



## ***Book Trust & EPIC Business Members Partnering to Support Colorado's Children***

### **About Book Trust**

Book Trust was founded in Fort Collins, Colorado in 2001 with the mission to engage every child in book choice and ownership, cultivating literacy-rich communities. Our vision is that every child from underserved communities, has access to books and discovers the joy and power of reading.

### **Book Trust in Colorado**

Book access is the single biggest barrier to literacy. In low-income areas around the country, the ratio of books-to-children is one book to 300 kids. Research shows 75% of children who aren't proficient readers by the end of third grade are four times less likely to graduate high school. Fifty-two percent of Colorado 4<sup>th</sup> grade students are not reading at grade level. Books access alone is not enough. Studies confirm a longstanding belief guiding Book Trust's program: ownership and choice matter -- and is motivation for interest in reading. Choice increases student motivation to read, which subsequently increases voluntary reading and reading achievement.



### **How does the Book Trust program work?**

This year, **Book Trust will serve more than 8,900 students at 35 schools across Colorado** in grades Pre-Kindergarten through 3<sup>rd</sup>. During each month of the academic year, students choose books from the Scholastic Book Clubs flyer and are empowered to select 2-3 books at no cost to them. Teachers and students celebrate the arrival of book orders and students read at school and at home, sharing with one another and engaging family members in the reading process. Over the course of the school year, students add up to 25 books to their home libraries.

### **How can your Company partner with Book Trust?**

Book Trust's program costs \$100 per student for the entire academic year. Donors can choose to support one classroom, an entire grade level or an entire school. Funding varies depending on enrollment, but typically begins at \$2,500 for one classroom. Book Trust works with donors to identify a school to support, which can be a new school in your community, or a school already enrolled in the program.

### **Can our employees participate?**

Yes! Book Trust offers employee volunteer opportunities for partners. Traditionally, volunteers visit schools on book arrival days and participate in the classroom celebration and literacy activities. This year, Book Trust is offering a virtual volunteer opportunity which will include read-alouds to be shared with students at your partner schools.

### **Interested in learning more about bringing Book Trust to your community?**

Please contact:

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