

## Biography



Norma Butler Bossard

Norma Butler Bossard was born on May 25, 1939 in Washington, D.C. She was the daughter of Irene and Andrew Butler, Sr. and she attended D.C. Public Schools and then graduated from D.C. Teachers' College in 1961. Norma later earned a Master's Degree from the University of Miami. She spent her first years out of college teaching in D.C. Public Schools. Then she spent the next 18 years teaching elementary school in Tehran, Iran; La Paz, Bolivia; and Caracas, Venezuela; where she was the elementary school principal. In addition, she taught in Hong Kong International School and in Miami, Florida. In the early 1980s, Norma briefly taught at a private school in Miami before entering the Miami-Dade County Public School System. She was once quoted as saying, "the global experience

allowed me to learn new ideas and to shift gears quickly...it kept me stimulated."

With over 20 years of teaching experience, Norma quickly climbed the ranks in Miami-Dade County Public Schools, and by 1993 she became the Executive Director of Language Arts/Reading, where her talents were applauded. As a result, she became District Director of Language Arts/Reading for the Miami-Dade County School District. Norma had a great love for poetry and other literary genre. "She is a Mistress of the Word," quotes Sabrina Walters of the Miami Herald. One of her favorite books was Patricia Polacco's, Pink and Say.

Norma Butler Bossard was the 1996-1997 President of the Organization of Teacher Educators in Reading. She received the Administrator of the Year Award from Phi Delta Kappa, was named the Administrator of the Year by the Miami-Dade Reading Council, and was honored as the University of Miami School of Education Distinguished Alumnus of the Year. She has also been featured in The Miami Herald.

Ms. Bossard's wish was to place a "Book in Every Child's Hand". To celebrate her dedication to this goal, donations of new books were accepted by the Dade Reading Council (DRC) and the Dade County Council of Teachers of English (DCCTE) from book publishers, teachers, principals, parents, and Writing Institute participants. The books became part of hospital libraries that have been placed in the Oncology Center at Miami Children's Hospital, the Pediatric Spinal Rehabilitation Center at Jackson Memorial Hospital, and the Pediatric Oncology Center at Baptist Hospital. Reading has provided an outlet to help children take an incredible journey into fantasy to relieve them of their pain and suffering.

Norma Butler Bossard left such a tremendous impact on how teachers teach reading and language arts that countless community members came together to make her vision a legacy. She loved people with such enthusiasm that you couldn't help feeling better about yourself around her.

***Even more than a "Book in Every Child's Hand," she put the joy of reading in every child.***