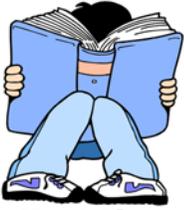


Kara Barnard Fund



for Youth Literacy



The Story of the Kara Barnard Fund for Youth Literacy *by Mike Barnard*

Kara Barnard was a dedicated and loving mother to our children, Sean, Sam and Steven. She was also a proud Ridley Raider, class of 1991. An avid reader, Kara realized the vital importance of reading in the overall development of well-rounded children who are prepared to flourish in school. She insisted that our kids were read to every night and so the 'Bedtime Story' became a staple of our children's lives – as it is for so many other children and families.

In the days after Kara passed, so many kind people came forward to support our family and we are forever thankful. One such act of kindness came from Sean's Ridley High School Swim Team coaches Kevin Pierce, Kurt Slenn and Jackie Devine. They called a team meeting where coaches, teammates, and parents came together for our family and discussed a way to honor the memory of Kara. Since reading to our kids was a cherished memory and had such a profound impact, we wanted to share Kara's passion for reading and promote reading and youth literacy to elementary students in the Ridley School District and surrounding areas. Thus was born the annual *Reading is Fun!* event.

As many teachers and parents understand, children who read or are read to on a consistent basis, are more likely to become competent and confident readers who love books. Reading can truly be fun for kids and we hope our *Reading is Fun!* event gets children and families excited and engaged in reading for a lifetime! To make it an extra fun evening, some of the older kids from the Ridley High School Swim Team will read wonderful stories to the younger children. As they read to their younger peers, the readers will be dressed as popular children's characters to immerse the young ones in the stories they are hearing. Children will rotate around various story stations to see all of their favorites!

In addition to reading stations, there will be crafts, a fun physical activity, and snacks. All children that attend *Reading is Fun!* will receive a free gift to take home and foster their continued love of reading! This event would not be possible without our generous sponsors: Taylor Community Foundation, Ridley Educational Foundation and ChesPenn Health Services.

The Kara Barnard Fund for Youth Literacy not only preserves the memory of Kara Barnard, a beloved member of our community, but also addresses the crucial need for our children to be proficient readers. A donation to this fund supports the literacy needs of families in the TCF Service Area, to assist programs that promote youth reading, and to get books into the hands of children and families in need. As a donor, you can directly influence the life of a child in our own communities. Please help TCF and the Kara Barnard Fund for Youth Literacy invest in the all-important literacy of our children. Reading is the foundation of learning, and all children deserve a strong foundation. Donate today!

If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact Taylor Community Foundation at info@TCFhelps.org.

