



## PA One Book, Every Young Child

For the fifth consecutive year, Pennsylvania's *One Book, Every Young Child* program will lead the way and highlight the importance of early literacy development in preschoolers ages 3 to 6. In its inaugural year, the *One Book, Every Young Child* program won the coveted, national John Cotton Dana Library Public Relations Award.

The selection for this year's program is *What a Treasure!* by Jane and Will Hillenbrand. Since the book was published in 2006, children have been accompanying Mole on his dig as he discovers exciting treasures for both his animal friends and for himself.

The collaborating agencies involved with the program all believe strongly in supporting early literacy efforts. They are working together to develop a multifaceted program accessible to all areas and populations of the state. There are 560,000 children in the target age group, many of which are in the state's childcare facilities, Head Start programs, licensed preschools or kindergartens.

The *One Book, Every Young Child* program goes far beyond just giving parents and caregivers a book to read to preschoolers. The program's design is based on studies showing that simply reading a book is not enough. Adults must find ways to engage children in activities like talking about a book's cover and illustrations, discussing the action in the book and favorite parts, pretend play related to the book and more.

Through this program, adults with preschoolers in their lives will learn how they can support the development of literacy in preschool children. Because it is important for children to be prepared for school, *One Book, Every Young Child* will provide opportunities for adults to read aloud and share books, stories and related activities with preschoolers. These activities have been shown to be crucial to early learning.

*One Book, Every Young Child* information and program ideas have been developed by librarians and museum educators from across Pennsylvania to promote the value and benefits of reading early and often to preschoolers and to encourage family bonding through books and reading.

Throughout the year, there will be local events supporting the *One Book, Every Young Child* reading initiative, including limited days of author and illustrator visits at select locations across the state; library and museum programming for families; activities for parents, early care

providers and educators on the Web site [www.paonebook.org](http://www.paonebook.org); and state government VIPs across the state reading to children in libraries and other sites.

## Rotary International Supports Literacy

### **Make your District a part of this early literacy initiative.**

In April, Pennsylvania's **One Book, Every Young Child** will kick off for 2010. This year's book selection, *What a Treasure!* is written by Jane and illustrated by Will Hillenbrand.

The Rotary International has committed to joining parents, caregivers and community partners across the state to show preschoolers how much fun and important reading can be by participating in this reading initiative. To help promote this important statewide effort, we encourage you to work with your local public library and support them in their effort to get a copy of this book in the hands of children ages 3-6.