

# City and Country's Second Annual Family Service Day: Recommended Books and Websites

February 9, 2013

C&C's Diversity and Community Outreach Committees created a comprehensive list of books and websites to help teach children of all ages about critical social issues and the importance of reaching out to others. Books are grouped in the following categories: *Caring and Kindness*, *Poverty*, *Hunger And Homelessness*; *Volunteering*; *Seniors And Aging*; *Hospitals And Illness*; *Disabilities And Disability Rights*.



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## CARING AND KINDNESS

### PRESCHOOL AND EARLY ELEMENTARY

***Buddha at Bedtime: Tales of Love and Wisdom for you to Read with Your Child to Enchant, Enlighten and Inspire*** by Dharmachari Nagaraja (Duncan Baird, 2008) is a treasure. This book contains 20 modernized versions of ancient Buddhist stories. Most are full of whimsy and wonder, spurring on creative play, even as they teach about kindness, courage, and peace. Each story ends with a short restatement of the moral for reinforcement.

***The Berenstain Bears Lend a Helping Hand*** by Stan and Jan Berenstain (Random House Books for Young Readers, 1998). Ages 4-8. Brother and Sister learn about the rewards of kindness when they help the elderly Widow McGrizz.

***Chicken Soup for Little Souls: The Goodness Gorillas*** by Lisa McCourt (Health Communications, Inc., 1997). This feel-good story teaches the importance of reaching out to others – even the class bully.

***Giraffes Can't Dance*** by Giles Andreae (Cartwheel Books, March 1, 2012)

***If Everybody Did*** by Jo Ann Stover. This funny book has a nice message about the impact of your actions on others.

***Kids' Random Acts of Kindness*** by Dawna Markova (Conari Press, 1994). Stories of loving kindness written by kids of all ages.

***Ordinary Mary's Extraordinary Deed*** by Emily Pearson (Gibbs Smith, 2002). This book offers a lyrical and beautifully illustrated way to introduce and reinforce the "pay it forward" concept of kindness.

***Somebody Loves You, Mr. Hatch*** by Eileen Spinelli. A grumpy, lonely man discovers the importance of friendship when he receives an unexpected package from an admirer. A compelling message about the power of kindness

***The Gift of Nothing*** by Patrick McDonnell. A wonderful story for inspiring a discussion about the power of friendship, appreciation for what we have, and the true meaning of gift giving.

***The Giving Tree*** by Shel Silverstein (HarperCollins, 1987). The simple, classic story of a tree that will do whatever it takes to make a boy happy.

***The Quiltmaker's Gift*** by Jeff Brumbeau. A great read and the perfect antidote to the season's all-too-common messages of materialism and greed.

***The Three Questions*** by Jon J. Muth (Scholastic Press, 2002). Ages 4-8. Based on a short story by Leo Tolstoy, *The Three Questions* is the story of a little boy's quest to discover the secret to being a good person.

***Zen Shorts*** by Jon J. Muth (Scholastic Press, 2008). Muth weaves three zen fables into a whimsical story of three siblings who befriend their new panda bear neighbor. Each fable provides openings for discussions about anger and forgiveness, wealth, manners, imagination, patience, luck, and many other big ideas.

## MIDDLE SCHOOL

***The Giving Book: Open the Door to a Lifetime of Giving*** by Ellen Sabin is a wonderful tool to help elementary school kids understand and set their own charitable priorities. This book is one part journal, one part workbook, and one part cheerleader for the task of doing good.

***The Giving Box: Create a Tradition of Giving with Your Children*** by Fred Rogers (Running Press, 2001). 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 charity a family ritual.

## YOUNG ADULT

***Buddha in Your Backpack*** by Franz Metcalf (Seastone Press, 2003). Written for teenagers as an introduction to Buddhism. Includes sections on loving-kindness.

***Respect A Girl's Guide to Getting Respect and Deciding When Your Line is Crossed*** by Courtney Macavinta and Andrea Vander Pluym (Free Spirit Press, 2005) Discusses what respect is and how to both give and get respect. One chapter focuses on respect and communication in families, with friends, and in relationships.

***What Do you Stand for? A Kid's Guide to Building Character*** by Barbara A. Lewis (Free Spirit Press, 2005). The book includes inventories to get to know yourself and identify the characteristics you would like to develop in yourself. Each chapter then describes a characteristic such as caring or empathy, describes it, provides resources, and gives an action plan for developing the characteristic.

## ADULT

***Chicken Soup for the Volunteer's Soul: Stories to Celebrate the Spirit of Courage, Caring and Community*** by Jack Canfield, Mark Victor Hansen, Arline McGraw Oberst, John T. Boal and Tom & Laura Lagana (Health Communications, Inc., 2002). Stories of the creative ways people have contributed to their communities and made a difference in the lives of others.

***The Giving Family: Raising Our Children to Help Others*** by Susan Crites Price (Council on Foundations, 2001). Must be ordered from the Council on Foundations ([www.cof.org](http://www.cof.org)) Strategies for teaching kids the importance of charitable giving and community service.  
***The Power of Kindness: The Unexpected Benefits of Leading a Compassionate Life*** by Piero Ferrucci (Penguin Publishers, 2006).

***Raising Kids Who Will Make a Difference: Helping Your Family Live with Integrity, Value Simplicity, and Care for Others*** by Susan V. Vogt (Loyola Press, 2002). A warm and open account of the ups and downs of raising kids to care.

***Teaching Your Kids to Care: How to Discover and Develop the Spirit of Charity in Your Children*** by Deborah Spaide (Citadel Press, 1995). Practical ideas for instilling the spirit of compassion and community service in your children.

**American Psychological Association**

[www.apa.org/topics/kidscare.html](http://www.apa.org/topics/kidscare.html)

Article called "Teaching Gentleness in a Violent World."

**The Center for Learning**

[www.centerforlearning.org](http://www.centerforlearning.org)

Nonprofit educational publisher committed to integrating academic learning and universal values through the humanities.

**Do One Nice Thing**

[www.doonenicething.com](http://www.doonenicething.com)

Encourages individuals to start the week off right by performing one good deed each Monday.

**Good Character**

[www.goodcharacter.com/pp/caring.html](http://www.goodcharacter.com/pp/caring.html) (for grades K-5)

Website has information and exercises. Also sells videos.

**My Stuff**

[www.mystuffbags.org](http://www.mystuffbags.org)

Donate items (books, stuffed animals, etc.) to fill special bags for children entering foster care.

**The Random Acts of Kindness Foundation**

[www.actsofkindness.org](http://www.actsofkindness.org)

Organization that inspires people to perform random acts of kindness for others. The website includes ideas for random acts of kindness in the community and in the classroom.

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**POVERTY, HUNGER AND HOMELESSNESS****PRESCHOOL AND EARLY ELEMENTARY**

***Changing Places: A Kid's View of Shelter Living*** by Judy Wallace (Gryphon House, 1992). Ages 4-8. Eight different children, ages 6-13, describe what it is like to live in a homeless shelter.

***Great Joy*** by Kate Dicamillo is the sweet simple tale of a kind organ grinder, his monkey, and the little girl who worries over whether they has a place to go in the storm.

***Home Is Where We Live: Life at a Shelter Through a Young Girl's Eyes*** by Jane Hertensten (Cornerstone Press Chicago, 1995). Ages 4-8. Life seen through the eyes of a 10-year-old girl who has just arrived at the Cornerstone Community Outreach Center, a shelter for women and children in Chicago.

***A Rose for Abby*** by Donna Guthrie, illustrated by Dennis Hockerman (Abingdon Press, 1988). Abby has an idea that everyone in the community has something to offer the poor.

***Sam and the Lucky Money*** by Karen Chinn. A charming story about a boy who gets "lucky money" for his birthday and ventures into Chinatown to look for the best way to spend it.

***Someplace to Go*** by Maria Testa (Albert Whitman & Company, 1996). Ages 4-8. Story of a young boy named Davey, who lives with his mother and older brother in a shelter and eats at a soup kitchen.

***The Teddy Bear*** by David McPhail (Henry Holt and Co. BYR Paperbacks, 2005). Ages 4-8. When a child loses his teddy bear, a homeless man adopts it, showing the child how much he really has.

## MIDDLE SCHOOL

***Famine: The World Reacts*** by Paul Bennett (Smart Apple Media, 1999). Learn about the history of food shortages, why they occur and what you can do to help.

***Homeless*** by Bernard Wolf (Orchard Books, 1995). The story of 8-year-old Mikey's stay in a New York City emergency shelter.

***The Hundred Dresses*** by Eleanor Estes (Harcourt Paperbacks, 2004). Ages 9-12. When Wanda, a poor immigrant girl from Poland who always wears the same blue faded dress tells her classmates that she has one hundred dresses at home, the other children in class taunt her. After Wanda leaves the school because of the teasing, two of her classmates must deal with their guilt.

***Sophie and the Sidewalk Man*** by Stephanie S. Tolan, illustrated by Susan Avishai. (Four Winds Press, 1992). Sophie weighs out her compassion for a homeless man against her desire for a small stuffed hedgehog. Simple and realistic.

## YOUNG ADULT

***Food Fight: Poets Join the Fight Against Hunger with Poems to Favorite Food*** edited and illustrated by Michael J. Rosen (Harcourt, Brace and Co., 1996). Thirty-three children's poets contribute to the fight against hunger by penning poems about food. Read odes to pies, pizzas and matzo ball soup.

***No Place to Be: Voices of Homeless Children*** by Judith Berck (Houghton Mifflin Co., 1992). Weaves together commentary on homelessness with photos and the words of homeless kids.

## ADULT

***50 Ways to Save Our Children: Small, Medium and Big Ways You Can Change a Child's Life*** by Cheryl Saban (HarperCollins, 2002) Also, check the website at [www.50ways.org](http://www.50ways.org).

***52 Ways to Help Homeless People*** by Gary Temple (Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1991). Ideas for helping the homeless, with an emphasis on education and social action.

***54 Ways You Can Help the Homeless*** by Charles A. Kroloff (MacMillan Publishing Co., 1993). Lots of suggestions on how to fight homelessness. There's a special section on what children can do. You can read the book online at [www.earthsystems.org/ways](http://www.earthsystems.org/ways).

***Food: The Struggle to Sustain the Human Community*** by Jake Goldberg (Franklin Watts, 1999). Young adult and adult. All about food, from it's history to its production. The chapter on hunger cuts through myths about food aid.

***Hunger: An Unnatural History*** by Sharman Apt Russell (Peresus Books Group, 2005) This book explains all aspects of hunger from the actual process of digestion, satiety and hunger caused by 18 hours without food, 36-hours, 7 days, and 30 days. It also provides an historical overview of how hunger has impacted history including the use of hunger strikes for political ends. A possible end to hunger is described.

## New York Cares

[www.newyorkcares.org](http://www.newyorkcares.org)

NY Cares staff works with partner organizations to identify their most pressing needs, creates projects to bridge the gaps, and recruits, trains, and deploys teams of volunteers to make a difference.

### **Donate My Dress**

<http://donatemydress.org>

This national network and directory links to organizations across the United States (for example, the Glass Slipper Project- <http://www.glassslipperproject.org/>) that accept donations of prom and other formal dresses for high school students.

### **The Hunger Project**

[www.thp.org](http://www.thp.org)

World-wide effort to help communities help themselves. Includes ways Americans can help via shopping, trips to learn more about hunger first-hand, and volunteer opportunities.

### **New Eyes for the Needy**

[www.neweyesfortheneedy.org](http://www.neweyesfortheneedy.org)

Donate used eyeglasses in good condition to be donated to the poor in developing countries.

### **Project Night Night**

[www.projectnightright.org/index.html](http://www.projectnightright.org/index.html)

Project Night Night provides comforting bags to children in homeless shelters. Each bag contains a stuffed animal, security blanket, and book.

### **Soles 4 Souls**

[www.soles4souls.org](http://www.soles4souls.org)

Donate new and gently worn shoes to individuals in need around the world.

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## **VOLUNTEERING**

### **PRESCHOOL AND EARLY ELEMENTARY**

***The Littlest Volunteers*** by Danielle Speckhart (JLOSH, 2007) The Junior League of the Oranges and Short Hills (JLOSH), New Jersey presents The Littlest Volunteers. Created with the help of parents and teachers, this book is a fun and interactive way to introduce children to volunteerism. The benefits of volunteering include: building self-confidence, teaching responsibility and appreciating one's community. The Littlest Volunteers reinforces many important values including compassion, empathy and generosity as children follow the exciting adventure of Annie and her friends. They learn that they too can make a difference: "You have a big heart, and that's a great start!"

***Uncle Willie and the Soup Kitchen*** by Dyanne Disalvo-Ryan (HarperCollins (April 24, 1997) A straightforward fictional view of an urban soup kitchen, as observed by a boy visiting it with his 'Uncle Willie,' who works there every day....The difficult lives of those fed (including children)--as well as the friendly, nonintrusive attitude of the kitchen workers toward them--are presented sensitively but without sentimentality.

### **MIDDLE SCHOOL**

***The Kids' Volunteering Book*** by Arlene Erlbach (Lerner Publications Co., 1998) Readers meet kid volunteers from around the country and learn how to get started in volunteering themselves.

***Nickelodeon's the Big Help Book: 365 Ways You Can Make a Difference by Volunteering*** by Alan Goodman, illustrated by Fiona Smyth (Simon and Schuster, 1994) Lots of practical suggestions for volunteer projects kids can do on their own.

### **Kids Care**

[www.kidscare.org](http://www.kidscare.org)

Encourages children to start Kids Care clubs, groups that work together to complete service projects. Different projects with step-by-step instructions and resources are posted on the website each month.

### **YOUNG ADULT**

***Catch the Spirit: Teen Volunteers Tell How They Made a Difference*** by Susan K. Perry (Scholastic Library Publishing, 2000). Stories of twenty teens who had the creativity and determination to make the world a better place.

***The Complete Idiot's Guide to Volunteering for Teens*** by Preston Gralla (Penguin Groups, 2001). An everything-you-need-to-know guide to volunteering, including tips on how to choose the best experience, dozens of project ideas and a resource guide.

### **Do Something.Org**

[www.dosomething.org](http://www.dosomething.org)

Do Something strives to create a culture of volunteerism and activism through social change among young people. By leveraging the web, television, mobile, and pop culture, the organization seeks to inspire, empower, and celebrate a generation of young people 25 and under who recognize the need to do something, believe in their ability to get it done, and take action.

### **ADULT**

***The Better World Handbook: From Good Intentions to Everyday Actions*** by Ellis Jones, Ross Haenfler and Brett Johnson with Brian Klocke (New Society Publishers, 2001). Even the busiest people can make a difference in the world just by the way they live their lives each day. Learn to be a better citizen by changing how you shop, travel, eat, spend money and more.

***Citizen You*** by Jonathan Tisch (Crown: 2010). Tisch he offers practical tools, inspirational examples, and the simple, philosophical assertion that changing the world isn't the dream of an 18-year-old but a way of living our daily lives.

***The Healing Power of Doing Good: The Health and Spiritual Benefits of Helping Others*** by Allan Luks (Fawcett Columbine: 1991) Although it's over 10 years old, this book contains some of the earliest research on the health benefits of volunteering.

***How to Make the World a Better Place: 116 Ways You Can Make A Difference*** by Jeffrey Hollender with Linda Catling (W.W. Norton & Co., 1995). Learn what needs to be done in your community and around the world and how you can make it happen.

### **Family Cares Program**

[www.familycares.org](http://www.familycares.org)

Program created by Points of Light Institute that helps promote compassion through hands-on family projects that help others in need.

### **Family Volunteer Day**

<http://disney.go.com/disneyhand/familyvolunteers/>

Encourages families to volunteer together each year on the Saturday before Thanksgiving. Sponsored by Disney and the Points of Light Institute.

### **Network for Good**

[www.networkforgood.org](http://www.networkforgood.org)

Search for volunteer opportunities or organizations in need of charitable donations. Network for Good also features several innovative and convenient ways to donate, including "good cards,"

monthly giving, and the ability to initiate a fundraising campaign for a favorite charity by creating a “charity badge” that can be posted online.

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## SENIORS AND AGING

### PRESCHOOL AND EARLY ELEMENTARY

***Effie’s Image*** by N. L. Sharp (PrairieLand Press, 2008). Ages 4-8. When eighty-two year old Effie decides that she no longer has anything to offer the world, a neighborhood girl named Amanda refuses to let her give up.

***Grandmothers’ Stories: Wise Woman Tales from Many Cultures*** by Burleigh Muten. Stories from Senegal, Japan, Russia, Hawaii, Mexico, Ireland, Germany and Sweden that feature older women who are kind, intelligent and independent.

***Miss Tizzy*** by Libba Moore Gray. A joyful elderly woman has a following among an ethnically diverse group of neighborhood children. When she becomes ill, the children get creative about how to express their love

***The Old Woman Who Loved to Read*** by John Winch (Holiday House, 1997). A simple narrative about an older woman who escapes to the country to find some quiet for reading, but winds up plowing the fields, tending a lamb and repairing her barn. A light and amusing, non-stereotypical view of an older woman.

***The Patchwork Quilt*** by Valerie Flourney (Dial, 1985). Ages 4-8. Story of a young girl’s bond with her grandmother, who grows ill while working on a special quilt for her.

***Sitti’s Secret*** by Naomi Shihab Nye, illustrated by Nancy Carpenter (Simon and Schuster Children’s, 1997) A young girl visits her grandmother in a Palestinian village. Their love transcends differences in language and culture.

### MIDDLE SCHOOL

***Kids and Grandparents: An Activity Book*** by Ann Love and Jane Drake, illustrated by Heather Collins (Kids Can Press, 2000). Ages 5 and up. Some of these activities are for children and elderly people who share the same family, but most can be modified. The activities include food, memories, crafts and games.

***Linnea in Monet’s Garden*** by Christina Bjork, illustrated by Lena Anderson (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1987) Linnea and her elderly neighbor, Mr. Bloom, visit Paris and Monet’s garden in Giverny. A delightful story of the relationship of a child and her older friend.

***A Long Way from Chicago and A Year Down Yonder***, both by Richard Peck (Puffin, 2000 and 2002). Ages 9-12. A Long Way from Chicago and its sequel, A Year Down Yonder tell the story of Joey and Mary Alice and the adventures they have with their Grandmother Dowdel.

***Miss Tizzy*** by Libba Moore Gray. A joyful elderly woman has a following among an ethnically diverse group of neighborhood children. When she becomes ill, the children get creative about how to express their love.

#### Help the Aged Schools Programme

[www.helptheaged.org.uk/schools/index.htm](http://www.helptheaged.org.uk/schools/index.htm)

The cartoon characters will get children thinking about important issues relating to the elderly.

### YOUNG ADULT

***The Cay*** by Theodore Taylor (Random House, 2002). Phillip is stranded on a Caribbean Island with an older West Indian man named Timothy, who he must depend on to survive.  
***The Friends*** by Kazumi Yumoto, translated by Cathy Hirano (Random House, 1997). The friendship between three Japanese boys and a wise older man.

***Good Night, Mr. Tom*** by Michelle Magorian (HarperTeen, 1986). Young Adult. The story of the friendship between Willie, a young victim of child abuse, and Mr. Tom, an elderly man who takes him in when Willie must evacuate to the English countryside during World War II.

***Tiger Tiger Burning Bright*** by Ronald Koertge (Orchard Books, 1994). Thirteen-year-old Jesse tries to keep his mother from realizing that his beloved grandfather, Pappy, is losing his memory.

## ADULT

***If I Live to Be 100: Lessons from the Centenarians*** by Neenah Ellis (Crown Publishing Group, 2002). Ellis records the stories of over a dozen people who have lived a century or more.

### Ageless Dreamer

[www.agelessdreamer.org](http://www.agelessdreamer.org)

Helps fulfill the life-long dreams of people seventy years or older.

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## HOSPITALS AND ILLNESS

### PRESCHOOL AND EARLY ELEMENTARY

***Franklin Goes to the Hospital*** by Paulette Bourgeois, illustrated by Brenda Clark (Scholastic Inc., 2000). 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 (G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1987). A comforting look at hospitals and hospital procedures through the experiences of two young children.

***My Trip to the Hospital*** by Mercer Mayer (HarperFestival, 2005). Ages 4-8. Little Critter must go to the hospital for the first time when he breaks his leg during a soccer game.

### MIDDLE SCHOOL

***Because of Anya*** by Margaret Peterson Haddix (Aladdin, 2004). Ages 9-12. The story of a young girl diagnosed with a rare autoimmune disease and her attempts to hide her illness in order to lead a normal life.

***Magic School Bus: Inside the Human Body*** by Joanna Cole, illustrated by Bruce Degen (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 (Puffin, 1999). A young Hiroshima girl in the 1940s 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.

***You Shouldn't Have To Say Goodbye*** by Patricia Hermes (Sourcebooks Jabberwocky, 2008). Ages 9-12. When Sarah's mother is diagnosed with cancer, her family must deal with feelings of pain and loss.

### YOUNG ADULT

***Chandra's Secrets*** by Allan Straton (Annick Press, 2004). Young Adult. The story of a teenage girl in Africa affected by the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

***Deenie*** by Judy Blume (Simon and Schuster, 1991). A young girl copes with scoliosis.

***Just What the Doctor Ordered: The History of American Medicine*** by Brandon Marie Miller (Lerner Publications Company, 1997). Interesting and informative look back at American medicine.

***A Mango-Shaped Space*** by Wendy Mass (Little, Brown Young Readers, 2005). Young Adult. The story of a teenage girl suffering from synesthesia, a rare disease where colors are seen in sounds, numbers, and letters.

***Teens Face to Face with Chronic Illness*** by Suzanne LeVert (Simon and Schuster, 1993) The medical information may be somewhat dated, but it's a helpful overview of several chronic illnesses from a teen perspective, including asthma, arthritis and hemophilia.

***Young People and Chronic Illness: True Stories, Help and Hope*** by Kelly Huegel (Free Spirit Publishing, 1998) Teens can learn about others their age struggling with diabetes, epilepsy and other chronic illnesses.

## ADULT

### **Dream Foundation**

[www.dreamfoundation.org](http://www.dreamfoundation.org)

Organization that grants wishes to adults with terminal illnesses. Includes several ways to help, including "adopting" a dream.

### **Project Linus**

[www.projectlinus.org](http://www.projectlinus.org)

Make security blankets for children who are seriously ill or traumatized. The website provides free blanket patterns and links to local chapters.

### **Make-A-Wish Foundation**

[www.wish.org](http://www.wish.org)

Help fulfill the wishes of children with terminal illnesses.

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## DISABILITIES AND DISABILITY RIGHTS

### PRESCHOOL AND EARLY ELEMENTARY

***All About My Brother*** by Sarah Peralta (Autism Asperger Publishing Company, 2002). Ages 4-8. In *All About My Brother*, a young girl introduces the reader to her younger brother, who is autistic. The book was both written and illustrated by 8-year-old Sarah Peralta.

***Best Friend on Wheels*** by Debra Shirley (Albert Whitman, 2008). Ages 4-8. When the narrator's teacher asks her to show the new girl around the school, she is nervous because the girl is in a wheelchair. When the two girls begin to talk, however, they find that they are more alike than different.

***Don't Call Me Special: A First Look at Disability*** by Pat Thomas (Barron's Educational Series, 2005). Ages 4-8. Reassuring book that answers common questions and concerns about disability and children with special needs.

***My Friend Isabelle*** by Eliza Woolson (Woodbine House, 2003). Ages 4-8. The story of Charlie and his friend Isabelle, who has Down Syndrome. Their special relationship demonstrates how differences among people make the world more fun and interesting.

***Since We're Friends: An Autism Picture Book*** by Celeste Shally (Awaken Specialty Press, 2007). Ages 4-8. The story of a friendship between two boys, one who has autism and one who does not. *Since We're Friends* demonstrates how children can establish friendships with those who are different from them through compassion and understanding.

***Waiting for Benjamin: A Story about Autism*** by Alexandra Jessup Altman (Albert Whitman, 2008). Ages 4-8. *Waiting for Benjamin* deals with the complex emotions experienced by the brother of a boy with autism, such as embarrassment, jealousy, and eventually, pride.

## MIDDLE SCHOOL

***The Disability Rights Movement*** by Deborah Kent (Grolier Publishing, 1997) A narrative history of the struggle for people with disabilities to be heard.

***Deaf Child Crossing*** by Marlee Matlin (Simon and Schuster, 2002). The story of the friendship between a deaf child and a hearing child.

***Helen Keller*** by Margaret Davidson (Scholastic Paperbacks, 1989). Ages 9-12. The story of Helen Keller and her friendship with Annie Sullivan, the woman who taught Helen to read and speak.

***Just Kids: Visiting a Class for Children with Special Needs*** by Ellen Senisi (Dutton Books, 1998). Children learn about a variety of disabilities through the experiences of Cindy, a second-grader who is placed in a class of kids with epilepsy, autism and other special needs.

***Looking After Louis*** by Lesly Ely (Albert Whitman & Company, 2004). Ages 9-12. When Louis, a boy with autism, joins Miss Owlie's class, his classmates are unsure of how to respond to him and think it's unfair that he sometimes gets special treatment. However, through Miss Owlie's encouragement, Louis's class learns about sensitivity and how they can include Louis in their activities.

***Louis Braille: The Boy Who Invented Books for the Blind*** by Margaret Davidson (Scholastic Paperbacks, 1991). Ages 9-12. Biography of Louis Braille, a man who was born blind and went on to develop the Braille system of printing for the blind.

***My Louisiana Sky*** by Kimberly Willis Holt (Yearling, 2000). Ages 9-12. Set in the South in the 1950s, *My Louisiana Sky* is the story of Tiger Ann Parker, a young girl who must care for her mentally handicapped parents and deal with change and the death of her grandmother.

***My Name Is Brain Brian*** by Jeanne Betancourt (Scholastic Paperbacks, 1995). Ages 9-12. The story of a young boy who struggles with dyslexia, but is able to get the help he needs through the assistance of a teacher who recognizes the symptoms.

***Tangerine*** by Edward Bloor (Harcourt Paperbacks, 2006). Ages 9-12. The story of a legally blind boy living in the shadow of his football star older brother.

## YOUNG ADULT

***Acorn People*** by Ron Jones (Laurel Leaf, 1996). Young Adult. *Acorn People* is the true story of Ron Jones, a camp counselor at a camp for disabled children and the friendship he forms with the amazing group of campers he leads.

***Extraordinary People with Disabilities*** by Deborah Kent and Kathryn A. Quinlan (Grolier Publishing, 1997). Brief stories of 48 famous people who dealt with disabilities, including Thomas Edison, Theodore Roosevelt and Tom Cruise.

***Freak the Mighty*** by Rodman Philbrick (Scholastic, 2001). Two boys with disabilities form a unique and powerful friendship.

***Izzy, Willy, Nilly*** by Cynthia Voigt (Simon and Schuster, 1995). Fifteen-year-old Isobel loses her leg in a car accident and learns to cope with her disability.

***Owning It: Stories about Teens with Disabilities*** by Donald R. Gallo (Candlewick, 2008). Young Adult. A collection of stories about individuals coping with disabilities and trying to lead normal teenage lives.

***Petey*** by Ben Mikaelson (Hyperion Press, 2000). Petey, who has cerebral palsy, is misdiagnosed as an infant and raised in an insane asylum. This is the story of his struggles and friendships, especially with a lonely preteen named Trevor.

***Probably Still Nick Swansen*** by Virginia Euwer Wolf (Simon Pulse, 2002). Young Adult. Written from the point-of-view of a 16-year-old Special Ed student, *Probably Still Nick Swansen* emphasizes that the problems faced by these students are no different than those of any other teenager.

## **ADULT**

Visit [www.easter-seals.org/site/PageServer?pagename=ntl\\_ability\\_adult\\_booklist](http://www.easter-seals.org/site/PageServer?pagename=ntl_ability_adult_booklist) for a list of adult books related to disabilities.