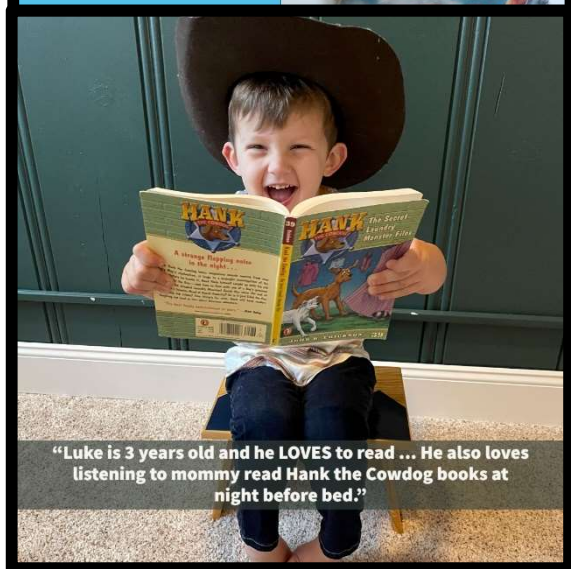
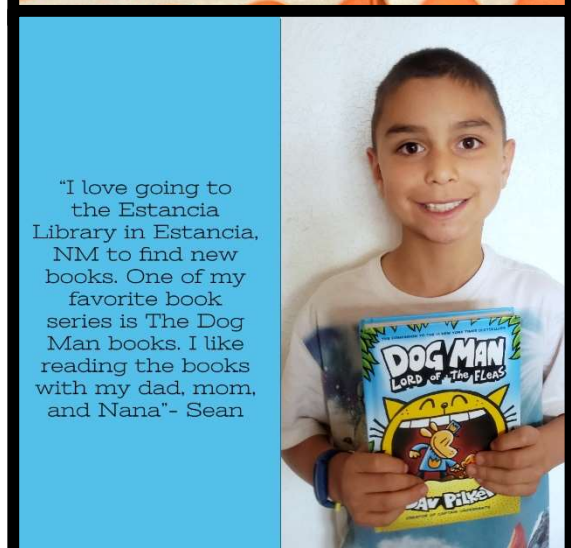




# Grow Your Library Impact Report 2021-2022



*It was so exciting to have this donation and program as part of our summer reading program. Kids were excited to receive books they could read to log their summer reading minutes. It was encouraging and exciting for a smaller library like ours to receive such a large donation of new books!* - Sarah Rapier, Youth Education Coordinator, Rossville Public Library, Rossville, Georgia



Developed and maintained by board members Gary and Tina Mlodzik, Kids Need to Read's Grow Your Library program starts by providing a collection of new books to each selected library; but this is only the beginning. After a personal visit to share story time with the children, Gary and Tina then issue a challenge to everyone in attendance, encouraging them to lead by example by turning their own love of reading into even more gifts for their community. For every child who responds within a set period, another book is donated on that child's behalf, with a bookplate inside the cover to commemorate their contribution. The response has been as positive as it is heartwarming;

*"Thank you for your event at the White Pine County Library. We are loving the books that have been donated and enjoyed the stories you shared. ...Thank you so much for your generosity. It has made a tremendous effect on our community."* - Katrina Brumit, Ely, Nevada

The effects linger on long after our visit, the program provides participating kids with much more than free books. It gives them an opportunity to make a difference, further reinforcing the ties between a strong reading foundation and a sense of meaningful involvement and belonging. Just as the stories they read to complete the challenge will leave a lasting impression on them, each understands that the book donated through their effort means the donation of a new dream, waiting to be discovered by countless other children just like them. And not just for their generation but for many more to come.



Kids Need to Read's Grow Your Library program goals consistently include a substantial donation of reading resources for each library served, with the purpose of increasing their catalog with updated and high-quality books. Due to relationships developed and maintained over the years, a key source of these materials is provided by publishers who share their latest releases right off their office shelves. Additionally, individual writers generously donate their most recently published titles. Many authors have donated repeatedly over the years, and new creators are invited to join the family of Kids Need to Read supporters every year. It is because of these generous authors and publishers who enthusiastically support the Grow Your Library Program with book donations, that between 500-700 titles per library are provided to each program participant.

As communities open up, an urgency to start in-person story time events and reestablish the fragile community relationship drives board members and program leaders, Gary and Tina Mlodzik to reach out to as many rural libraries as possible. Collectively the Grow Your Library team completed eight Storytime events in eight states over nine months. Six of these states had never received a Grow Your library grant. For the fiscal year of 2021-2022, a total of 4,601 books were provided to these eight rural libraries to increase their catalog of books for community access. These donations are a godsend to people like Angela Creamer, the librarian for the Estancia Public Library in Estancia, New Mexico, who noted in her application that she received an annual budget of only \$1,000 for children's books despite serving over 200 children. That is \$5 per child when the average hard bound book costs over \$15.

Librarians like Lori Williams from White Pine County Library in Ely, Nevada, give enthusiastic feedback. *"Kids Need to Read's Grow Your Library is such an amazing program. It supported our library to expand our collection with some fantastic reading materials and helped to create some great memories with our patrons! ... We had patrons attend the event that had never [been] to the library and have [since] signed up for cards..."* A visit from the Grow Your Library team not only supports the library but helps to build and reinforce its connection to the communities it serves.

The longevity of Kids Need to Read's Grow Your Library program is due to the passion and hard work of the directors that go into every donation made through this program. The program's success also comes from the support of kind and generous authors, publishers, friends. As a team, Kids Need to Read's Grow Your Library program will be serving children and community libraries across the United States for years to come.

Grow Your Library, Kids Need to Read's rural library support program, proudly served 8,706 children during the 2021-2022 fiscal year (April 1, 2021–March 31, 2022), distributing inspiring books and literacy programming to libraries and the low socioeconomic communities they serve in Arkansas, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, New Mexico, Nevada, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Texas. The number of reading resources provided by the program was 10,269 books valued at \$97,295.08 during the fiscal year. The average poverty rate of clients served was 77%.

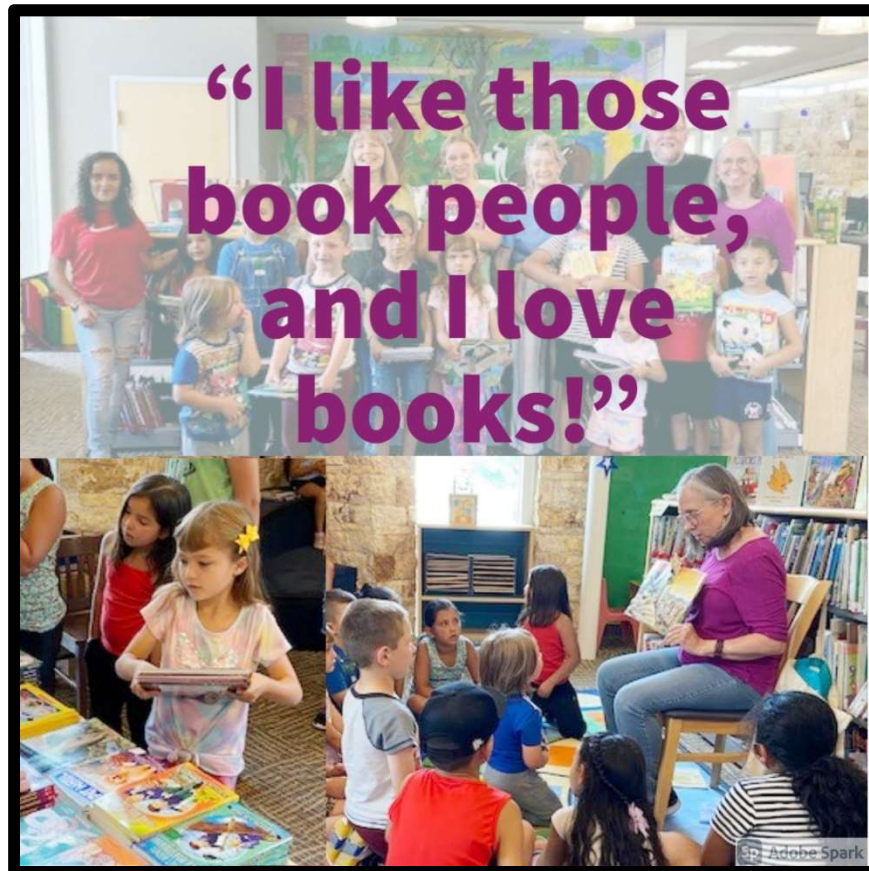


Surveys were sent to agencies that received visits from The Grow Your Library Program. The surveys are structured to gauge an increased desire to read after the program. This included interactive presentations, as well as book giveaway events. Of the seven Grow Your Library survey respondents, 29% reported 100% increased desire to read after the program. 15% reported less than 70% observation of an increased desire to read. 58% of respondents noted an increase in visitations and library card signups. Many of the librarians provided positive feedback, such as this:



*“The Grow your Library Program made the children stakeholders in the library by providing a book in their honor. They feel proud and are excitedly telling friends and family. First library card sign ups have skyrocketed because kids can’t wait to check out “their” book and the books their friends requested. The Grow your Library Program has helped give our kids a passport to exciting new worlds full of endless possibilities and boundless imagination. The impact they have made here will be felt for years. Gary and Tina have changed lives today, and it’s truly extraordinary to watch.”*

Loraine Walker, Children’s Services Librarian, Starkville Public Library, Starkville, Mississippi



## Major In-kind Contributors:

ABDO Publishing  
Alyssa Capucilli  
Amazon Publishing  
Artemesia Publishing  
Bearport Publishing  
Bellwether Media  
Candlewick Press  
Crabtree Publishing  
Dr. Jewell Parker Rhodes  
Highlights for Children  
Houghton Mifflin Harcourt  
Jump!

Lauren Tarshis  
Lerner Publishing  
Lisa McMann  
Penguin Random House  
PetSmart Charities/PetSmart Christown  
Spectrum Phoenix  
Scholastic  
Simon & Schuster  
Soman Chainani  
Spencer Hill Press  
Tom Leveen

## Libraries served:

**Estancia Public Library,**  
Estancia, New Mexico  
Poverty Level 90%

**Rossville Public Library,**  
Rossville, Georgia  
Poverty Level 95%

**Starkville Public Library,**  
Starkville, Mississippi  
Poverty Level 70%

**Muskogee Public Library,**  
Muskogee, Oklahoma  
Poverty Level 90%

**Hot Spring County Library,**  
Malvern, Arkansas  
Poverty Level 55%

**Essex Public Library,**  
Essex, Missouri  
Poverty Level 70%

**Alpine Public Library,**  
Alpine, Texas  
Poverty Level 54%

## Libraries served by GYL & the Page Coach:

**White Pine Public Library,**  
Ely, Nevada  
Poverty Level 70%

## Libraries to be fully served in Fiscal Year 2022-2023

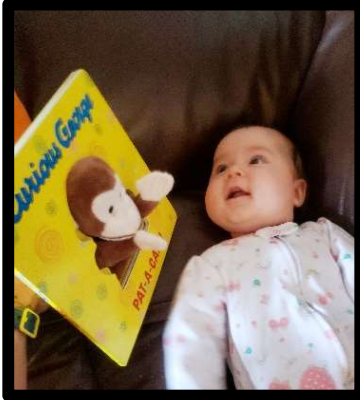
**DeSoto Parish Library**  
Mansfield, Louisiana  
Poverty Level 100%

**Stone County Library**  
Wiggins, Mississippi  
Poverty Level 61%

**Unicoi County Public Library**  
Erwin, Tennessee  
Poverty Level 80%

**Colleton County Memorial Library**  
Walterboro, South Carolina  
Poverty Level 74%





### Testimonials:

***“A little boy on his way out of the library said, ‘I like those book people, and I love books!’”***

- Angela Creamer, Head Librarian, Estancia Public Library

***“Thank you for giving us the books at the Estancia Public Library. I like the Hunger Games because there is a lot of adventure in them.”***

-Chloe Collins, young patron, Estancia Public Library

***“Our needs for early literacy and non-fiction books were superbly met along with new copies of many of our well-worn and tattered series that needed replacing, but we didn’t have it in the budget this summer. And the fact that every child who attended the program received a brand-new book is extraordinary! I believe that every child should own at least one new book in their life and for many of my children who are under the poverty line this was most certainly their first. I am so grateful for y’all’s generosity!!!... The Grow your Library Program made the children stakeholders in the library by providing a book in their honor. They feel proud and are excitedly telling friends and family. First library card sign ups have skyrocketed because kids can’t wait to check out “their” book and the books their friends requested. The Grow your Library Program has helped give our kids a passport to exciting new worlds full of endless possibilities and boundless imagination. The impact they have made here will be felt for years. Gary and Tina have changed lives today, and it’s truly extraordinary to watch.”***

-Loraine Walker, Children’s Services Librarian, Starkville Public Library

***“Thanks so much for visiting our library! We had a really good time and my girls as so excited to read the books they received.”***

-Trish Lamm, Parent, Starkville Public Library

***“My son’s name is Cooper Koehn and he very much enjoyed your visit to Starkville Public Library. He is 5 years old and says he would love to see his name in a book about crocodiles!***

***Thank y’all for making the trip all the way to MS to share the love of books with the kids.”***

-Mary Grace Koehn, parent, Starkville Public Library

***“Thank you for the time and effort you put into this program! It was so exciting to have this donation and program as part of our summer reading program. Kids were excited to receive books they could read to log their summer reading minutes. It was encouraging and exciting for a smaller library like ours to receive such a large donation of new books!”***

-Sarah Rapier, Youth Education Coordinator, Rossville Public Library

***“Thank you both so much for coming out to the Rossville Library and having story time for the kiddos. My daughter loved it and was so excited to get to pick out a book...”***

- Katie Hess, parent, Rossville Public Library

***“Thank you for your wonderful visit to the Rossville Public Library last week! My children enjoyed story time, as well the new books they brought home that day!”***

- Mary Goss, parent, Rossville Public Library

***“Thank you for coming to our library in Rossville Ga. Trent [child] really appreciates all the programs Rossville Public Library has to offer. I really like all the books you donated to our library...”***

-Jennifer Lowe, parent, Rossville Public Library

***“We are located in a low-income area and sending the children home with their own books will encourage independent reading that they may not have had before... Gary and Tina Mlodzik were phenomenal. They did a fantastic job of engaging their audience and the children loved them! We can't thank them enough for coming!”***

- Elizabeth Strickland, Essex Public Library coordinator, Essex Public Library

***“I'm 14 and I like books about romance & relatable fiction. Thank you so much for visiting our small library!”***

-Lainey Huck, young patron, Essex Public Library

***“Our family came to the Essex Public Library story hour a few weeks ago and enjoyed your three read aloud so much! Nora especially enjoyed the visuals that you brought related to the bats you guys encountered on a recent trip you took. Thank you for coming to our local library and sharing that with us.”***

- Courtney McGarity, parent, Essex Public Library

***“The wonderful and amazing people that I was able to contact and the books of course. The Highlight Magazines were probably our biggest hit though, the children and adults of the children loved those. The younger kids loved the reading buddies, they still bring them the story time... The books that we received were books that we had plans to reorder or replace because of so much wear and tear and gentle love. But your wonderful organization and your generous book donation, we didn't have to buy those books and we allocated that money for other books that we longed to out on our shelves. After posting the pictures we had a 15% increase in parents signing their children up for their own library cards, that was amazing in itself... Reading Buddies, the stuff reading buddies are the most brilliant idea ever especially for younger children learning to read. The Puzzle Buzz and Hidden Picture Highlights are the most amazing things and the kids loves them.”***

- Shannon Brown, Early Literacy Coordinator/ Youth Services Lib Asst, Muskogee Public Library





*“We so enjoyed your presentation at our library today! My boys are excited to help grow the Muskogee Public Library in the Eastern Oklahoma Library System.”*

-Sidney Risenger, parent, Muskogee Public Library

*“We love that they encourage the kids to read and shared their love of books with the kids. They shared great stories with our patrons. Also, by encouraging the kids to contribute to the library by paying it forward with recommending a book to share... We had patrons attend the event that had never come to the library and have signed up for cards. Have had positive feedback from several members of the community... Kids Need to Read is such an AMAZING program. It helped our library grow our collection with some fantastic reading materials and helped create some great memories with our patrons!”*

- Lori Williams, Manager Assistant, White Pine County Library

*“Hello! We really loved having you visit our library in Ely, Nevada last week! Thank you so much for the cool new books, the fun Storytime, and the fluffy reading buddies! We would love to have a book donated in our name at our library if you can.”*

- The Mosers, library patrons, White Pine County Library

*“... I am 2 years old and I love books and always ask Mom and Dad to “rweeed”. I love all books about cars, and things with wheels, but I smile the most when we read Cars Galore by Peter Stein. Thank you for helping the library. We love to check out books every week.*

- Wyatt Tate, young patron, White Pine County Library

*“I feel this event helped to jump start our library programming.”*

-Mary B. Garrett, Children's Librarian, Alpine Public Library

*“I just wanted to say thank you for a nice story time. The girls enjoyed it and so did I. Thanks for reading not only to them but to everyone you have a chance to do this for. Literacy is very important. Thank you again. Y'all have a nice evening.”*

- Monica Woodruff, patron, Alpine Public Library

