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## About The Dictionary Project

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EnLine Dictionaries

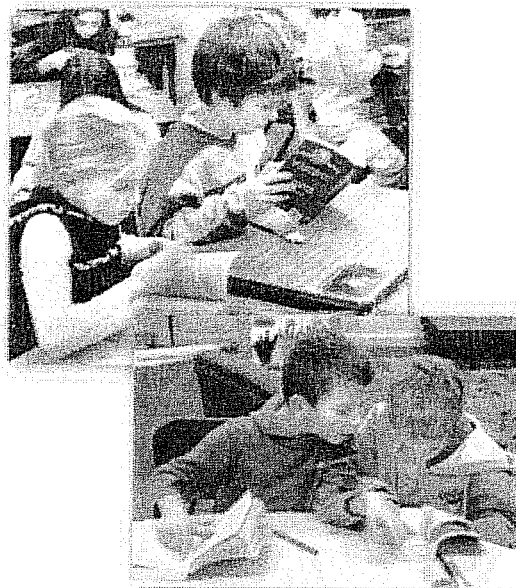
**ORDSMYTH**  
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The idea for the Dictionary Project began in 1992 when Annie Plummer of Savannah, Georgia gave 50 dictionaries to children who attended a school close to her home. She didn't stop there. In her lifetime she raised the money to buy 17,000 dictionaries for children in Savannah, Georgia. Annie Plummer died December 23, 1999, but her dream did not die with her. She left an idea that has developed into The Dictionary Project, a nonprofit organization. Many people have implemented The Dictionary Project who have never heard of her. Since her death, over 1.25 million children have received dictionaries because thousands of people saw the same need in communities all over the United States. Arno French formed a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit Association in 1995, along with a Board of Directors. The Dictionary Project's original board members are still serving, they include Gregg Meyers and Barbara Massey. Arno French appointed his wife Mary as the director of the organization.



The Board set a goal to provide dictionaries to all of the third grade students in South Carolina each year. In 1997, they expanded their mission to include all of the students in the United States. The purpose of The Dictionary Project is to provide dictionaries to students to keep to use as their own personal reference books. A dictionary is an essential tool for a quality education. Most children do not own a dictionary, nor do they have access to one in their home. This agency seeks to provide dictionaries to all of the children who are in school. The program is typically implemented in the third grade each year.

The goal of the Dictionary Project is to improve the reading ability and comprehension of all children, everywhere. It is our goal to encourage children to use dictionaries so that they will be able to use the English language effectively. A student cannot do his or her best work without a dictionary. By providing this tool we assist teachers in making all students active readers, good writers and creative thinkers.

The program has been adopted and refined by civic organizations all over the country. Groups such as Rotary Clubs, Kiwanis Clubs, Granges, Lions Clubs, The Republican Federation of Women and The Jewish Council of Women have implemented The Dictionary Project where they live. Anyone can participate in the project by sponsoring a program to provide dictionaries to children in their

community. The dictionaries are a gift for the children to keep.

Students can use the dictionaries throughout their school career. Each year we offer new dictionaries that have been improved by sharing suggestions from teachers, students and parents with the publishers. The ideas we receive from sponsors, students and teachers are an integral part of this project because they give our Board of Directors direction. Research has shown that one book is shared by at least four people. A dictionary in the home serves as a resource for the whole family. It improves everyone's vocabulary and it encourages children to learn new words.

The Dictionary Project is funded through donations and sponsors who introduce the program in their local schools. All donations and contributions are tax deductible. The Dictionary Project is registered as a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit Association in all 50 states. Here is the link to GuideStar, if you would like to review The Dictionary Project tax return.

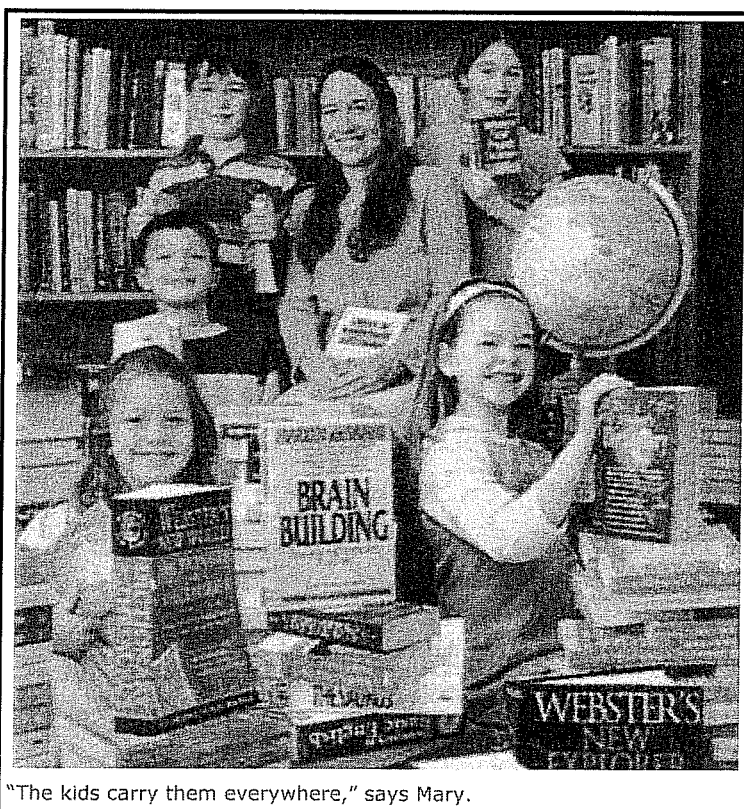
Feel free to contact our director Mary French, if you have any questions or concerns: [wordpower@dictionaryproject.org](mailto:wordpower@dictionaryproject.org).

### Woman's World: The Woman's Weekly

5/4/04

She's the dictionary lady!

If reading and writing scores suddenly go up in third grades across the country, it won't surprise Mary French. She's given dictionaries to 1.5 million kids! Dear Mrs. French, Thank you for the dictionary because it really needed it. I will use it at school, at home and at the beach. I will even bring it in stores! Your friend, Taylor



"The kids carry them everywhere," says Mary.

Mary French of Charleston, South Carolina, loves the letter— and the thousands like it she's received.

Nine years ago, Mary read a letter to the editor in her local paper that asked for dictionaries for children in poor rural areas. And as a former school secretary and mother of two, she wanted to help. So Mary spread the word—and received a discount from a publisher and enough money in donations for 1,200 dictionaries. Mary decided to

give the books to third-graders: "It's the ideal time for kids to learn new words," she explains.