

# *Raising Charitable Children*

## **Recommended Children's Reading**

### **Donating to a Charity**

**The Giving Box: Create a Tradition of Giving with Your Children** by Fred Rogers (Philadelphia: Running Press, 2000) Ages 7 and up. The folktales and fables in this small volume encourage children in the spirit of giving. A “giving box” is also included—a simple way to make donating to a charity a family ritual.

### **“Feel Good” Books**

**The Giving Tree** by Shel Silverstein

**Chicken Soup for Little Souls: The Goodness Gorillas** by Lisa McCourt (Deerfield Beach, Florida: Health Communications, Inc., 1997). Ages 4-7

**Kids' Random Acts of Kindness** by Dawna Markova (Berkley, CA: Conari Press, 1994). Ages 4-8

### **Collecting and Donating Items**

**Berenstain Bears Think of Those in Need** (by Stan and Jan Berenstain New York: Random House, 1999) Simple story of a family who collects too much stuff and decides to donate it to charity

**Boxes for Katje** by Candace Fleming, illustrated by Stacey Dressen-McQueen (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2003) Ages 5-10. Heartwarming story of a girl in Indiana sending care packages to a girl in Holland after World War II.

**The Keeping Quilt** written and illustrated by Patricia Polacco. 2003.

### **Building Community**

**Franklin's Neighborhood** by Paulette Bourgeois, illustrated by Brenda Clark (New York: Scholastic, Inc. 1999). Ages 3-8. Franklin learns that the best thing about his neighborhood is the neighbors.

**City Green** by DyAnne DiSalvo-Ryan (New York: Morrow Junior Books, 1994) Ages 4-8. The story of how a community garden brings light and hope into a neighborhood and even changes the outlook of irritable Old Man Hammer.

**Miss Rumphius** written and illustrated by Barbara Cooney. An inspiring story about a woman who chooses to make a difference in the world by sprinkling wild lupine seeds all around her town.

### **Helping the Hungry and Homeless**

**The Lady in the Box** by Anne McGovern, illustrated by Marni Backer (New York: Turtle Books, 1999) Ages 4-8. Two children help a homeless woman by providing food and warm clothing.

**Sophie and the Sidewalk Man** by Stephanie S. Tolan, illustrated by Susan Avishai (New York: Simon and Schuster, 1992). Ages 7-10. Sophie weighs her compassion for a homeless man against her desire for a small stuffed hedgehog. Simple and realistic.

**Fly Away Home** by Eve Bunting, illustrated by Ronald Himler (New York: Clarion Books, 1993) Ages 5-8. This story of a boy and his father living in the airport will make the idea of homelessness real to young children.

**Uncle Willie and the Soup Kitchen** by DyAnne DiSalvo-Ryan (New York: William Morrow and Co., 1997) Ages 6-8. Uncle Willy brings his nephew with him when he works at a soup kitchen.

**Gracie's Girl** by Ellen Wittlinger (New York: Simon and Schuster, 2000) Ages 9-12. Helping out at a soup kitchen doesn't seem "cool" to Bess, until she meets someone who puts a face on hunger and homelessness.

### **Supporting the Rights of Animals**

**Hoot** by Carl Hiaasen (New York: Knopf Publishing, 2002). Ages 9-12. An ecological mystery for middle schoolers in which Roy, a new kid at school, sets out to save some burrowing owls from developers.

**Can We Save Them?** By David Dobson, illustrated by James M. Needham (Watertown, MA: Charlesbridge Publishing, 1997). Ages 4-8. A look at 12 North American species (including peregrine falcons, Peary caribou, and Puerto Rican parrots) threatened with extinction. Kids learn how humans have contributed to species extinction and what we can do to remedy it.

**One Day at Wood Green Animal Shelter** by Patricia Casey (Cambridge, MA: Candlewick Press, 2001). Ages 4-8. Learn about the workings of a humane society from this informative and lively book. Perfect for young animal lovers.

### **Protecting the Environment**

**Where Once There Was a Wood** by Denise Fleming (New York: Henry Holt and Company, 2000). Ages 3-6. Simple rhyming text explains the natural world that existed before houses and neighborhoods were built. Added notes for parents and older children explain how to build a backyard habitat.

**How Monkeys Make Chocolate: Foods and Medicines from the Rainforests** by Adrian Forsyth (Toronto: Owl Communications, 1995). Ages 9-12. Gets lots of information about the plants, animals, and people of the rainforest and their intricate web of interdependence.

**Everglades** by Jean Craighead George, paintings by Wendell Minor (New York: HarperCollins, 1999) Ages 5-10. A storyteller describes the Florida everglades as she guides children through this one-of-a-kind ecosystem. Minor's paintings depict the beauty of this home to alligators and egrets.

### **Reaching Out to People with Special Needs**

**Let's Talk About It: Extraordinary Friends** by Fred Rogers, photographs by Jim Judkis (New York: Puffin Books, 2000). Ages 4-8. Children meet children and adults with disabilities and get suggestions on how to make friends with them.

**Susan Laughs** by Jeanne Willis, illustrated by Tony Ross (New York: Henry Holt and Company, 2000). Ages 4-8. Rhyming couplets help readers understand that kids with disabilities are kids first. Children will identify with this young girl in a wheelchair.

**Be Good to Eddie Lee** by Virginia Fleming, illustrated by Floyd Cooper (New York: Putnam Publishing Group, 1997). Ages 5-9. The story of a friendship between a young girl and a boy with Downs Syndrome.

**Deaf Child Crossing** by Marlee Matlin (New York: Simon and Schuster, 2002). Ages 9-12. The story of friendship between a deaf child and a hearing child.

### **Aiding the Sick**

**Franklin Goes to the Hospital** by Paulette Bourgeois, illustrated by Brenda Clark (New York: Scholastic Inc., 2000). Ages 4-8. Franklin's visit to the hospital to repair a cracked shell can introduce young children to all aspects of a hospital stay.

**Going to the Hospital** by Fred Rogers, photographs by Jim Judkis (New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1997). Ages 4-8. A comforting look at hospitals and hospital procedures through the experiences of two young children.

**Magic School Bus: Inside the Human Body** by Joanna Cole, illustrated by Bruce Degen (New York: Scholastic, Inc., 1990) Ages 6-9. For kids interested in medicine, a fun and informative journey through the human body.

**Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes** by Eleanor Coerr, paintings by Ronald Himmler (New York: Puffin, 1999). Ages 8-12. A young Hiroshima girl in the 1940's is sick with leukemia from atom bomb radiation. Legend says that if she folds a thousand paper cranes she'll get healthy; she decides to try. A true story of courage.

### **Volunteering with Senior Citizens**

**Let's Talk About When Someone You Love is in a Nursing Home** by Diana Star Helmer (New York: Rosen Publishing Group, 2003). Ages 3-8. This book provides a simple understanding of what nursing homes are like and why people need to go to them. It also describes what children can do when they visit, such as give hugs and play games.

**Wilfrid Gordon McDonald Partridge** by Mem Fox, illustrated by Julie Vivas (La Jolla, CA: Kane/Miller Book Publishers, 1995). Ages 5-8. This boy with four names lives next door to a nursing home and has made friends with the residents. Heartwarming.

**Old People, Frogs, and Albert** by Nancy Hope Wilson, illustrated by Marcy D. Ramsey (New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1999). Ages 7-9. Albert, a fourth-grader who struggles with reading, learns to overcome his fear of the Pine Manor Nursing Home when his reading tutor, Mr. Spear, takes up residence there following a stroke.

**Miss Tizzy** by Libba Moore Gray, illustrated by Jada Rowland (New York: Simon and Schuster, 1998). Ages 4-8. The eccentric Miss Tizzy loves the neighborhood children, and they return her devotion when she becomes ill.

*And, one film recommendation:*

**Patch Adams**—tells the true story of an unconventional doctor who believes that pleasure, humor, and friendships are essential components of healing. "What so many sick people in this world suffer from—loneliness, boredom and fear—can't be cured with a pill," the real-life Adams says. The answer, he maintains, is conversation and laughter, and that's just the kind of medicine volunteers can provide.