling us to better serve the children to create a safer environment.” **Carol Carrillo, MSW, Executive Director, Child Abuse Prevention Council**
  
- ❖ “The holiday season is the season for children. Thanks to your donation of books, this season was brighter for our kids. Your generosity helps brighten hundreds of lives.” **Susan Martinez, Director of Volunteers Children’s Hospital**
  
- ❖ “I picked up the Cooking 101 books yesterday, these are awesome! They are so much more than your standard cook book. I love how nutrition, food allergies, and basic cooking concepts are incorporated into this handy little book. Thank you , thank you , thank you!” Veronica Wimer, Purchasing Manager, food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano
  
- ❖ I am writing to thank you for the very generous donation of books that I have received for my lifeskills class. As a result of the state budget crisis our students do not have access to supplemental educational resources, materials and supplies. And for this reason, your gift is even more special to the deserving children who will benefit from using the books.” **Regina Boutte, Foshay Learning Center, Los Angeles**
  
- ❖ " The youngsters we provide service to would like to say “thank you”, for your very generous donation of new books. The titles are fabulous and the kids totally enjoy reading them. It means a great deal to these children to be remembered, and your donation is often the only gift the children have ever received. Our hope is that your act of kindness will help generate good deeds in them. We are very fortunate to have such quality books donated by you to inspire them. "**Shannon Grosenheider, Executive Administrative Assistant, Juvenile Hall Auxiliary**

- ❖ “Thank you for your donations of fantastic books. The clients love the books. Wardrobe for Opportunity relies on contributions like yours to provide economically disadvantaged women transitioning from welfare to help them find a job which helps them to achieve economic self-sufficiency.” **Karen Smith, Executive Director, Wardrobe for Opportunity**
- ❖ “I am speechless with happiness and gratitude to Be the Star You Are! for your generous donation of beautiful books to my Write On! Book Drive. You are doing amazing work and you are an inspiration.”  
**Dallas Woodburn, Founder Write On! Literacy Foundation for kids**
- ❖ “Thank you so much, BE THE STAR YOU ARE<sup>®</sup>!, for supporting our population of homeless and runaway youth with your kind donations of books, tapes and magazines! Your efforts are sincerely appreciated.” **Karen Lottman, Northern California Family Center Safe Place**
- ❖ “We appreciate the opportunity in helping to enrich lives needing to be nurtured. What better way than reading and listening as these are key processes of doing this. We are happy to participate.” **Pat Berndt LITA (Love Is The Answer)**
- ❖ “Thank you for finding "hard to find" material on grief related to pet loss and sharing it with our group.” **Dr. Cecelia Soares Pet Grief Counseling**
- ❖ “Our Safe Haven resource center library greatly appreciates receiving appropriate materials for the shelves. We thank you for finding us.” **Karen Guard Founder, Safe Haven for Little People**
- ❖ “Our people have used everything from every shipment and the materials are really making a difference. Thank you so much for your help and we look forward to an ongoing association with BE THE STAR YOU ARE<sup>®</sup>!” **Becky Gomez, Born Free**
- ❖ "Because dogs & cats can't read, these play toys are wonderful substitutes and will be given to the office animals and to the animals going to new homes, and to the animals waiting to be adopted to help pass the time. " **Lanie Thompson, Adoption Manager at ARF (Animal Rescue Foundation)**
- ❖ “Be the Star You Are! organization has supported our efforts by providing wonderful children’s books that we include in our birthday gift bags. Many of

the children receiving them have never owned a book and this is a way to introduce them to the wonderful world of reading. Birthday gift bags are distributed in shelters and through food shelves where managers have seen the delight in the eyes of the children receiving your beautiful books. We know the books are having a positive impact on the increased literacy of these children along with increased self-esteem. Be the Star You Are! is truly making a difference in the lives of those less fortunate. “ **Karen Kitchel, President, Cheerful Givers**

- ❖ “Our poor children love having a new book to hold and keep for their own. Most families here in Thorton, AK, do not own a single book. A book is such a wonderful gift and I know they will bring many hours of joy to so many children in desolate poverty. Thank you so much for caring for our poor.” **Joann Cayce, Joann Cayce Charities, Thorton, Arkansas**
  
- ❖ “Thanks also for all that you and Heather do to promote literacy. You two are a ball of fire and I wish you and your organization continued growth and success.” **John DeDakis, CNN Senior Copy Editor (Wolf Blitzer's Situation Room)**
  
- ❖ “Thank you so much for your generous donation of books which is extremely important to our various clients. Reading is so important to the development of young minds and your donation helps the young people tremendously.” **Lauren Gray, Monument Crisis Center Volunteer**
  
- ❖ “I cannot thank you and "Be the Star you are" enough for your support of the Military spouse and community in 2008.” **Kimberly Ryusaki Marrero, co-Founder ,Operation Live Transformed**
  
- ❖ “We at the Bay Area Rescue Mission Family Center would like to take a moment to say thank you for the books you donated to our Family Center. Your thoughtfulness and kindness to the Bay Area Rescue Mission is greatly appreciated. Again, thank you.” **Carey Kachurka, Director, Bay Area Rescue**
  
- ❖ “By providing books, Be the Star You Are! has increased literacy for our new low income homeowners. Many of our children do not have access to libraries and you are improving their reading skills. Thanks a lot for the helpful books.” **Isabel Paez, Habitat for Humanity**

- ❖ “Our children were thrilled to receive a book each from you. A book is truly a magical gift, forwarding language learning and literacy skills that will last a lifetime. Early language development, while important for all children, is of paramount importance for the special population we educate, who have many challenges. Thank you for helping invest in our children’s future.” **Jill Ellis, M.Ed., Executive Director, Center for Early Intervention on Deafness**
- ❖ “Thank you so much for your donation of books.. You always amaze me with your thoughtfulness, and always make me feel hugged!” **Juanita Harte, Bret Harte Memorial Foundation**
- ❖ “Our purpose is to prevent child abuse and neglect. It’s great having books in Spanish. The positive content is excellent. We read to the little ones then send the books home with them.” **Sandy Hathaway, Bay Area Crisis Center**
- ❖ “I’m impressed with the work you do and resources you provide.”  
**Vicki Salvin, LCSW, Traumatic Stress Resources, Palm Springs, CA**
- ❖ “Thank you so very much for your generous donation of books again this year for my Write On Holiday Book Drive. Your warmth, encouragement, and mentorship mean so much to me. YOU are my role model of someone shining brightly and inspiring everyone around you!!”  
**Dallas Woodburn, Founder, Write On! Foundation**
- ❖ “I think 'Be the Star you are' is a very worthwhile nonprofit group. I'm sure your dad would be very proud of all that you are doing to empower many young women to have confidence and be a star within themselves. That is great! Thank you very much for giving so much to so many!!” **Lorin Mizuiri, Librarian and Volunteer**
- ❖ “We were very excited to receive such wonderful books for our...project of the heart...thanks so much for this effort” **Nancy Harrington, Executive Director, Books for the Barrio**
- ❖ “I’d like to take this opportunity to thank you for your generous donation to our organization. We will give the books to area families to read, enjoy and learn from. We donate books to Headstart parents, SWAK (South West Advocate for Kids), WIC (Women, Infants, Children), El Refugio (a domestic violence shelter), and other area programs. Thank you for your generous donation.”  
**Linda Ferrara ,Board of Directors – Literacy Link – Leamos, New Mexico**

- ❖ “Thanks so much for the book donations. We really appreciate you. The kinship families are going to love them!” **Alicia Hull, Donations Director, Lincoln Child Center**
  
- ❖ "Thank you for all you do - you make the world such a better place."  
**Kathe Gogolewski, Casa de Amparo**
  
- ❖ “Cynthia, again, I truly appreciate your donations. Our clients will enjoy the books and more so the fact you and your organization took the time to support our center and their care. We hope you continue to be blessed in your endeavors and be actively supported for many years to come.” **Miriam M. Elizondo, MS, LPC-S, Executive Vice President of Client Services, The Rape Crisis Center**