

## **Adventures with Little Eloise**

A picture book series for young readers.



By Vicki S. Davey, MA, M.Ed

### **Feb 2024 Newsletter**

- Catching up with Book News
- Translation Project – Getting our series translated into other languages.
- Publishing Project – Redesigning our book look and illustrations.
- Rivers of Mercy Children's Home
- Next: Book 2 Fundraiser (for the kiddos)
- New Book Covers and descriptions – are displayed in the attachment to the email with this Newsletter.

**Greetings and Salutations!** We hope you're all doing well and that good things are happening in your lives. A lot has been going on here!

This past summer we launched a project to meet our goal of getting our books into the hands of children around the world – in their own language.

Why is this important to our goals? I, Vicki, as a young teenager, had the privilege of going on a Youth Mission Trip to an orphanage in Mexico. This was a life-transforming experience. Working with those little children and seeing the poverty all around them (people living in cardboard "villages" with campfires for cooking) was truly heart-breaking. This experience planted the desire to help orphans and underprivileged children around the world forever in my heart.

**Rivers of Mercy (ROM) Children's Home** in Juarez, Mexico, is the orphanage we're connected with. An amazing woman (Mary Dumas) from my church in New England served there for 12 years, and that church has also sent groups of servants to help there twice a year for as long as I can remember. Rivers of Mercy currently has forty children living in their care, ranging in age from three years to 20 years old.



In January 2024, prayers were answered with new “nudges” from God as I ordered 40 copies of Book 1 – Making Friends (in Spanish) for the kiddos there. How amazing it is to finally see results on this front. This project has been in the works since 2018, so this is a huge milestone.

It is our hope to send the next little book (Book 2 – Little Jack Bones) to the kiddos in April, and the succeeding titles every two months thereafter. This means that Book 6 will be sent in December, just in time for Christmas -- which is perfect because Book 6 is about the life of Jesus.

**OUR TEAM:** An incredible resource and member of our team is my dear friend **Dianne Blake**, who has invested a great deal of time to improve our website. She has also developed her own internet platform for safe and private browsing, where you can create your own “world” (community) safe from Internet predators and scammers. Please be sure to check it out at <https://www.ur-known.com>.

**FIVERR.COM** is an online contracting service where we’ve been able to hire professionals and form a team to meet our goals.

**Lou Piccolo**, our editor, lives in the French Alps. She has edited most titles in our “little book” series, and this summer edited the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of our “big book” (the chapter book), **Lady Eloise and Friends**. Sorting through her editing notes and applying them is a huge project that I hope to tackle in the spring.

**Riccardo (BB4 Translations)** and his team translated our little book series into Mexican-Spanish. The tricky part for me was making sure to set them up correctly matching the story with the illustrations, which was a bit of a challenge since I’m no longer fluent in the language. It was a fun experience.

**Randi Harvey** is our publisher who lives on the east coast. She and I have worked together to re-publish the entire “little book” series into a bigger size (8.5x8.5) which really shows off the illustrations.

Since we are in different time-zones, we would start working at 9 am her time -- 3 hours earlier than Arizona. Needless to say, I was up very early each day as we communicated and worked together online sharing files from separate time-zones.

Randi and I have republished all six titles. This is bigger than it sounds because it ended up being 48 books in all! This is because we have the eBook and paperback format, in English and in Spanish, on Ingram Sparks and on KDP Amazon, with an ISBN assigned to every format. If you don’t know, an ISBN is like a license for each format of each book. We started October 28 and worked through December and January. A huge project!



**Speaking of illustrations,** I've been working diligently to "fix" the pictures I wasn't completely happy with. Using PhotoShop on my computer I can zoom in and work on the fine details of the characters and backgrounds to get rid of smudges and "mistakes" in the original drawings -- even adjusting proportions of the characters to make them "prettier" (in my opinion).

Since I can order books as author copies at production price, getting a book for each kiddo (40 of them) comes to about \$250. If you're interested in being involved financially with this endeavor, we'd be happy to accept your donations for April's book on our GoFundMe link: <https://gofund.me/275f0dff>

To purchase books for yourselves, please visit our website at [vickidavey.com](http://vickidavey.com)

You can also buy a copy of Book 2 in Spanish for yourself on our Ingram Spark link (specific for book 2): <https://shop.ingramspark.com/b/084?fDO32ccfVcFJOxpf8gKTmADc2hUG6LzXM0gJfSfQbDcY>

**OTHER NEWS:** We've connected with a company that we're hoping will help manage our business. Projects have snowballed and become too much for one person (me) with managing the website, developing products for our online store, processing orders, managing money and records, along with creating the books themselves -- it's become too much, so I'm hoping this works out.

With the sale of each book, **royalties** are earned. I have a bank account set up specifically for book royalties that has been accruing since 2022. There's not much money in there at this point because we haven't been able to focus on marketing yet. Hopefully this new company will help us so we can begin marketing and sending money to the orphanage soon. We do have other orphanages in Mexico on our list, along with some in other countries. For now, though, we will focus on Rivers of Mercy and the Mexican-Spanish version of our series.

**Elder Ally** is the company coming alongside us, and it is owned and operated by Hannah and Kolsen Fiske. They offer senior focused financial caregiving services local to Prescott, Arizona. They specialize in daily money management and long-term-care insurance management. If you're interested in their services, please call Hannah at 928-235-5414 or visit their website [www.elderally.com](http://www.elderally.com)

**Sponsors and Donations:** Thank you again for your support with our projects. We have hit many road blocks along the way, and are still battling some specific bumps, but with your encouragement and prayers we know this will be successful.

As always, our **sponsor** names are listed in the back of every book. They will always be there. Thank you.

### IN THE BACK OF EVERY BOOK

Special thanks to the following people for your donations, encouragement, and support for both of our book series *Adventures with Little Eloise*, and *Lady Eloise and Friends*:

Pete & Reggie Adelaars, Garrett & Susan Hamlin, Mickie (*and Dave*) Hebbert, Shanon Michelle Lock, *Dave Brunner*, *Patti Brunner*, Richard & Margaret Merlitz, Jack & Cheryl Davey, Mile-Hi Animal Hospital, David & Meredith Manning, Chris Swanson, Don & Carrol Milburn, Everett & Julia Moore, Pastor Art (*and Ida*) Warner, Allison Dethloff, Brian & Leslie Sinclair, Patrick (*and Charlotte*) Myers, Denny & Peggy Beaver, Robert & Dianne Blake, Dr. Matt Sullivan (Premiere Eye Center), Abbott & Christie Lawrence, Glenn & Toni Humphriss, Jane (*and Gary*) Traverse, Dr. Kyle & Alicia French, The Lions Club (Prescott), Simone Whitehead, Deborah Pinkston, A.J. Williamson, Debora Pancoast, Miranda, Hope (*and Army specialist Michael W.*) Spencer, Tonyia Gosik, Arie Cepeda, Karen Richmond, Gabby Gonzalez, Joanie McMillan, Kathy Hoppes, Pine Brook Christian Camp & Conference Center, Prescott Pines Christian Camp, and our “anonymous” donors.

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### Dedications

Aja Brunner  
4/29/1989-11/28/2018



Chuck Blackburn and his  
drawing of the evil owl  
2/6/1923 -12/24/2020



Dave Brunner  
9/11/1959-7/27/2021



Patti Brunner  
8/12/1938-2/17/2023

