



**THE COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION**
of Decatur/Macon County

GIVING BACK, LOOKING AHEAD

THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION FOCUS

May 07

125 North Water Street, Suite 200 • Decatur, Illinois 62523

It's never too early for books...

Preschoolers aren't exactly reading yet, but they're learning the basics. Thanks to donations to the Early Childhood Education Fund at The Community Foundation, many pre-kindergarten children throughout Decatur and Macon County now have new books to read and keep.

Providing books is part of the work of the Early Childhood Education Consortium convened by The Community Foundation. The purpose of the consortium is to improve education outcomes of children in childcare settings and expand direct services to children through families and care givers.

The idea behind providing the books is to make it as easy as possible for parents to read to their preschoolers at home and give children a head start on reading. Here are some titles in the series collected by the

consortium and given to families.

- **White Rabbit's Color Book**
- **Ten Black Dots**
- **It Begins with an A**
- **Farm Alphabet Book**
- **I Went Walking**
- **If You're Angry and You Know It**
- **Growing Vegetable Soup**
- **Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel**
- **Annabelle Swift, Kindergartner**
- **The Kissing Hand**

For the book project the consortium is seeking donations of money or books like these. For more information contact Kindergarten Readiness Coordinator York Powers, 429-3000, ypowers@dps61.org. Website: www.decaturnet.org/ecew.



Time and Treasure



Jesse and Louise Parsons

Jesse Parsons is a retired Caterpillar engineer and Louise is a nurse working part time at

the Health Department. Both volunteer and love to give back to their community. Jesse has spent many hours helping build homes with Habitat for Humanity. Louise likes to visit with people in the hospital and cook for people who need help. They both enjoy volunteering at Rock Springs Center and Woodland Chapel.

The Parsons not only give freely of their time but strongly believe in giving money to charitable organizations. One of their favorite charities is God's Shelter of Love. They will soon attend the annual banquet given there, as they do every year, and will present a donation check from the Jesse and Louise Parsons Fund at The Community Foundation of Decatur/Macon County. After Louise began receiving the Foundation newsletter, she talked to Jesse about setting up a Donor Advised Fund for their charitable giving. This account was established late in 2006, and the donation to God's Shelter of Love will be their first.

For more information about setting up a Donor Advised Fund, contact The Community Foundation, 429-3000.