



*Happy Holidays and
best wishes for 2019
from the children you
have helped through
Reading Legacies!*



Hello again!

I am sending you this message with deepest gratitude for your support of the L'Oreal Paris Women of Worth online vote that took place throughout November. Even though we did not have the top number of votes to win the top donation, we are blessed with a \$10,000 grant from L'Oreal Paris as well as an incredible network of caring and giving individuals and organizations with whom to collaborate and work in the future - including each of you!!

The nine other Honorees from across the country are a powerful group of ladies with whom collaborations are already forming! Please see photo of all of us - a new band of powerful sisters!!!



Each Honoree was introduced at the Gala by a top celebrity – mine being Julianne Moore. We had an instant and special bond, most likely through our love of children and reading. Her adorable children's books called *Freckleface Strawberry* endeared me to her immediately. We enjoyed each other so very much, and it will be fun to work together in the future in some capacity as we look for ways to empower children and youth through shared-reading experiences, including the reading of her beautiful easy readers for children and adults.

Following is Julianne's Instagram message about our meeting in which she offers strong support to Reading Legacies.

"Julianne Moore Wearing @givenchyofficial and @chopard at the #Womenofworth event where I had the great pleasure of presenting an award to @bettymohlenbrock for her work with her nonprofit @readinglegacies. Their Mission - "To empower children and youth as valued community members through intergenerational shared-reading experiences." The parents of these children are incarcerated and this program has been proven to be so positive for these young people. If u are looking for a place to donate, please take a look at Betty's program. She's a star."



In the New York Times on December 6th, 2018 (the day after the Women of Worth Gala), the following article was written: **Getting Past the Barriers: When a Mother Is in Prison.**

“Allowing incarcerated mothers to interact and play with their children during visits helps maintain a sense of family connection and may reduce the trauma of separation.

According to the Vera Institute of Justice, a nonprofit research organization, women are the country's fastest-growing prison population, and 80 percent of them are mothers. The overwhelming majority were the primary caregivers of their children."

We have a solution to this problem, and with your support into the future – we believe the challenge to help these children remain connected to their mothers (and other family members) is surmountable through video recorded read-aloud experiences shared regularly and enjoyed by the children time and again. Thank you for caring enough to help us grow. I am personally blessed and most grateful for how much your support means to me and every member of our team – staff, board, program volunteers, AND the children whose lives are being positively changed because of YOU every single day. Please remember them in any remaining year-end gifts and help us make 2019 a year of meaningful impact in their lives.

Blessings for a wonderful and holy Holiday Season, Betty



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