



The Spoke 'N Word

On The Move, Inc.

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Edition 1

www.otminc.org

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On the Move, Inc. is a registered 501(c)-3 Non-Profit Entity

THE BEGINNING

This is the first semi-annual newsletter for our non-profit, **On the Move, Inc.** In May of 2015, we began our journey.

Our mission is two fold: first, to promote *literacy* for low income minor children by providing books to help bridge the *summer reading gap/slide* while exercising their minds... and second, to promote a *healthy lifestyle*, by providing bikes to allow them to have independence and physical freedom, while exercising their bodies, stimulating their minds, and creating an adventure.

We established a small, but experienced board of directors who worked diligently over the year to build a strong foundation. One of our main initial tasks was to reach out to numerous organizations. After introducing them to **On The Move, Inc.**, we then determined who we could partner with to best achieve our mission.

We were successful in partnering with a number of these orgs, including: School Departments, Libraries, Police Depts, Boys and Girls Clubs, etc. to identify these children, and we were able to begin fulfilling our mission by distributing books and bikes.

LITERACY

What is "Summer Reading Gap/Slide"?

"Summer Reading Gap" is a term used in America to describe the timeframe between the end of one school year, and the beginning of another... usually end of June to the beginning of September. The term applies to those students who are considered to be "at risk" of declining in their reading skills due to lack of book availability. (See our web page www.otminc.org for more information.)

How Important is a "BOOK BAG"?

Early in June, we got together with the Principal (Chris Balzotti) and the Reading Specialist (Lisa Follows) from the Dutile School in Billerica, MA. They were in need of specific books for the 3rd grade children. Donating the books was our pleasure, but assembling them into "BOOK BAGS" for the children to take home with them for Summer Reading (see "Summer Reading Gap") was an added plus.

When we entered the classroom to distribute the "BOOK BAGS", the children began buzzing with chatter and laughter! They could not wait to see what books they had in their bags! All the kids faces were full of smiles, and they were all more than willing to pose for this wonderful picture!



"The Dutile is very appreciative for the generous donation of books that On The Move, Inc. gave to Grade 3. We always encourage students to read over the summer break, so that Summer regression does not occur. Your donation put smiles on their faces, and books of interest in their hands. Thank you so much for supporting our love for reading. We are looking forward to working with you again this school year."

... Chris Balzotti, Principal, Dutile School

Delivering Bikes and Books!

My Very Own Bike!

Do you remember how you felt when you got your very first bike? That feeling stays with you forever! Whether you ride for joy... ride to race... ride to get to school... or ride to get to work... your bike becomes a part of you, and you become its engine. Just as books power the mind, so do bikes power the body! Nothing makes you feel free like the wind in your face! Exercising the body not only is exhilarating, it also stimulates your mind... the two things simply work in tandem... minds and bodies... a perfect team! Our Spring was extremely rewarding... We were able to fulfill all the requests from various agencies for bikes (13 in total), plus helmets and locks... Creating huge smiles on these faces! Over the holidays, we plan to create more smiles with bikes, by surprising children of local agencies! Watch our website www.otminc.org for photos! To date, we have provided over 300 books to various agencies, and by the end of this year, we plan to distribute a total of over 1,000 books! Included in this year's distribution were multiple kits of books for the 3rd graders of the Dutile School. These books help to deter the "Summer Gap/Slide" by giving these children books of their own to read at home through the Summer.

... Accomplishments – 2016 ...

- **Built Infrastructure**
 - Registered 501(C)3
 - Board of Directors
- **Delivered Bikes and Books**
- **Partnered With Other Agencies**
- **Safety Rodeo with Billerica Police Dept.**
- **Website Development**
 - Donated by RLD
- **Fundraising**

... Upcoming and for 2017...

Expanding our Reach

With the approaching Holiday Season, we are very excited to announce that we have 20-30 requests for children's bikes from several organizations. In addition, we also have book requests for over 400 books.

- **Fundraising**
- **Presentations**
- **TV Spot**
- **Web Site**

**PLEASE DONATE
ON OUR WEBSITE**

www.otminc.org



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Bicycle Safety Rodeo

Ride Safely; Wear Your Helmet!

In June Of 2016, the Billerica Police held a Bicycle Safety Rodeo for all children in Billerica who wanted to have their bike checked out, as well as learn the safe way to ride their bike. On The Move, Inc. partnered with them to donate bikes and helmets, help with registration, and generally lend a helping hand. Unfortunately, inclement weather kept the attendance to a minimum, but those that braved the weather had a wonderful opportunity to work with the Police and test the waters on the Safety Track that was set up by the team. We were very appreciative that Stoneham Cycle was able to join us, and donated 3 bikes to On The Move. We will certainly look forward to working with them again next year!



We Need Your Help!

There are many children in our area who need our help. The cost of books is approximately \$100 for 30 books and helps 5 children maintain their reading levels over the Summer. The cost of one bike is approximately \$100, and helps one child with exercise and independence. Won't you please **DONATE** today?

Cost of One Bike/Helmet/Lock: \$100

Cost of 30 books: \$100

Cost of the smiles on these faces: **Priceless!!**