



FERST READERS OF CARROLL COUNTY UPDATE

In this crazy time with COVID-19, I am happy to share with you that Ferst Readers continues to mail books to our children every month. We are grateful for our processing center and our headquarters organization for their continued efforts to make this work. Locally we are doing all we can to maintain our relationships with the post offices and those who register children for us. Our numbers of children are shrinking a bit as we graduate more children than we are receiving registrations for. We will catch that back up as soon as we can connect with all our contacts.

After many years under the auspices of the Community Foundation of West Georgia, Ferst Readers of Carroll County, Inc., now has its own 501c3 Nonprofit Status. Your contributions and our book program will continue to operate through the Community Foundation of West Georgia. Our funds continue to be banked and invested with them. We are now working on new sources of revenue for our Family Education Conversations Count program and that requires that we have our own nonprofit status. We received a grant from the Georgia Office of Student Achievement in 2018-2019 to begin this program.

Conversations Count was developed by Ferst Readers in partnership with Rollins School. Carroll County is among the first to implement this program and has received excellent reviews! We have all the tools to implement this curriculum, train teachers, and provide all they need to teach it in their own circles of influence. We are working on getting all those tools, the Conversations Count Manual, and the presentation videos translated and available in a Spanish version. That is almost ready too! We also anticipate that this program will help us reach children who are not currently registered in our free book program and help us to get them registered.

We will expand our reach in the Conversations Count program and offer incentives to help parents and caregivers to learn more about the importance of early childhood development and what they can do to help their own children simply by talking with and reading to their children. We are moving ahead with planning to spread our Conversations Count training across Carroll County. Karen Wild and a team of people have trained a large group of teachers and facilitators who have begun to teach this program to young families in their own circles in Carrollton City Schools,

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR FERST SUPPORTERS

PLATINUM \$5,000 OR ABOVE

Alice Huffard Richards Foundation
Greystone Power Foundation Inc
Steve Adams

GOLD: \$1,000 - \$4,999

Martha Saunders
Carroll EMC
Carrollton Orthopedic Clinic
Tanner Health System
Melanie McClellan
Power of the Purse
Sue Myers
Kiwanis Club of Fairfield Plantation
Penelope Ayers
Carrollton Civic Womans Club
Bill & Wanda Calhoun
Aaron McWhorter
Ralph and Susan Fleck
Carrollton Presbyterian Church
Karen Hartley
Belk
Carroll County Board of Education
Fidelity Charitable
Lovvorn Road Investments
Martin & Hightower Funeral Home
Priscilla Bennett
RALIN
United Community Bank

SILVER: \$500 - \$999

Belk Charity Day
Annette Jones
Kristen Vance
Loy Howard
Systems & Methods
The Carrollton Golden K
Venus Swatek
Debbie Rambo
Carroll County Sertoma Club
Michelle Morgan
Plantation Women's Club
Carrollton High School
Joel Tisinger
Omni Call
Turner Pharmacy



Tanner Hospitals, PASS, and WIC. To learn more, see Karen Wild's article about this program on our website at www.CarrollFerst.org.

What's next? We have begun to work with the Carroll County Schools and local pediatricians. We plan to reach out to the churches and faith-based community, to day care centers, and to others who have relationships with families and young children. You can help us with that effort. We want to talk to someone in every organization and if you can connect us with the right person in one of your organizations, we want to hear from you. Email us at CarrollCounty@FerstReaders.org.

All of this would not be possible without the continued support of you, our contributors, and the support you provide financially and in many other ways. For that, I say thank you! Please continue your support and let us know of ways we can improve our programs or if you would like to join our volunteers.

Sincerely,
Karen Hartley
Chair, Executive Board, Ferst Readers of Carroll County, Inc.

AT A GLANCE



107,833.21

TOTAL MONEY RAISED



123,277.88

TOTAL SPENT ON BOOKS



41,215

TOTAL BOOKS MAILED



4,391

TOTAL CHILDREN SERVED

FERST READERS COUNTS ON EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU

You are a key component to our success! Without your financial support Ferst Readers would not be able to continue to thrive and grow our program. In 2019, we served 4278 children, mailing over 3300 books every month. That's 58% of the eligible children in Carroll County. We have served just over 15,000 children in our almost 16 years of operation. Later this year, we will reach another milestone when we mail our 500,000th book here in our county. We ARE making a difference for the children here.

FERST READERS COUNTS ON EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU. Because of the current situation with the Covid-19 Crisis, we find it necessary to cancel our planned fall fundraiser, the Fashion Ferst Luncheon. Many of you have attended this fun event and will recognize it as a major source of funds for Ferst Readers of Carroll County. In 2019, we raised over \$30,000 with this event alone so this cancellation concerns us greatly.

We hope that you will continue to support us financially. Will you consider something new? Will you make an annual pledge or set up a recurring gift in our new online giving program? It's easy to do and will help us even more as we work to reach our goal of serving 90% of the children under the age of five.

Thank you for your support!

[Give online at CarrollFerst.org](https://CarrollFerst.org)



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

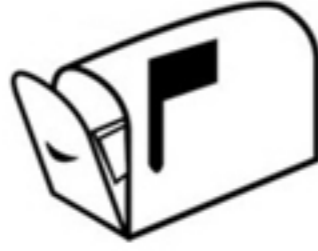
Ferst Readers of Carroll County depends on volunteers to work on the many tasks necessary to keep the functions of the organization going. Most of those jobs can be done alone or with a buddy. Many of our tasks are once a month or for a period of time once a year. We are always looking for new help and fresh faces. Would you like to help in some way? Here are just a few of the openings we hope to fill:

- **Communications Team** needs people to help with social media and print media, donor & volunteer email newsletters, marketing, and with our public relations efforts.
- **Family Education Team** needs people who will help reach out to organizations to implement Conversations Count, to train teachers, and to help with our marketing and advertising.
- **Fundraising Team** needs people to help with planning and implementing of our major and our smaller fundraising events and our donor development.
- **Executive Board** needs people who are willing to take on a leadership role in our organization either as a team leader or as a member at large. Our board members all contribute to the efforts of the organization. We are looking to build a diverse board representing the county.

If you are interested, contact us. We would love to talk to you! The easiest way is to email Ferst Readers at CarrollCounty@FerstReaders.org.



3 WAYS TO GIVE



BY MAIL

Send your donation by mail to:
Ferst Readers of Carroll County
P.O. Box 1922
Carrollton, GA 30112



ONLINE

Visit our website at
carrollferst.org
and click on the donate button.
One-time and recurring options are available!



VIA TEXT

Text **FERST**
to 44321
*Message and data rates may apply