



## News Release

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### Cleveland Kids' Book Bank to Receive \$25,000 Prize

(Cleveland, OH) **Cleveland Kids' Book Bank has been selected to receive the \$25,000 Anisfield-Wolf Memorial Award for creating a culture of reading in low-income homes throughout Cuyahoga County.** The award is presented annually by the **Cleveland Foundation** and **The Center for Community Solutions** for outstanding community service.

Between March of 2016 and June of 2017, nearly 650,000 high-quality children's books were given to families in need through 548 partner organizations that encourage parents to read with their children and inspire children to read on their own. The 2.5 employees rely on over 2,000 volunteers of all ages and diverse backgrounds who help get books ready for distribution.

Originally known for installing Little Free Libraries in low-income neighborhoods, the organization quickly discovered a never-ending need for books. They developed a unique partnership with an online bookseller who was sending 100,000+ high-quality, gently used children's books to recycling every month. Those books now go to Cleveland's children. For more efficient and effective service, the organization developed partnerships with city and county agencies, schools, and nonprofit organizations that serve low-income families. Through this network, the organization expects to distribute over 300,000 books to 77,000 underserved children in 2017.

"Early exposure to reading is critical to brain development, literacy skills, school readiness, and adult success," said **John R. Corlett, president and executive director of The Center for Community Solutions.** "Unfortunately, for many children, having a book is a luxury. Two women in our community recognized the tragedy in that situation and took action to help relieve it. In just a few years, their efforts have benefitted thousands of Greater Cleveland's children and families—some who had never owned a book of their own."

"The Cleveland Foundation is pleased to honor the Cleveland Kids' Book Bank as recipient of this year's Anisfield-Wolf Memorial Award," said **Kathleen Hallissey, director of community-responsive grantmaking at the Cleveland Foundation.** "By putting books into the hands of our community's children, the Cleveland Kids' Book Bank has opened the door for them to learn, to imagine, and to begin creating their future. Their work has impacted not only the children but also helped deepen the bond between children and their parents, strengthening the family and creating an environment where they are learning together."

The Anisfield-Wolf Memorial Award will be presented during the 2017 Celebration of Human Services on Friday, October 20, at the Hilton Garden Inn and Conference Center—Downtown.

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The Anisfield-Wolf Memorial Award is one of two awards established in 1964 by the late Edith Anisfield-Wolf—poet, philanthropist, and civic leader. It is named after her father, John Anisfield, and her husband, Eugene Everett Wolf. Known as a quiet and reserved woman, Edith was ahead of her time in her thinking on social issues. She left her mark on Cleveland and its institutions with her main focus being to eliminate racial friction.

*A nonprofit, non-partisan think tank, **The Center for Community Solutions** focuses on solutions to health, social and economic issues. With offices in Cleveland and Columbus, Community Solutions identifies, analyzes, and explains key health, social, and economic data and issues, and proposes non-partisan solutions to improve the lives of Ohioans. Established in 1913. For more information, visit [www.CommunitySolutions.com](http://www.CommunitySolutions.com) and follow us on [Facebook.com/CommunitySols](https://www.facebook.com/CommunitySols); Twitter @CommunitySols, @CommunitySolsED, @CCSPolicy, @CCSOOhioResearch, @CCSOOhioHealth; and Instagram @Community\_Solutions.*

*Established in 1914, the [Cleveland Foundation](http://www.ClevelandFoundation.org) is the world's first community foundation and one of the largest today, with assets of \$2.1 billion and 2015 grants of \$95 million. Through the generosity of donors, the foundation improves the lives of residents of Cuyahoga, Lake and Geauga Counties by building community endowment, addressing needs through grantmaking, and providing leadership on vital issues. The foundation tackles the community's priority areas – education and youth development, neighborhoods, health and human services, arts and culture, economic development and purposeful aging – and responds to the community's needs. For more information, visit [www.ClevelandFoundation.org](http://www.ClevelandFoundation.org) and follow us on [Facebook.com/ClevelandFoundation](https://www.facebook.com/ClevelandFoundation), Twitter @CleveFoundation and Instagram @CleveFoundation.*

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