

TACODA 

& The Jim Arden Foundation

Creating Better Lives for Tanzanian Children

Children can make a difference in the world!

READING



Reading + Raising Money = Saving Lives

Sponsored by the Jim Arden Foundation for TACODA Children

P.O.BOX 4  
COS COB, CT 06807



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### **Program Summary**

**READING TO THE RESCUE** is a reading program that allows children to make a difference in the world through their own personal efforts. It is specifically targeted to help orphaned and abandoned children in Tanzania, of which there were over 2.5 million last year!

**READING TO THE RESCUE** is both an educational program and a global service opportunity. It empowers children by increasing their reading skills and enabling them to see that their actions have importance in the world. The goals of the program are to:

- ❖ Motivate children to read for fun.
- ❖ Show children they can make a real difference in the lives of other children who are less fortunate.
- ❖ Give children an opportunity to learn about people in a different culture and more about the larger world.
- ❖ Encourage parents to read to children who are too young to read on their own.
- ❖ Inspire a life-long love of reading.

You can also make the program competitive. When you do, excitement and incentive is added to the project. The competition can be run against a goal set by a group of students in a class, grade, and/school. It can also be run between students in a class, between classes, home rooms or grade levels, or between schools in a community.

#### **How does it work?**

- ❖ Students get permission, if necessary, from a parent or guardian to participate in the fundraising part of the program.
- ❖ A reading goal is set and a time period decided by Program leaders.



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### Program Summary (Cont'd)

- ❖ Program leaders determine whether to make the reading program competitive.
- ❖ The students sign up program sponsors.
- ❖ The students read, read and then read some more.
- ❖ Students turn in their completed reading logs.
- ❖ Students collect the pledged donations from their sponsors and return the money collected to the school.
- ❖ The school donates the money to The Jim Arden Foundation for the benefit of the TACODA Children.

### What support is provided?

School administrators get a comprehensive program package which includes:

- ❖ A summary of the **READING TO THE RESCUE** Program;
- ❖ The name of a Foundation volunteer to answer questions;
- ❖ A draft letter for distribution to parents about the program, with a permission slip, if necessary;
- ❖ Project instructions for the "Radical Reading Program and/or Competition;"
- ❖ A PowerPoint presentation about Africa and TACODA;
- ❖ A colorful **READING TO THE RESCUE** poster;
- ❖ Photographs of TACODA children and Tanzanian schools;
- ❖ TACODA bookmarks for the schools top readers in each class;



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## Program Summary (Cont'd)

- ❖ Reading list documentation forms;
- ❖ Sponsor pledge forms (with program highlights) for students;
- ❖ Other appropriate school recognition for the students who read the most books, the most pages, and raise the most funds;
- ❖ A list of websites that offer information about Africa; and
- ❖ A list of age appropriate books on Africa.

To receive a full program package for the **READING TO THE RESCUE** Program, please email [Sheryl@jimarden4TACODA.org](mailto:Sheryl@jimarden4TACODA.org) or call 508-548-3703.

See Instructions for the "Radical Reading" Competition on the next page!



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## Project Instructions for the Radical Reading Competition

- ❖ Organize a Volunteer Committee to lead and supervise the **Radical Reading Competition Program**.
- ❖ Decide whether the program will be competitive.
- ❖ If the program will be competitive, decide what the students will compete against: a goal, other students, classes, home rooms, grade levels and/or other schools.
- ❖ Set a time limit for the **Radical Reading Competition Program** to run; three months or a long holiday or vacation period is ideal.
- ❖ Determine how the number of books read will be validated; maybe by the librarian counting books checked out or by the parents validating the number of books read by (or to) their children.
- ❖ Provide instructions to students on whom they may solicit reading pledges from: family, relatives, friends, neighbors, and/or local businesses.
- ❖ Consider actively publicizing your **Radical Reading Competition Program** with posters, flyers, press releases and/or a special event within your community; [Sheryl@jimarden4TACODA.org](mailto:Sheryl@jimarden4TACODA.org) can help you with this.
- ❖ Post the weekly results (number of books read) in a prominent location in the class or school to encourage further reading during the designated period and friendly competition.
- ❖ Consider giving a rotating banner or cup to the student, class, and/or grade that read the most books each week to add excitement to the program.

**(Continued)**



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## Project Instructions for the Radical Reading Competition

- ❖ At the end of the program, award the banner, pennant or cup to the student, class and/or grade with the most overall books read.
- ❖ Provide a large, enclosed plastic container for each home room, class or grade to collect pledged donations; a sealed, one gallon plastic milk container, with a slit large enough to insert coins and bills, works well.
- ❖ Allow the students the opportunity to decorate the containers.
- ❖ Label each container with the name of the student, teacher, home room number, or other identification and place the containers in a location where there is adult supervision. Make sure the containers are locked up at night.
- ❖ Have the students collect the money on their pledges and deposit the amounts in the appropriate container: perhaps, over a two-week pledge collection period.
- ❖ Have the committee volunteers empty the containers and count the donations daily during this period.
- ❖ Post the daily collection results in a prominent location to encourage collecting all outstanding pledges.
- ❖ At the end of the pledge collection process, consider awarding a certificate to the student, class and/or grade that read the most books and/or collected the most overall money for the TACODA children.
- ❖ Send the **Radical Reading Program** donation to: The Jim Arden Foundation, P.O. Box 4, Cos Cob, CT 06807.