



COPY

STATE OF ARKANSAS  
MIKE BEEBE  
GOVERNOR

June 8, 2009

The Honorable <XXXXXXX>  
Governor, State of <XXXXXX>  
<Address>  
<Address>

Dear Governor <XXXXXXX>:

As we look to the future, one of our greatest challenges is to improve literacy, reading, and education, especially among those in low-income families. In 2005, a group of Arkansans in Conway initiated a unique literacy project, "A Bookcase for Every Child," designed to provide high-quality, personalized, oak bookcases and a starter set of "gently used" children's books for three-, four-, and five-year-old children enrolled in the local Head Start programs.

One of the objectives of this project is to encourage parents to read to their children in the home environment where there has been a sharp decline over the past several decades. This is truly a community project in which all can participate, whether helping to build bookcases, giving "gently used" children's books, reading to children, helping with the Bookcase Literacy Banquet Fundraiser, or the Annual Awards Ceremony. This grass-roots project is conducted entirely by volunteers and uses no tax money or government grants. The only cost is buying the wood and supplies to construct the bookcases. No one profits monetarily in any way, and the real winners are the children, the community, and our State.

"A Bookcase for Every Child" can have a positive impact on children for decades to come as it works to combat the negative influences they face on a daily basis. Children are offered hope through learning that there is a world wide open to them through reading, and through being helped by the efforts of a caring and compassionate community. If you are interested in learning more about this project, you may contact Jim Davidson through their Web site at [www.bookcaseforeverychild.com](http://www.bookcaseforeverychild.com)

Sincerely,

Mike Beebe

MB:jb