

Picture: Anna Ellason, Pediatric Nurse Practitioner; Jeremy Oswald, Washburn Site Manager and Allan Seppa, President Lions Club Washburn

## **NorthLakes Thanks Washburn Lions Club**

By Madelaine Rekemeyer, Director of Development  
NorthLakes Community Clinic

The Washburn Lions Club donated a generous gift of Scholastic books for NorthLakes Community Clinic's childhood literacy programs; Reach Out and Read and Read Aloud With Your Kids.

"NorthLakes' childhood literacy programs align with the Lions Club's commitment to increase reading and literacy rates. My family always had books around since my mom is a third grade teacher in Washburn. She helped the Lions select the Scholastic books for a wide variety of ages and reading levels." said Alan Seppa, President of Washburn Lions Club. "We know that NorthLakes Community Clinic reaches many young children and families of all financial means and some of these families are eligible for its sliding fee scale due to living within the federal poverty level. Many times, families go without "new" books. We hope our gift with the new books spark the next generation's inspiration towards literacy, learning and education."

"The Read Aloud With Your Kids and Reach out and Read programs have demonstrated that one of the best indicators for a child's future health is their early literacy. One of the differences in the two programs is that Read Aloud With your Kids, children in the program receive a book at every visit. The Reach Out and Read is for children under 5 years old and for wellness checkups only. At NorthLakes, our family providers constantly say that one of the more important things they do in a clinic visit is to hand that child a book. Reading with children is the best way for parents to encourage literacy and for children to see that reading not only is enjoyable but valued and important." said Anna Ellason, Pediatric Nurse Practitioner at NorthLakes and creator of The Read Aloud With Your Kids program. "Early reading (parents reading with young children) is directly correlated with a significant increase in child's vocabulary which then translates directly into greater school success, higher graduation rates and better health."

The Read Aloud With your Kids Program and Reach Out and Read supports NorthLakes' belief in caring for the overall health and well-being of its patients, families and communities. Last year, NorthLakes Community Clinic providers distributed close to 400 new books with its Reach Out and Read program and this year with the addition of Read Aloud With your Kids, the book distribution will greatly increase. Gently used books are also given to siblings and parents who accommodate young children visiting. For more information on giving to NorthLakes Childhood Literacy Program or other NorthLakes community based programs, please email [mrekemeyer@northlakesclinic.org](mailto:mrekemeyer@northlakesclinic.org).

NorthLakes Community Clinic (NLCC) has 11 clinic locations in Ashland, Balsam Lake, Hayward, Iron River, Minong, Turtle Lake, and Washburn. NLCC locations offer: medical, dental, behavioral health counseling, Recovery Services (substance abuse/AODA counseling, HOPE), chiropractic, pediatric speech therapy, pediatric occupational therapy, and prescriptions for patients. Clinics are open Monday through Friday. For more information visit <http://northlakesclinic.org>. NLCC is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.