

WJC in Action: Practicing What We Teach

WJC Students Organized Fundraising for “Read To Me” to Benefit Hospitalized Children

“**WJC in Action**” is a series that celebrates students, staff, faculty, and affiliates of William James College who are actively engaged in social justice, volunteering, and community service activities aimed at addressing the psychosocial, emotional, and spiritual needs of marginalized and underserved populations. It is intended to acknowledge the contributions of individuals, groups and communities that are *meeting the need and making a difference* locally and across the globe.

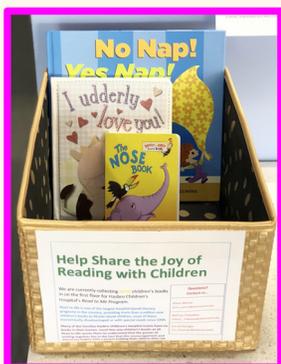
On Thursday, April 26th, **Alison Weiner, Kathryn Thibedeau, and Eric Schlesinger** gave a group presentation on a community service activity that they completed as part of their Systems Theory and Practice course at WJC. The group chose to organize a fundraiser for the “**Read To Me**” Program at Hasbro Children’s Hospital in Providence, Rhode Island.

Established in 1994, “Read To Me” is one of the largest hospital-based literacy programs in the country. It provides new children’s books to pediatric patients at Hasbro (most of them economically disadvantaged or with special needs). The new books are made available to children in the Primary Care Clinics, the Child Protection Program, and the Children’s Neurodevelopment Center.



(From left to right:) Kathryn Thibedeau, Eric Schlesinger, and Alison Weiner

The primary goals of the program are to (1) spark children’s interest in reading, (2) increase parents’ awareness of the importance of reading aloud to their children, and (3) provide an opportunity for pediatricians to stress the importance of reading for the overall health and well-being of children. With support from the Dean of Students Office at WJC, the group was able to collect books and raise \$250 to purchase 100 additional books for the “Read To Me” Program!



To learn more about the fundraiser or to help support the program, please contact:

- ◆ Alison_Weiner@williamjames.edu
- ◆ Kathryn_Thibedeau@williamjames.edu
- ◆ Eric_Schlesinger@williamjames.edu

You can find magic
wherever you look. Sit
back and relax, all you
need is a book.

- Dr. Seuss