

While Food Nourishes the Body, Reading Nourishes the Soul

By Dr. Pamela Godt and Dr. Abha Singh

We had a wonderful experience doing this Literacy Alive! project. Our Alpha Epsilon chapter members at Western Illinois University took brand new children's books to the local food pantry at the end of the month, when the need for food is greatest. Since it was just a few days before Easter, we also gave the families a stuffed bunny along with a book that they got to pick out individually for each child in the family. The families were thrilled to be able to choose a book for their children along with picking up food to eat. We asked each person coming in to get food if they had any young children. Of

those who did, we had a 100% participation rate! They were all very pleased to not only have a book, but were so excited to be able to choose just the right book for each child. The stuffed bunnies were a nice touch as well and many said that the bunny along with the



book would become an Easter present for the children who would otherwise not have received anything special for the Easter Holiday. As a direct result of this project, the Director of the Food Pantry approached me after we were done and said he was so impressed with the positive responses to our KDP book giveaway that sometime over the next year, he would like to install some bookshelves into the hallway where the families enter to pick up their food and stock it with books from us or other groups who would donate as a special attraction to go along with their food. He intends to institutionalize this project as an annual event because of its success!