



The Page Coach Impact Report 2020–2021



HELPING CHILDREN DISCOVER THE JOY OF READING AND THE POWER OF A LITERATE MIND!

I just wanted to say thank you so much for your generous donation of books, cds and reading buddies for our Wellness Bags. This was such a hit for not only the students but for the teachers as well. Some kids cried, others called it a Covid Christmas. We could not have done it without you. Thank you never seems to be big enough for what you did for our children. You are forever in our hearts. (Melissa Andrews, Vice President, Scott Libby PTA, Litchfield Park, Arizona)



The Page Coach, Kids Need to Read's mobile outreach unit providing literary treasure to disadvantaged children, proudly served 62,450 children during the 2020-2021 fiscal year (April 1, 2020–March 31, 2021), distributing inspiring reading resources at a diverse array of schools, libraries, and literacy events in low socioeconomic communities throughout Arizona, as well as multiple locations in California and Nevada. This represented an 29% increase over the 44,544 children served by the program the previous year. The number of reading resources provided by the program grew exponentially, from 92,922 books valued at \$631,779 during 2019–2020 to 130,845 books valued at \$883,017. The average poverty rate of clients served was 90%.

Surveys were sent to agencies that received visits from The Page Coach. The surveys are structured to gauge an increased desire to read after the program. Of the 26 Page Coach survey respondents, nine reported 100% increased desire to read after the program. Three reported a 90–95% increase in the desire to read, while one reported 85% and three reported 70–75%. Ten respondents could not estimate a percentage, but provided positive feedback, such as this: ***“I am feeling speechless this morning after unboxing the books from Kids Need to Read. The quantity was enough to be impressive, but the QUALITY and titles that were selected were impeccable. I am so excited to get these books to the hands of our kids. There are so many titles that resonated with our staff as we remembered our own reading as kids, and we cannot wait to share it with students. Being a small program, we are used to "get what you can" types of donations, so the quality of these books and the wonderful stories within surpassed our expectations. Thank you SO much for all that you do, we are so excited to have these books to start up our library. We so appreciate your work and your donation to our community.”*** (Mariah Kelly, Principal, Montecito Community School, Phoenix, Arizona)

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Kids Need to Read shifted its 2020 Page Coach programming from on-site events to the provision of books to be handed out to children during free meal giveaways and drive through events at schools, food banks and other community agencies. This often took the form of specially created family reading relief packs which contained a myriad of resources to engage every member of the family. In this way, students continued to have access to books and encouragement to read while isolating at home. In addition to COVID-19 relief work, the Page Coach continued its passionate approach to helping children discover the **JOY of reading** and the **POWER of a literate mind!**



Major Funding Contributors

Alliance Bank of Arizona/Western Alliance Bank
 Cardinals Charities
 Cox Charities
 Elkes Foundation III
 Employees Community Fund of Boeing Arizona
 Mesa United Way
 Pi Beta Phi Foundation/Pi Beta Phi Phoenix Alumnae Club/Pi Beta Phi Arizona Beta Chapter

Major In-kind Contributors

American Girl Publishing
 Barnes & Noble Chandler Fashion Mall
 Barnes & Noble Desert Ridge Marketplace
 Bookman's Entertainment Exchange Mesa
 Coil Records
 Mark Dagley
 Miguel Lopez de Leon
 Sasha and Rodney Glassman
 Highlights for Children
 Houghton Mifflin Harcourt
 Lutheran Social Services
 Vivian McCool
 PetSmart Charities
 PetSmart Christown Spectrum Phoenix
 PetSmart Deer Valley
 Scholastic, Inc

COVID-19 Relief



Kids Need to Read, approved our request within a matter of days and the Page Coach delivered books a week later. The Covid-19 crisis is an extreme disaster on the already burdened. This donation will go to children in the poorest performing schools and early learning centers in South Phoenix and Native American Reservations. (Roy T. Dawson, Executive Director, Arizona Center for African American Resources, Goodyear, Arizona)

Nonprofits are often needed most during times of crisis. KNTR is no exception. Demand for the organization's support increased dramatically following COVID-19 school and library closures. This is directly related to a greater need for books in the homes of vulnerable families during isolation protocols. KNTR has devoted itself to keep kids reading during the pandemic by providing emergency reading relief packages to families experiencing virtual classrooms and closed school libraries. The packages are self-contained, making them easy to distribute, and feature family read-aloud books, activity books, musical bilingual ABC CDs, widely appealing picture books, chapter books for a range of ages, Highlights magazines, and bilingual educational reading tips for caregivers—a treasure trove of incentives to invest families in the vital act of reading together. The reading relief packages are provided to vulnerable families via free meal pickups and drive-through events at schools, food banks, community centers, and other agencies on an ongoing basis. These “read together” packages had such an impressive impact on the disadvantaged demographic KNTR serves, that the organization will continue providing them indefinitely into the future. We would like to offer special thanks to Alliance Bank of Arizona/Western Alliance Bank for getting this project off the ground with a generous \$25,000 COVID-19 relief contribution.

Book Giveaway Events



“I am stunned by the generosity and care of Kids Need to Read. The library books we received were obviously chosen for our school with great care, as were the COVID relief book bags given out to our students. [Kids Need to Read staff and volunteers] were amazing. They distributed book bags OUTSIDE at noon in temperatures of over 100 degrees and were still enthusiastic, welcoming, and kind. Our families were very pleased and excited to get their books. We cannot thank you enough for helping our young people get the encouragement and TLC they needed during these troubled times.” (Jo Ann Hallstrom, Resource Center Specialist, Roosevelt Elementary School, Mesa, Arizona)

School-wide book giveaways! Family literacy nights! STEM nights! Fall carnivals! Parent meetings! Community events! Food bank events! Holiday events! Setting up massive book distributions at such events in order to provide kids with access to books is the Page Coach’s specialty. When the COVID-19 pandemic shut down these opportunities, Kids Need to Read never wavered. We simply shifted gears and brought our treasure trove of books to free meal distributions, drive through events, and anywhere else books could be handed out to children in need of reading resources. The distribution events provided extremely effective opportunities to inspire children and families to read.

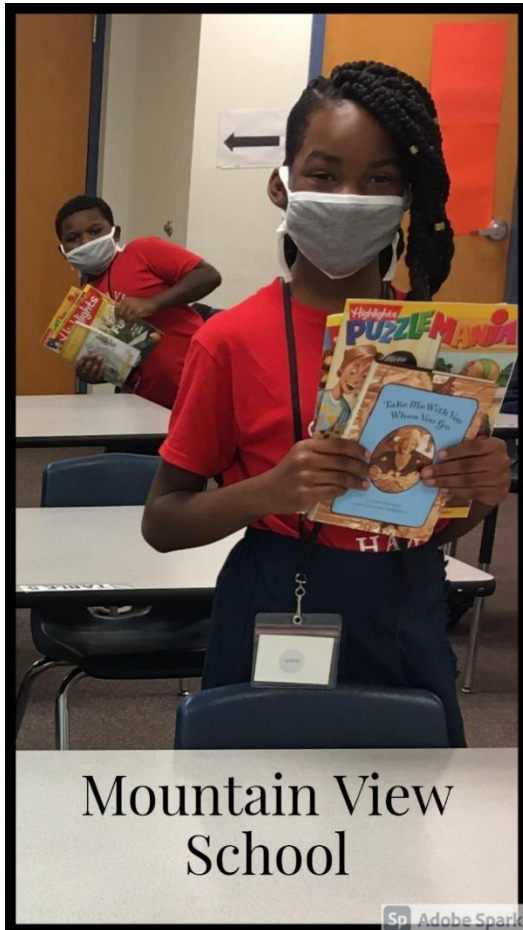
Safety and efficiency protocols at these events inspired the creation of Kids Need to Read’s Family Read Together Packs—reading relief packages designed to encourage positive family reading habits. With books and literacy activities enclosed neatly in a bag or pack, they can be safely and easily distributed at any event. The Page Coach visited 62 locations in Arizona, five in California, and four in Nevada to support massive COVID relief efforts during the 2020–2021 fiscal year. Thousands of books were delivered to an additional 30 schools and agencies for crucially important literacy needs other than COVID relief.



The real power of the Page Coach is its ability to travel directly to children, no matter where they live or what adverse conditions may be impacting their lives. This is where we can help to close the literacy gap between high- and low-income children—right there among the children!

Highlights, Books and Buddies

I want to thank Kids Need to Read from the bottom of my heart! They gave ALL of the kindergartners at Porter Elementary including my online kindergartners a Polar Express book and a big stuffed animal. There were so many happy faces from the kindergartners at Porter on the last day. I gave mine out to my class last Tuesday morning in the parking lot and my kids were SO VERY happy and had their "Reading Buddy" on camera the rest of the week. ... Thanks, Kids Need to Read!! (Skip Allen, Kindergarten Teacher, Porter Elementary School, Mesa, Arizona)



In addition to the many individuals who donate books and handmade reading buddies to Kids Need to Read, several corporate benefactors hold annual book-raisers and buddy-raisers, contributing desperately needed reading resources to enhance the quality and quantity of the Page Coach's gifts to children. Among these much-appreciated resource-raising partners are:

American Girl Publishing

1,053 books

Barnes & Noble Chandler Fashion Mall

694 books

Barnes & Noble Desert Ridge Marketplace

274 books

Bookman's Entertainment Exchange Mesa

795 books

Coil Records

1,120 Mister G educational music CDs

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

20,563 books

The Page Coach is such a creative, exciting way to deliver the books and bring positive energy to the campus. ...we cannot thank [Kids Need to Read] enough for the wonderful donation [you] gave our students and the entire school. This is the most incredible program I have ever seen and it is so important for children to have books to read, which is not as common as you would think. I believe books are an underestimated resource that is very necessary for schools. Since so many schools are underfunded, Kids Need to Read is such a beneficial agency. Thank you for all you do for our community and children! (Samantha Maltese, Elementary School Counselor, Whittier Elementary School, Mesa, Arizona)



Highlights for Children donated over 78,119 magazines and activity books as part of their annual #GivingTuesday campaign benefiting Kids Need to Read. These resources have a wide-ranging appeal and provide exceptional content. They are invaluable to enticing the most reluctant of readers to open up the cover and enter the magical world of reading.

“I want to share with you what a great feeling our Client Services volunteers are having when we hand the Highlights books out. The kid’s eyes just light up and a smile comes to their face and we almost always get a big “Thank You!” when they receive the book. ... On behalf of our Client Service

volunteers I want to say Thank You to you for giving us that opportunity.” (Patricia Palermini, Board Director, Superstition Community Food Bank, Apache Junction, Arizona)



PetSmart Christown Spectrum Phoenix, in conjunction with **PetSmart Charities**, raised 1,228 stuffed reading buddies for Kids Need to Read. 1,082 additional buddies were donated by the Deer Valley location, for a total of 2,310. The irresistible pals serve as comforting read aloud companions for the children, especially those whose caregivers have difficulties helping with at-home reading due to burdensome schedules, language barriers, or other challenges.

“The preschool teacher wanted me to tell you that they see the reading buddies online [during virtual class] all the time!!! The kids treasure them!” (Karen O’Keefe, EL Testing Specialist, Mountain View School, Phoenix, Arizona)

The Page Coach Has New Clothes!



(Left to right) KNTR Executive Director Denise Gary, WrapForce Ind Owner Mike Syfritt, Author and Artist Travis Hanson)

Author and artist extraordinaire, Travis Hanson, came to town to help unveil the spectacular new wrap on Kids Need to Read's mobile outreach unit. Travis's design is so wonderfully whimsical and adventurous—the perfect embodiment of our passion to help children discover the joy of reading and the power of a literate mind!



The design is one continuous piece, so folks can walk around the van and immerse themselves in different worlds on each side. Mike Syfritt of WrapForce Ind also joined in the unveiling. He did an outstanding job of applying the new wrap! Our sincere thanks to both of these gentlemen for upgrading the

Page Coach to this new, thrilling design. Everywhere we go, people stop to comment!



Kids Need to Read loaded the shiny, new Page Coach completely full of reading resources and delivered them to Mountain View School in Phoenix, along with Travis. He helped to unload 3,996 books, *Highlights* magazines, and PetSmart Charities reading buddies. The 100% Title I school conducts several school-wide book giveaways for their students throughout the year, and KNTR always provides enough resources for one of those giveaways each year. From their request: "We have the highest homeless rate in our district and over 80% of students have been classified as English Language Learners...."

Afterward, we received the following heart-tugging note from Mountain View School's ELL Testing Specialist, Karen O'Keefe (pictured right in the photos above):

The Page Coach delivers more than beautiful books to our school, more than fun activities, more than cuddly reading buddies... The Page Coach delivers success in school and a brighter future for our students who so badly need that extra support The Page Coach provides. Each and every time we have a Kids Need to Read book giveaway we see the joy in the students' faces!! "Do we get to keep these? Are these ours?" The primary students plop down on the floor the second they get their books even if they are right in the middle of a room!! They hold their books close to their hearts as they make their way to their rooms. The intermediate students have conversations about books, NOT video games, BOOKS!! They often tell us that they look forward to the book give-aways and ask us each year when the next one will be!!! YOU ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THEIR LIVES BY PROVIDING THESE BOOKS, THESE EXPERIENCES!!! THANK YOU!!!!!!!!!!

What a fantastic day of giving and celebrating the Page Coach's new look, thanks to all of you who support the Page Coach!

Arizona Agencies Served

Apache Junction

Superstition Community Food Bank

Casa Grand

Charli's House

Cave Creek

Foothills Food Bank

Chandler

Pomeroy Elementary School

Coolidge

Coolidge Public Library

El Mirage

Dysart Community Center

Huachuca City

Huachuca City School

Litchfield

Scott Libby Elementary PTA

Mesa

Mesa United Way

Imagine East Mesa Elementary School

House of Refuge

United Food Bank

Valley Against Sex Trafficking -VAST

Over-Flo Missions

Control Alt Delete

Roosevelt Elementary School

Longfellow Elementary School

Mesa Education Center MPS Parent

University

Mesa Public Library

Porter Elementary School

Mesa K Ready

Eagle Pathway

Whitter Elementary School



Mesa Chamber of Commerce
College Bound AZ

Palo Verde

Palo Verde Elementary School

Phoenix

Imagine Elementary School (Camelback)

Palomino Primary School

Ignacio Conchos Elementary School

Jewish Family & Children's Service

Read Better Be Better

Catholic Charities Community

Backpacks 4 Kids

Boys Hope Girls Hope of Arizona

C. J. Jorgensen Elementary School

Griffith Elementary School

Mountain Park Health Center

Cactus Wren Elementary School

Mountain View School

V. H. Lassen School

Capitol Elementary School

J. B. Sutton Elementary School

Nevitt Elementary School

Echo Mountain Elementary School

Pendergast Learning Center

Montecito Community School

Joseph Zito Elementary School

Booker T. Washington Early Learning

Native American Connections INC

South Mountain High School

Cesar Chavez Community School

Scottsdale

Primrose School of North Scottsdale

Sells, Tohono O'odham Nation

Indian Oasis Elementary-Intermediate

Indian Oasis Elementary-Primary

Surprise

Altrusa of the West Valley

Tempe

Kyrene Digital Academy



Tucson

Drexel Elementary School
Schumacher Infant and Early Learning Center (TUSD)
Community Food Bank
Brichta Infant and Early Learning Center (TUSD)
La Paloma South Campus
Academy Del Sol Roger Campus

“[Kids Need to Read] is doing all things good and right in the world and for this we are grateful!”
(Adela Angiuli, Executive Director, San Gabriel Educational Foundation (SEF), San Gabriel, California)

California Agencies Served



Indio

Oliphant Elementary School/Shadow Hills High School

Los Angeles

Amanecer Community Counseling Services

Orange

Orange Public Library

Porterville

Porterville Public Library

Rancho Mirage

Rancho Mirage Library and Observatory

San Gabriel

San Gabriel Educational Foundation

Nevada Agencies Served

Las Vegas

Monaco Middle School
Ruby S. Thomas Elementary School

North Las Vegas

Keystone Development Center
Three Square Food Bank



The Page Coach 2020–2021 Survey Results and Testimonials



With never having a library at our campus, The Page Coach allowed our students and staff to have their own personal "library". While delivering the books to each classroom, I can honestly say that I have never seen as much excitement, nor heard that many students simply say 'thank you', than I did when they received their free books. Many of them shyly asked, "How much are these?" When I told them these books are theirs to keep, immediately they began turning the pages and eagerly discussing with other students. At our staff meeting, we had teachers take a raffle ticket and numbers were called, allowing each teacher to take 10-20 books for their classroom. I swear, it was like a stampede of teachers "fighting" over the books that they wanted! Thank you for instilling the love of reading in our students and staff! Your gift to us is more than we could have ever asked for!

Amanda Taylor, EL Teacher, La Paloma Academy South, Tucson, Arizona
70% showed increased desire to read

I am stunned by the generosity and care of Kids Need to Read. The library books we received were obviously chosen for our school with great care, as were the COVID relief book bags given out to our students. [Kids Need to Read staff and volunteers] were amazing. They distributed book bags OUTSIDE at noon in temperatures of over 100 degrees and were still enthusiastic, welcoming, and kind. Our families were very pleased and excited to get their books. We cannot thank you enough for helping our young people get the encouragement and TLC they needed during these troubled times.

Jo Ann Hallstrom, Resource Center Specialist, Roosevelt Elementary School, Mesa, Arizona
Percentage unknown

The Page Coach delivers more than beautiful books to our school, more than fun activities, more than cuddly reading buddies... The Page Coach delivers success in school and a brighter future for our students who so badly need that extra support The Page Coach provides. Each and every time we have a Kids Need to Read book give-away we see the joy in the students' faces!! "Do we get to keep these? Are these ours?" The primary students plop down on the floor the second they get their books even if they are right in the middle of a room!! They hold their books close to their hearts as they make their way to their rooms. The intermediate students have conversations about books, NOT video games, BOOKS!! They often tell us that they look forward to the book give-aways and ask us each year when the next one will be!!! YOU ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THEIR LIVES BY PROVIDING THESE BOOKS, THESE EXPERIENCES!!! THANK YOU!!!!!!!!!!

Karen O'Keefe, EL Testing Specialist, Mountain View School, Phoenix, Arizona

90% showed increased desire to read (*Each time we have a book give-away, it is magical!! We see students reading throughout that day on playground, in the cafeteria, and on their walk home. We see them cherishing the books throughout the year, pulling them from their backpacks when they have a moment to read. YES we see an increased desire to read!!!*)

We could not be more grateful for the donation to our students. We know that students having books at home helps create a sense of normalcy, and is needed in the midst of this crisis while they are out of school.

Isabel Martinez, McKinney Vento and Foster Care Liaison, Pendergast School District Elementary, Phoenix, Arizona

100% showed increased desire to read

We love visits from The Page Coach! I contacted [Kids Need to Read] just two weeks before this giveaway asking for help with 600 books for K-6. This short notice was no problem for Kids Need To Read. [They] delivered the books the day before the giveaway so we could sort them into individual book bags for contactless distribution. This May donation was special because we gave the books out alongside our free food program. We gave books to kids of all levels (K-8) and families that came from other schools across North Phoenix, any family needing food assistance! We love Kids Need to READ!

Gena Martinello, Reading Specialist, Palomino Primary School, Phoenix, Arizona

100% showed increased desire to read (*students and parents were eager to read all books in their bag!*)

Kids Need to Read, approved our request within a matter of days and the Page Coach delivered books a week later. The Covid-19 crisis is an extreme disaster on the already burdened. This donation will go to children in the poorest performing schools and early learning centers in South Phoenix and Native American Reservations.

Roy T. Dawson, Executive Director, Arizona Center for African American Resources, Goodyear, Arizona

Percentage unknown

The books are so great for the kids.

Priscilla Duenaz, Youth Director, Dysart Community Center, El Mirage, Arizona

100% showed increased desire to read

[Kids Need to Read] was phenomenal and such a bright light for the students and staff at Whittier. After a very difficult school year going back and forth from remote to in-person learning, it was such a positive opportunity for the students. Whittier is a Title I school in Mesa, AZ where many students do not have enough books in school, and surely not enough for them to use at home. Each child on campus, including the remote students, was grateful to receive a Highlights magazine, a new book, and some new books for their classroom. The Page Coach is such a creative, exciting way to deliver the books and bring positive energy to the campus. ...we cannot thank [Kids Need to Read] enough for the wonderful donation [you] gave our students and the entire school. This is the most incredible program I have ever seen and it is so important for children to have books to read, which is not as common as you would think. I believe books are an underestimated resource that is very necessary for schools. Since so many schools are underfunded, Kids Need to Read is such a beneficial agency. Thank you for all you do for our community and children!

Samantha Maltese, Elementary School Counselor, Whittier Elementary School, Mesa, Arizona
100% showed increased desire to read (*Many did not have books or magazines before this.*)

Kindergarten materials were given out during graduation and they were a big hit! Thank you so much!

Lynn Weissman, Teacher, Ignacio Conchos Elementary School, Phoenix, Arizona
75% showed increased desire to read

Such a wonderful program. Kids escaping domestic violence need an escape and reading can help with that.

Laura Pahules, President/Founder, Control Alt Delete, Mesa, Arizona
Percentage unknown

...these donations were a wonderful way to give children literacy resources that they can use during this incredibly difficult summer.

Joyce Baker, Library Manager, Coolidge Public Library, Coolidge, Arizona
Percentage unknown

This donation was such a blessing for our student body. We were able to provide not only a book per child but also highlights magazines, puzzle books and a reading buddy and CD for each kinder. We would not have been able to make such a thing happen on our own this year due to covid hindering all spring fundraising events. Our wellness bags are going to bring such big smiles of joy for every child in our school. Thank you for all you have done for Scott Libby PTA.

Melissa Andrews, Vice President, Scott Libby PTA, Litchfield Park, Arizona
100% showed increased desire to read

Your donation of books is greatly appreciated. ... I want to personally thank you for helping restore my classroom library, as well as donating additional books for my school's AR reading program. ... I look forward to see the students and watch them go through all of the book choices.

Stephanie Ramirez, Third Grade Teacher, Palo Verde Elementary School, Palo Verde, AZ
Percentage unknown

A lot of our kids don't have the opportunity to own books. It's something really nice for them to take home, new books, just for them.

Angela Lopez, Development Manager, Boys Hope Girls Hope of Arizona, Phoenix, Arizona
Percentage unknown

SEF understands that literacy is tied to academic achievement and lifetime outcomes. A top priority is to ensure that we get books into the hands of all students. During this global pandemic, our task is even more critical as there are many students who do not have access to a school or public library and families may not have the means to purchase books for their students at home. We envision a world where every child receives the gift of literature and the many, many hours of joy their own book brings! [Kids Need to Read] is doing all things good and right in the world and for this we are grateful! Together SEF and KNTR are delivering smiles and dreams one book at a time!

Adela Angiuli, Executive Director, San Gabriel Educational Foundation (SEF), San Gabriel, CA
100% showed increased desire to read (*Students who receive a gift of literature of their very own immediately begin to enjoy the book itself!*)

Thank you!

Shannon Lane, Senior Library Manager, Children's and Teen Services, Orange Public Library & History Center, Orange, California
Percentage unknown

Thank you SO much for this gift! With 2/3 of our kiddos online, this generous donation allowed us to increase enthusiasm for reading and school even though most are online. It has been a challenge to engage students and their families in these initial weeks of distance learning, and this donation made that possible. The books were culturally relevant and age appropriate. With so many books donated, we were able to supplement a very limited classroom library for the in-person Kinders who are not able to use our school library during COVID. THANK YOU AGAIN!

Amy T. Woehling, Teacher, Griffith Elementary School, Phoenix, Arizona
100% showed increased desire to read

Teachers were very appreciative, I am very grateful, we felt like this school was a book desert and now... WOW!!! Words cannot express my gratitude.

Ashley Marquez, Middle School Science & Math Teacher, Academy del Sol, Tucson, Arizona
95% showed increased desire to read

We love Kids Need to Read. Kindergarteners loved their Reading Buddies. I hope we can work out some way to have your involvement this year via virtual contact!

Gena Martinello, Reading Specialist, Palomino Primary School, Phoenix, Arizona
100% showed increased desire to read

We supply books to the children [of the] clients of the food bank. The kids LOVE receiving the books and express that to us. It makes them feel special.

Patricia Palermini, Board Director, Superstition Community Food Bank, Apache Junction, AZ
90% showed increased desire to read

[KNTR Operations Director] Jessica is a kind and approachable person.

Denise Carter, Director, Over-Flo Missions, Mesa, Arizona
100% showed increased desire to read

Our book give away was just before Valentine's Day. This gave us the opportunity to give them as well as a snack bag away for Valentine's Day.

Jen Gilson, Donation Center Associate, House of Refuge, Mesa, Arizona
Percentage unknown

I am feeling speechless this morning after unboxing the books from Kids Need to Read. The quantity was enough to be impressive, but the QUALITY and titles that were selected were impeccable. I am so excited to get these books to the hands of our kids. There are so many titles that resonated with our staff as we remembered our own reading as kids, and we cannot wait to share it with students. Being a small program, we are used to "get what you can" types of donations, so the quality of these books and the wonderful stories within surpassed our expectations. Thank you SO much for all that you do, we are so excited to have these books to start up our library. We so appreciate your work and your donation to our community.

Mariah Kelly, Principal, Montecito Community School, Phoenix, Arizona
Percentage unknown

These books will keep youth engaged while we slowly transition back to in-person interaction. Distribution will occur while they come to the community room for food pickup and those that aren't able to make it, they will have them delivered to their units. ... Thanks again for your support.

PJ Jasso, Director of Public Engagement, Native American Connections, Phoenix, Arizona
85% showed increased desire to read

We are so grateful for the donation of books. We have a high population of English language learners who are literate in their first language, but need additional exposure in their homes to English language books to support their second language acquisition. This donation will provide each student with 2 books plus a magazine or activity book to take home and read!

Elizabeth Sousa, Instructional Coach, Cesar Chavez Community School, Phoenix, Arizona
Percentage unknown

This was amazing! Thank you so much! This donation makes another year of book club possible!

Vicki M. Burkhart, Teacher, South Mountain High School, Phoenix, Arizona
75% showed increased desire to read

Testimonials received via mail/email:

Here are some photos from students that received the AMAZING puzzle books and magazines from Highlights.... Thank you so much, our school and students are LOVING the materials you gave us!

Megan Walls, Assistant Principal of School Operations, Dean of Students, and Site Coordinator
21st Century ICARE; Imagine Schools Camelback; Phoenix; Arizona

I just wanted to say thank you so much for your generous donation of books, cds and reading buddies for our Wellness Bags. This was such a hit for not only the students but for the teachers as well. Some kids cried, others called it a Covid Christmas. We could not have done it without you. Thank you never seems to be big enough for what you did for our children. You are forever in our hearts.

Melissa Andrews, Vice President, Scott Libby PTA, Litchfield Park, Arizona

I just can't say enough about how great this program is and just how grateful we are. The younger kids loved getting their own book that they could keep and take home with them. In the older classes, I saw several students choosing the same book, so they could read it at that same time. I went into the 6th grade classroom later in the day and they were making bookmarks for their new books. We received resources in Spanish and I passed those on to the EL teacher at our school and she was very excited to receive them. The teachers have had the opportunity to go through the boxes for their classroom libraries. We have a handful of new teachers this year and they were very grateful to have the opportunity to expand their classroom library without having to spend a fortune. Thank you so much for this program!

Jessica Smith, School Counselor, Huachuca City School and Walter J. Meyer Elementary School, Huachuca City and Tombstone, Arizona

Thank you very much for your generous donation of picture books, chapter books, puzzle books and magazines. They were handed out to every student who attended our recent Title I Holiday Drive Thru Literacy and Math Event. Since our campuses and public libraries are now closed due to COVID-19, these will probably be the only contact many of our families will have with real books for a while. Please know that you brought lots and lots of smiles to parents, teachers and students alike. We appreciate your support as we strive to develop lifelong readers, and look forward to a continued partnership.

Cindy Hermida, Title I Site Specialist, Echo Mountain Intermediate School, Phoenix, Arizona

Thanks so very much for your wonderful donation of books and stuffed animals to both my remote kinders at Porter Elementary in Mesa and to the other two kindergarten classes. My kinder parents picked up new bags of materials on Friday morning. I was able to give each kinder a magazine and two new books. When I went LIVE with them at 9:00 all of them were very happy with their new books!! I saved some books for the next bag hand out. Thanks again so much!!! Your organization ROCKS!!

Skip Allen, Kindergarten Teacher, Porter Elementary School, Mesa, Arizona

I want to thank Kids Need to Read from the bottom of my heart! They gave ALL of the kindergartners at Porter Elementary including my online kindergartners a Polar Express book and a big stuffed animal. There were so many happy faces from the kindergartners at Porter on the last day. I gave mine out to my class last Tuesday morning in the parking lot and my kids were SO VERY happy and had their "Reading Buddy" on camera the rest of the week. I'm looking forward to my new challenge as I will be BOTH the online Kinder and First Grade teacher in January! Thanks, Kids Need to Read!!

Skip Allen, Kindergarten Teacher, Porter Elementary School, Mesa, Arizona

Please know how very, very much we appreciate [Kids Need to Read] and all that you do to spread the joy and magic of reading! One of the girls I work with told us that all she wants for Christmas is one book! She LOVES reading and you have helped to instill that in her! Thank you, thank you, thank you! Oh! The preschool teacher wanted me to tell you that they see the reading buddies online [during virtual class] all the time!!! The kids treasure them!

Karen O'Keefe, EL Testing Specialist, Mountain View School, Phoenix, Arizona

Thank you so incredibly much for the absolutely wonderful books we received! You are SO good to us! We can never thank you enough for the joyful looks on our students' faces, for the hours of reading enjoyment they will experience, for their future success!!! YOU make that happen each and every time you bless schools with books! Thank you a million times!

Karen O'Keefe EL Testing Specialist, Mountain View School, Phoenix, Arizona

I cannot thank you enough for the very generous donations of books, Highlights magazines, and reading buddies! These are always so important for our preschoolers, but even more in these times. Thank you so much!

Rebecca Itkoe, Special Needs Preschool Teacher, Mountain View School, Phoenix, Arizona

I wanted to say "Thank you" for the last delivery of books. This past Saturday was the Food Banks Thanksgiving Handout - we were also handing out another Kids Bag to the families. I was in the position of checking in the cars as they entered, and some families even asked for additional bags for their kids. They were saying how much the kids looked forward to the bags and books. Some even included the comment that the kids loved the books!!!! I just wanted to share with you what we were experiencing and even some of the volunteers questioning where and how we got the books.

Patricia Palermini, Board Director, Superstition Community Food Bank, Apache Junction, Arizona

I want to share with you what a great feeling our Client Services volunteers are having when we hand the Highlights books out. The kid's eyes just light up and a smile comes to their face and we almost always get a big "Thank You!" when they receive the book. As you probably are very much aware it gives us a great bit of satisfaction each time we see it and hear that Thank You. On behalf of our Client Service volunteers I want to say Thank You to you for giving us that opportunity.

Patricia Palermini Board Director, Superstition Community Food Bank, Apache Junction, Arizona

Thank you for the donation from Kids Need to Read to CARE Campus/Emergency Santa. Your gift is making a difference in the lives of people in our community.

Steven Gutierrez, Philanthropy Team, Catholic Charities, Phoenix, Arizona

...I wanted to thank you again for your generous donation to Pomeroy. I can't tell you how excited the teachers and students were for the books and Highlights magazines. So many teachers made comments about how this was their favorite magazine growing up.

Nicki Young, Clerical Aide, Pomeroy Elementary School, Mesa, Arizona

Because of your generous support AND IN SPITE OF COVID 19; together, we have still been able to get books in the hands of more than 150 children since August. We are pleased that the KITABU Book Bank has reached and been accessed by such diverse communities.

Roy Dawson, Executive Director, Arizona Center for African American Resources, Phoenix, Arizona

Our book give-away was just before Valentine's Day. This gave us the opportunity to give them as well as a snack bag away for Valentine's Day.

Jen Gilson, Donation Center Associate, House of Refuge, Mesa, Arizona

Thank you so much for dropping off the books and magazines yesterday! We've been able to pack up enough books for each student to receive 2 books each Friday for the next 3 weeks.

Allyse Hazeltine, Program Director, 12 Books, Mesa United Way, Mesa, Arizona

I wanted to send our sincerest gratitude for all the books, magazines, and reading buddies you provided us with. Please know that your generous donation means so much to all of us at JFCS and all the children we serve. ... Keep up the amazing work you all are doing to support literacy.

Kristin Harvey, Community Relations & Patient Engagement Advocate, Jewish Family & Children's Service, Gilbert, Arizona

I want to personally thank you for helping restore my classroom library, as well as donating additional books for my school's AR reading program.

Stephanie Ramirez, Third Grade Teacher, Palo Verde Elementary School, Palo Verde, Arizona

It is with great appreciation that I write you this letter of thanks for your donation to Palo Verde Elementary School District No. 49. Your generosity in allowing us to be the recipient of your donation provides us with the ability to give students of our school much-needed books. We are extremely grateful for your support, given the circumstances with our classrooms, you have alleviated a huge burden for our teachers. With your support to Palo Verde Elementary School, you support the children in our community, our future leaders of tomorrow. The governing board, children of Palo Verde Elementary School, and I thank you. We hope you stay safe during these unprecedented times.

Robert Aldridge, Superintendent, Palo Verde Elementary School District No. 49, Palo Verde, Arizona

RBBB's and KNTR's missions perfectly complement each other: provide books to kids along with structured curriculum to ensure reading comprehension gains. We are very grateful for this opportunity to receive a HUGE book donation from you all. Our kids will certainly be excited and eager to crack open these books and read and reread!

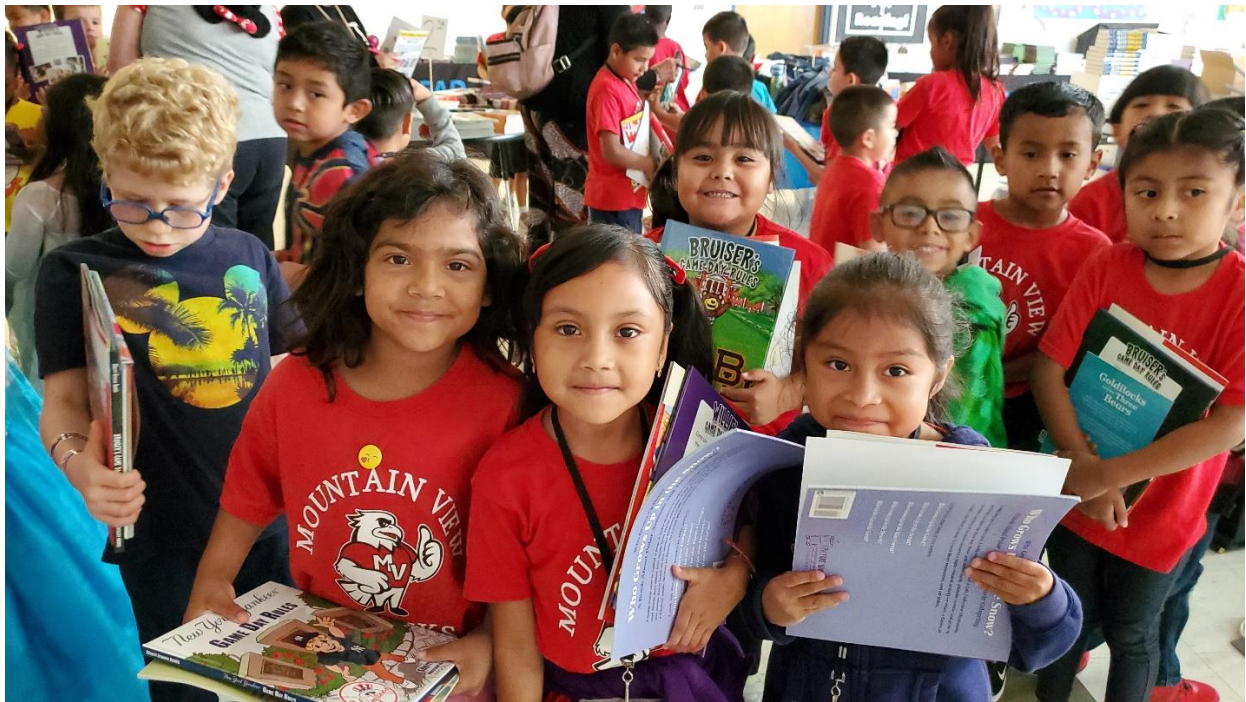
Molly Smithwick, Fundraising Coordinator, Read Better Be Better, Phoenix, Arizona

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