

Reading is something I love to do. I believe that if a child can read, he or she will be able to figure out anything. Reading is more than a skill to me. It is part of who I am. It is how I spend much of my time. It is who I am. I just love it!

My mother is a reading specialist, and I have watched her work with children through all the years I can remember. She became involved with the Ferst Foundation in Candler County, and I have been involved with her several times on different community projects. Our local Youth on Missions in Candler County worked with the Ferst Foundation team to read to young children and register them to receive books. That is where I learned about the Ferst Foundation firsthand. After that, I began to raise money in order to sponsor children in my community. I talked with teachers, family members, church members, and friends. When I turned 16 and had a birthday get together, I took money that was given to me and used it for sponsoring a student. All in all, I collected a little over \$300.

A child excited about reading; looking forward to receiving a beautiful hardbound book in the mail; and spending one on one time reading with someone they love transfers wonderful emotions with reading, and I believe there is no greater gift that can ever be given to a child. My goal was to find a way, although it is a small donation, to pay forward what has been done for me as a child that instilled into me a love of reading.

Thank you,

Victoria Powell

