

My mother, Ida Levy, always knew how to inspire me whether through her own words or the words of the authors and poets she read.



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Dear friend,

Please help author a future.

As a child, I was fortunate enough to have had a mother who encouraged me to read. At the age of four, my mother came to the United States from Russia, and although her formal education ended after first grade, she was always enamored with reading. She has read the complete works of Shakespeare and countless others. Because of her, and my wonderful teachers in Chicago, I received direction and instruction that led me to realize how important reading was in helping a person prepare for so many of life's meaningful undertakings.

I have often told my players that "the will to win" does not exist if you do not have "the will to prepare." I believe this applies to all aspects of life. Just as it is for football, if a person lacks the will to prepare, then he or she does not have the true will to succeed - or to enjoy. And what better way to prepare for life's challenges and enjoyments than through reading?

I find it so unfortunate that many children aren't able to build a foundation of literacy, or love of reading, simply because they don't have books available to them. That's why I'm so proud to support the initiatives of Project Flight - and hope you will do the same.

Since 1994, Project Flight has been dedicated to promoting literacy in children by getting books in their hands. In total, they've delivered more than two million free books. They also offer tutoring to students, and training to both educators and parents to help increase reading performance. And they work with schools and community organizations on innovative educational strategies, grants, research, and evaluation - all with the goal of increasing literacy levels.

While countless children have been helped by Project Flight's efforts, there is still much work to be done. And they need your help. Please visit our website at www.projectflight.org to make a donation. Your kind gesture will ultimately make a huge difference. Thank you in advance for giving a child the gift of literacy and the chance to succeed in life.

Sincerely,



Marv Levy

Football Hall of Fame '01

Honorary Chair, Annual Friends Campaign