

KIDS NEED TO READ

Inspiring Imagination

Our Shelves to Yours Impact Report 2022-2023



“My students stopped class when the boxes came. Many found a book that they connected with right away saying “this book is made for me.” Some students agreed with each other that the books are better than what’s in our library. They ignored their work for the rest of class and focused on the books of their choice or continued examining all of their options. Getting some students to read this year has been a slow burn process and with this donation many are on fire for reading now.”

Sarah Pioske, Teacher, North Middle School, Rapid City South Dakota



Literacy for all.

Underfunded schools across the nation are shutting down their libraries; while this happened in previous years, it is occurring at an unprecedented rate this year. Library closures and limiting access to reading materials happen for a variety of reasons from simple economics to politics. This puts the entire burden of supplying reading materials for their students on the classroom teacher, teachers such as A. Jackson in Mississippi, “*My students cannot provide their own books, I buy most of them myself.*” In low-income or Title I schools additional burdens of newly invoked policies and laws are slowly choking literacy from education.

The cry for literacy equality has only gotten louder as the year has progressed. “*Due to the pandemic, our school, like many others, did receive extra funding for certain programs. However, the funding was mostly spent for intervention programs... While my administration believes strongly in having effective, engaging classroom libraries, the money is simply not there to maintain equity amongst all of our ELA classrooms.* (J. Wood, Maryland)” Kids Need to Read responded to that call by targeting classroom and school libraries throughout the country.

This approach has met measurable success as teacher O. Gundrum of Michigan states, “*I am beyond thrilled to receive this donation. As a first-year teacher, it can be challenging to grow a classroom library, especially when the school does not have robust resources for literacy. I am so eager to have students walk into my classroom and see my library in the fall.*” Teachers who are supported teach better, students who have needed materials such as books, learn better. Kids Need to Read cannot solve every problem with a book but we are proud to be a part of the solution.



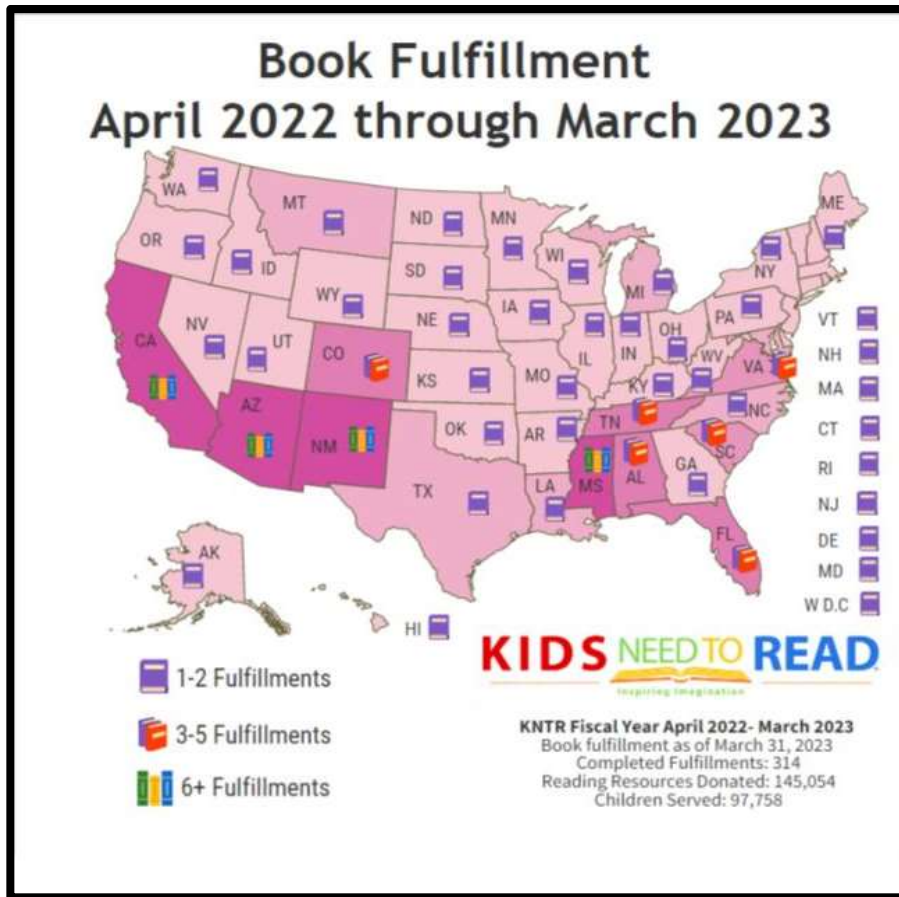
Kids Need to Read also helps communities and organizations that normally get overlooked, such as juvenile detention centers. Literacy rates have a direct impact on incarceration rates. “85% of all juveniles who interface with the juvenile court system are functionally low-literate.” (March 2023:

<https://www.literacymidsouth.org/news/the-relationship-between-incarceration-and-low-literacy>)

Providing books to organizations that help children to stay out of such situations, or offer those that want it a way out by increasing educational opportunities is a way to help make a bad situation better. As H. Collins of Sedgwick County Juvenile Detention Facility, Kansas stated, “*Many book charities have turned us down because we are a library within a juvenile detention facility. These students deserve to have books as much as any other child. The kids are very excited to have new books to read, as well as some replacements for books that have had the covers and pages loved off of their binding. There was something in the boxes for everyone, even lower level readers are excited to get to the library.*”



Kids Need to Read is working towards providing books at as many levels as possible, classroom libraries, school libraries, public libraries, service organizations and community events. The support of donors and volunteers is vital to our mission to give the opportunity to discover the joy of reading and the power of a literate mind to every child.



Note that this map represents the whole of Kids Need to Read's impact upon the US through all three programs; From Our Shelves to Yours, The Page Coach, and Grow Your Library

Major Funding Contributors

52 and Change LLC
Kathy and Jerry Wood Foundation
Arizona Alpha Chapter of Pi Beta Phi
Pi Beta Phi Foundation/Pi Beta Phi Phoenix Alumnae Club

New York Community Bank
California State Society Children of the American Revolution

Major In-kind Contributors

All About Kids Publishing
Author Nancy Donovan
Author Erik Koester
Author Nancy Ganz
Author Steven King
Author Judy E. Laufer
Author Lauren Tarshis
Arizona Renaissance Festival

Barnes & Noble Book Sellers Phoenix area
Bookman's Entertainment Exchange Mesa
Candlewick Press
Digital Radar
Highlights for Children
Lizard Pools
One Monkey Books
PetSmart Charities/PetSmart Phoenix area

"What a gift! I live in a tiny rural district. Funds are always tight. This donation gave me the opportunity to put books in the hands of my students. As I try to positively affect the culture of this school and help students come to love reading, I desperately needed a gift like this! Thank you!"

Phillip Tyler Jessup, Teacher, Bliss School District, Bliss, ID

From Our Shelves to Yours Recipients

From Our Shelves to Yours is Kids Need to Read's flagship program, providing literary treasure to disadvantaged children throughout the United States. It supports a diverse array of schools, libraries, community agencies, and literacy events in low socioeconomic communities by sending books and other reading resources to assist children with access to urgently needed books.



The program distributed reading resources to 14,451 children during the 2022–2023 fiscal year (April 1, 2022–March 31, 2023). The number of reading resources provided across the country was 19,355 books valued at \$139,871.00. The average poverty rate of clients served was 82%. A total of 74 book grants were provided through the program in 47 states and Washington D.C. According to surveyed recipients participating in the nationwide "From Our Shelves to Yours" program, reading interest increased by an average of 78% among participating children.

By teaming up with schools, libraries, and other agencies to provide thousands of books to children lacking adequate access to reading resources, Kids Need to Read encourages kids to discover the joy of reading and the power of a literate mind

"Every single student found a book they could enjoy immediately. I am very grateful to Kids Need to Read for donating to my grade level." - A. Lee



Alabama

Greenville Middle School
Prattville Primary School

Alaska

Mountain View Elementary

Arkansas

Pine Bluff Lighthouse Charter School

California

Breeze Hill Elementary PTA
Bullard High School
Cesar Chavez Elementary
Christopher Columbus Middle School
KIPP Los Angeles
Kipp Promesa Prep

Hyde Park Elementary
John C Fremont Elementary
Nora Sterry Elementary
Orchard Park School

PACE Education
Pacific Boulevard School (LAUSD)

Rockwood Elementary School
Shadow Hills High School
Vista Academy of Performing Arts

Youth build Charter School of California

Colorado

Delta High School

Connecticut

Castle

Delaware

Focusing on Families INC

Florida

Fagler County Public Library
Hardee County School District
Sabal Palm Elementary

Georgia

Tri Cities High School

Hawaii

Jarret Middle School

Idaho

Bliss Public Schools

Illinois

Easter Seals Head Start

Indiana

Paramount School of Excellence

Iowa

Spalding Park Elementary

Kansas

Sedgwick County Juvenile
Detention Center

Kentucky

Fairdale Elementary School

Maine

Gerald E Talbot Community
School

Maryland

Mother Seton School
Potomac Landing Elementary

Massachusetts

Morton Middle School

Michigan

Academy of the Americas
Tau Beta School

Minnesota

Central Freedom High School

Mississippi

B.F. Liddle Middle School
Earl Nash Elementary School
Noxubee County High School
We Will Go

Missouri

Lucy Wortham James
Elementary

Montana

Education Foundations for
Billings Public Schools
Jefferson Early Learning Center

Nebraska

OshKosh Public Library

New Hampshire

Jewett Street School

New Jersey

Paul Robeson Charter School

New Mexico

Career Guidance Institute
La Clinica De Familia
Moriarty Community Library

New York

George Washington Elementary
School

North Carolina

Books for Birthdays
Eckerd Connects Boys
Residential Academy

North Dakota

Heart River Elementary

Ohio

Hamilton High School

Oklahoma

Modoc Nation Cultural Library

Oregon

Hillsboro Online Academy

Pennsylvania

Roxborough High School

Rhode Island

Central Falls High School

South Carolina

Colleton County Memorial
Library

South Dakota

North Middle School

Tennessee

Parrott-Wood Memorial Library

Texas

Bulverde Area Rural Library

Utah

Douglass T Orchard Elementary

Vermont

Steps To End Domestic
Violence

Virginia

Buchanan Public Library
Christian Relief Services Safe
Places

Washington

Park Orchard Elementary
School

Washington DC

HD Cooke Elementary School
Kelly Miller Middle School

West Virginia

Skyview Elementary School

Wisconsin

Milwaukee Math and Science
Academy

Wyoming

Evanston Middle School

Selected Testimonials

Mariah Pitre, Director of Education, We Will Go, Jackson, MS

“We enjoyed not only the quantity, but the quality of books we were able to distribute to our students. Books are COSTLY, so this was a great help.”

Morgan Henderson-Lumens, 2nd Grade Teacher, Park Orchard Elementary, Kent, Washington

“Thank you so much!! This was amazing! I was able to create a wonderful classroom library and help out my fellow teachers building their libraries as well!”

Becca Lee, Success Coach, Central/Freedom High School, Mankato MN

“It was a very nice variety of books that were received. Around 30 to 40 percent of our students are of the BIPOC demographic and there were many books that fill those missing elements in our shelves. I am definitely going to tell others about your organization and I will more than likely request more books at a future date. Thank you for all that you do.”

Savannah Ngo, Literacy Coach, KIPP Promesa Prep, Los Angeles, CA

“It was an amazing gift to receive so many new books! The families almost couldn't believe we were giving them away. They were so appreciative, and some have donated their own gently used books back to the school, to keep the positive cycle going!”

Jeanette Dickens, President / Founder, Books for Birthdays. High Point, NC

“The wonderful assortment of new books that we received, specifically the ones on dinosaurs and the military, are often specifically requested by the children. These books will definitely help us to successfully fulfill the requests of the children. Books For Birthdays, Inc. would like to again thank Kids Need To Read for its generous book donation and support for our mission to provide children in foster care with new personalized books on their birthdays, in hopes of fostering a life-long interest in reading.”

Brittany Odom, Pediatrician, La Clinica De Familia Pediatric clinic, Fresno, Las Cruces, NM

“We are so grateful for the book donation. Our patients and families have been thrilled to receive a new book at their visits and work on reading while at the doctor's office. It also helps us reinforce the importance of literacy in our community, especially being a largely bilingual community. We cannot thank you enough for what you're doing and the children you are helping.”



Books for California



Books for North Dakota



Books for Montana!



Books for Maryland



Books for North Carolina