



## News Release

*For Immediate Release*

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### **Bring Me A Book Founder Awarded 2007 Purpose Prize Fellowship Given to “Outstanding Individuals Who Tackle Societies Issues”**

*Social Innovation Think Tank, Civic Ventures, Awards Purpose Prize Fellowship*

*November 10<sup>th</sup>, Stanford Center for Social Innovation*

(Mountain View October 2007) Judy Koch, founder of Bring Me A Book Foundation has been named recipient of the 2007 Purpose Prize Fellowship. The honor is awarded to, “Outstanding individuals over the age of 60 leading the movement to tackle society’s greatest issues through their own innovative philanthropic endeavors.”<sup>1</sup>

Bring Me A Book was established in 1997 by Koch who wanted to provide young children in underserved areas access to high quality children’s literature and give parents and community leaders the tools and resources to assist children in developing reading, comprehension and language acquisition skills. With additional support from corporate sponsors such as Cisco Systems and along with generous individual donations, Bring Me A Book has opened more than 1,000 libraries serving needy children and families in 14 states and 8 countries including libraries and literacy training programs in Hong Kong, Malawi, Kenya, Guatemala and the Yucatan.

Bring Me A Book was born when Koch served as President and CEO of RSP Manufacturing, providing contract manufacturing services to Bay Area companies. “I noticed many employees had young children with no access to quality children’s books,” says Koch. She started a lending library in the break room of the company encouraging employees to bring classic children’s books home to establish a nightly routine of reading aloud to their children. Upon selling the business in 1997, she continued the program by

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<sup>1</sup> [www.purposeprize.org](http://www.purposeprize.org)

founding the Bring Me A Book Foundation, enhancing the lending library program she had established with RSP to a full fledged literacy nonprofit organization.

"I am honored to be in the company of Purpose Prize Fellows," says Koch, "The Purpose Prize Award gives us visibility and an opportunity to partner with other Fellows and organizations that are serving societal needs. I hope we are all providing models of how we can lower the cost of doing business by not reinventing the wheel, and visibility is essential for us to learn with whom we can collaborate to expand our mission."

The Bring Me A Book Foundation® is a 501 (c) (3) award winning literacy non profit headquartered in Mountain View, CA. Established in 1997, Bring Me A Book Foundation® provides libraries and training programs for children who do not have access to high quality books and reading assistance. Serving needy children and families in 14 states and 8 countries throughout the world, The Bring Me A Book Foundation® serves preschools, childcare centers, health clinics, homeless shelters and the work place. For additional information visit [www.bringmeabook.org](http://www.bringmeabook.org).

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