



## Leading to Reading

### **Program Goals:**

- To provide books for children from low and moderate income families
- To increase parent involvement in their child's reading
- To increase AAUW visibility within the community

The project provided reading opportunities for children from low and moderate income families. We collaborated with approximately 20 agencies serving this population across Dutchess County and some parts of Ulster County. The project served those families who have few books at home or limited access to public libraries. Over the life of the project, over 39,000 new books have been distributed.

Books and literacy activities were provided to the following agencies: Astor Early Childhood Programs (Poughkeepsie, Wappingers Falls, Beacon, Amenia, Dover Plains, Red Hook), Hyde Park Universal Pre-K program, Community Family Development Center, Catharine Street Community Center, Tubman Terrace Academic Skills Program, Grace Smith House, Vassar Brothers Medical Center, Hudson River Lodging, Rural and Migrant Ministry, Book Buddies (Literacy Connections), AgriBusiness Child Development Center, House of Hope, and Abilities First. We worked in conjunction with the Astor Early Childhood Programs, Poughkeepsie Day School, Poughkeepsie Public School District, Friends of the Poughkeepsie Public Library District, the Manor at Woodside, and the Poughkeepsie Public Library District.

Community support was provided through a number of sources including Friends of the Poughkeepsie Public Library District, the Manor at Woodside, Kohl's Associates in Action, AAUW Cuisine Interest Group, Wappingers Congress of Teachers, Wappingers Congress of Retired Teachers, Macy's, Morgan Stanley, Friendship Circle (Poughkeepsie United Methodist Church), Central Hudson, Stewart's Shoppes, and Stewart's Holiday Match.

The project had high member participation and attracted new members. 104 members were on the volunteer list to attend work sessions, serve as community readers, or take part in activities. There were 58 members who served on the planning committee to determine yearly events, community partners, and funding opportunities. A number of members coordinated special projects, including the holiday gift wrapping, community readers, and summer programs.

In all, Leading to Reading had a very successful year!

Betty Harrel  
Project Coordinator