

News Release – One Book, OWWL Kids Returns to Encourage Family Literacy

(Monday, February 26, 2024) Canandaigua, NY — During March and April, libraries across Ontario, Wayne, Wyoming, and Livingston Counties will celebrate family literacy with the community read program: One Book, OWWL Kids. In its third year, the program will continue to highlight the importance of sharing books in early literacy development. Reading together develops vocabulary and comprehension, nurtures a love for reading, and can strengthen family and community bonds.

This year's One Book, OWWL Kids title is *Finding Kindness* written by Deborah Underwood and illustrated by Irene Chan. Sarah Matthews, Children's Librarian at the Wadsworth Library in Geneseo who helped develop the program, explains why this book was selected. "*Finding Kindness* is a touching and powerful story about the ways in which small acts of kindness can impact friends, strangers, and even communities for the better."

Krystina Dippel, Assistant Director at Victor Farmington Library who worked alongside Matthews on this project, concurs. "Our hope is that the book and corresponding activities inspire children to be kind to those in their lives, in ways big and small. The world needs more kindness, and having discussions about the ways that our actions affect others is so important. I am excited for all of the OWWL Libraries to share this book with their communities."

Participating libraries will hold a special storytime that includes a read aloud of *Finding Kindness*, and each family will receive a copy of the book to keep. Rose Free Library's Director Deanna Davis-Wiltsie said they are looking forward to participating again this year. "The One Book, OWWL Kids reading program has been an excellent tool for supporting social and emotional development. The thoughtfully selected books paired with an engaging activity help children and families learn to express their emotions in positive, healthy ways."

Rebecca Connolly, Director of the Cordelia A. Greene Library in Castile, agrees. "We love participating in One Book, OWWL Kids. The books' positive messages foster feelings of support and belonging in our local community, but it also creates a larger feeling of unity and interconnectedness to share this experience with 42 libraries across four counties."

To learn more and find a list of One Book, OWWL Kids events, visit owwl.org/onebook.

The One Book, OWWL Kids program is sponsored by OWWL Library System's Coordinated Outreach Services. OWWL Library System, headquartered in Canandaigua, supports library

services and the 42 libraries serving Ontario, Wayne, Wyoming, and Livingston Counties. Visit owwl.org to learn more.

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News Media: For more information, contact OWWL Library System at 585-394-8260 x1106 or communications@owwl.org.



OWWL Library System Program Director Suzanne Macaulay, Sarah Matthews (Wadsworth Library), and Krystina Dippel (Victor Farmington Library) prepare One Book, OWWL Kids program kits for the 42 libraries in Ontario, Wayne, Wyoming, and Livingston Counties.