



KIDS NEED TO READ[®]

Inspiring Imagination

WWW.KIDSNEEDTOREAD.ORG

2019-2020 Annual Report



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Our Mission:

Founded with a passion to improve the lives of disadvantaged children by providing inspiring book collections and engaging literacy programs to underfunded schools, libraries, and organizations across the nation, Kids Need to Read aspires to empower and embolden every last child through a culture of reading. For many of the children it serves, Kids Need to Read represents a crucial link to a strong literacy education, and its programs help build and nurture support systems for the development of literate minds. By immersing children in an integrated world of literary experiences that teaches them, firsthand, the impact of reading on every aspect of life, imagination is ignited and confidence is built for a prosperous future, regardless of race, economic status, or personal capabilities.

Letter from the Chairperson

Kids Need to Read



One can never overestimate the importance of reading. Charles William Elliot, cousin of T.S. Eliot and President of Harvard University from 1869 to 1926, emphasizes this truth, *"Books are the quietest and most constant of friends; they are the most accessible and wisest of counselors, and the most patient of teachers."* At Kids Need to Read, we believe reading is the most important skill a child can develop to become a productive member of society. Books open children's minds to a world of possibility, while stimulating their intellect, imagination and intelligence, especially during their formative years. Like Dr. Seuss, we believe that *"The more that you Read, the more things you will Know. The more you Learn, the more Places you'll go!"*

During 2019–2020, Kids Need to Read continued its mission to provide thousands of books to at risk children living in low socioeconomic communities. Over 124,000 books, most of them new, were provided through the organization's three major programs: From Our Shelves to Yours (national), The Page Coach (southwestern region), and Grow Your Library (national). These continuously expanding programs touch the lives of children who lack access to books, and therefore the ability to keep pace with children surrounded by a wealth of reading resources. Our sincere gratitude goes to our major Program Funding Partners and Book Contributors: Animal Welfare Institute, Arizona Helping Hands, Arizona Renaissance Festival, Barnes & Noble Chandler, Barnes & Noble Dana Park, Barnes & Noble Desert Ridge, Barnes & Noble Surprise, Bellwether Media, Bookmans Entertainment Exchange Mesa, Cox Charities, Elkes Foundation III, Embraer Foundation, Employees Community Fund of Boeing Arizona, GreaterGood.org, Highlights for Children, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, Kathy and Jerry Wood Foundation, Mesa United Way, Author Lance Noel, PetSmart Charities/PetSmart Christown Spectrum Phoenix, Phoenix Suns Charities, Pi Beta Phi Arizona Beta Chapter, Pi Beta Phi Foundation, Pi Beta Phi Phoenix Alumnae Club, Square Egg Entertainment, and Thunderbirds Charities. These contributors, along with many other generous agencies and individuals, make the important work of Kids Need to Read possible.

As always, our deepest gratitude goes to Executive Director Denise Gary, who eats, sleeps and breathes Kids Need to Read. Her tireless efforts are the foundation of the organization, and her dedication and commitment to literacy for every child is an inspiration to us all. Thanks as well to Jessica Payne, Operations Director; Robert Gary, Creative Director; Tiernnee Jefferis, Operations Assistant; Bruce Matsunaga, Secretary; Chris Ingersoll, Treasurer; and our Board of Directors, composed of Diane Elhard, Heather Miller, Gary Mlodzik, Tina Mlodzik and Kim OBrien. Last, but certainly not least, we appreciate our Advisory Council of experts, including Margaret Bostrom, Faith Hochhalter, Tom Leveen, Jackie Morris, James A. Owen, Janette Rallison, Steven Riley, and Dr. Marlinda White-Kaulaity, whose talents have enriched the lives of so many.

Best wishes and happy reading,

Tyson Breinholt

There are many little ways to enlarge your child's world. Love of books is the best of all. ~Jackie Kennedy

Letter From The Executive Director

*The books you and your organization have given to our students have been just wonderful. Please know that you ARE making a difference in their lives. They go home to several families in their apartment; they go home to sharing beds or floors and bathrooms with their relatives. **Having a book to call their own, being able to put it in their backpack to keep it safe—that means a lot.** —ELL Testing Specialist Karen O’Keefe, Mountain View School, Phoenix*

Undoubtedly, many of the children served by Kids Need to Read have few meaningful treasures to call their own. ELL Testing Specialist Karen O’Keefe drove this point home in her impassioned message of gratitude. Our staff travels to many low income and rural areas to deliver books and literacy programs, and we always know a large number of the children we are interacting with fit the description provided in Ms. O’Keefe’s letter. This inspires us to push harder to make sure the children have a selection of meaningful books available at their schools, libraries and homes. If not for plentiful access to books, how will their circumstances ever change? How will the perpetual cycle of illiteracy and poverty be changed? The ability to dream through the written word and learn of future possibilities are made manifest through the miracle of reading!

Kids Need to Read has grown significantly in recent years, currently providing books to 100,000 children annually. We are fortunate to be supported by fruitful partnerships with individuals and agencies who keep the flow of books coming in, so we can keep the flow of books going out to communities where they are vitally needed. Our major programs are flourishing, providing tens of thousands of books throughout the country.

Kids Need to Read was blessed with a new operations director in June 2019. Jessica Payne retired from teaching and the KNTR Board of Directors to pour her heart and soul into the organization. She has an insatiable desire to share her deep love of books with as many children as possible. With her help, along with wonderful staffers Robert Gary and Tiernnee Jefferis, Kids Need to Read is growing ever stronger and productive.

Special thanks to Chairperson Tyson Breinholt and all of our devoted board members for their strong belief in the work of Kids Need to Read. The organization could not thrive without such excellent directors lending their knowledge, skill and support throughout the years.

There were so many other people whose dedication made our year successful: volunteers, authors, foundations, businesses, groups, and individuals. Please know that every act of kindness and generosity is sincerely appreciated. Your time and contributions make our work possible! Kids Need to Read will continue to address the severe lack of access to books across the United States through the support of agencies and individuals who share our passion to help children discover the joy of reading and the power of a literate mind.

Let’s make reading possible for all children!



Denise Gary



Kids Need to Read Board of Directors

Tyson Breinholt
Chair

Denise Gary
Co-founder and Executive Director

Bruce Matsunaga, Ph.D.
Secretary

Heather Miller
Treasurer

F. Diane Elhard
Director

Joe Boudrie
Director

Kim OBrien
Director

Tina Mlodzik
Director

Gary Mlodzik
Director



Advisory Council

Margaret Bostrom

Jackie Morris

Steven Riley

Faith Hochhalter

James A. Owen

Dr. Marlinda White-Kaulaity

Tom Leveen

Janette Rallison

Staff

Denise Gary
Executive Director

Jessica Payne
Operations Director

Robert Gary
Creative Director

Tiernnee Jefferis
Operations Assistant



Kids Need to Read is also supported by many other valuable volunteers



Literacy Programs served in 2019-2020

Kids Need to Read provided new books to 108 literacy programs in 34 states during 2019-2020. Together, these programs received a total of 124,120 books and other reading resources valued at \$832,726.27. Approximately 85 percent of the 84,150 children served lived at or below the poverty level.

Alabama

Repton Junior High School
Repton, AL (School)
120 children served
98% at or below poverty level
90% African American
10% Caucasian

Alaska

Tok Community Library Association
Tok, AK (Library)
200 children served
80% at or below poverty level
1% African American
1% Asian
60% Caucasian
38% American Indian

Copper Valley Community Library
Glennallen, AK (Library)
140 children served
59% at or below poverty level
1% African American
10% Asian
51% Caucasian
1% Hispanic/Latino
1% American Indian
1% Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
35% Other

Arizona

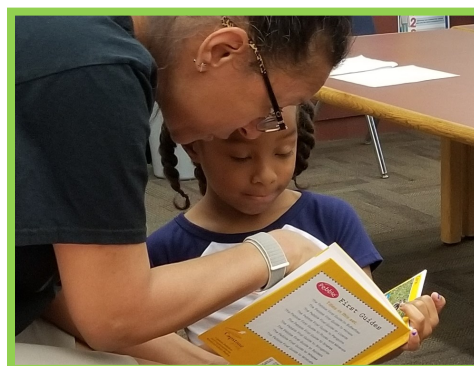
Kingswood Elementary School
Surprise, AZ (School)
232 children served
61% at or below poverty level
7% African American
2% Asian
45% Caucasian
37% Hispanic/Latino
1% American Indian
1% Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
7% Two or more races

Surprise Elementary School
Surprise, AZ (School)
314 children served
61% at or below poverty level
8% African American
1% Asian
22% Caucasian
61% Hispanic/Latino
1% American Indian
1% Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
6% Two or more races

Mountain View School
Phoenix, AZ (School)
1,303 children served
100% at or below poverty level
8% African American

1% Asian
5% Caucasian
80% Hispanic/Latino
3% American Indian
1% Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
2% Two or more races

Lowell Elementary School
Mesa, AZ
(School)
139 children served
98% at or below poverty level
5% African American
1% Asian
4% Caucasian
85% Hispanic/Latino
3% American Indian
1% Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
1% Two or more races



Arizona (continued)

J.B. Sutton Elementary
Phoenix, Arizona
(School)
231 children served
80% at or below poverty level
3% African American
1% Asian
1% Caucasian
92% Hispanic/Latino/Latino
1% Native American

Palomino Primary School
Phoenix, Arizona
(School)
327 children served
91% at or below poverty level
3% African American
1% Asian
3% Caucasian
90% Hispanic/Latino/Latino
1% Native American
1% Pacific Islander
1% Two or more races

Guerrero Elementary School
Mesa, Arizona
(School)
175 children served
98% at or below poverty level
4% African American
1% Asian
5% Caucasian
81% Hispanic/Latino/Latino
7% Native American
1% Pacific Islander
1% Two or more races

Indian Oasis Elementary School
Primary & Intermediate Campuses
Sells, Arizona
(School)
1138 children served
100% at or below poverty level
1% African American
1% Asian
1% Caucasian
3% Hispanic/Latino/Latino
92% Native American
1% Pacific Islander
1% Two or more races

Edison Elementary School
Mesa, Arizona
(School)

179 children served
84% at or below the poverty level
3% African American
1% Asian
27% Caucasian
60% Hispanic/Latino
6% Native American
1% Pacific Islander
2% Two or more races

Faith Christian Center
Phoenix, Arizona
(Church)
500 children served
70% at or below poverty level
20% African American
20% Caucasian
60% Hispanic/Latino/Latino
Sun City Firefighters
El Mirage, Arizona
(Service Organization)
150 children served
90% at or below poverty level
10% African American
1% Asian
15% Caucasian
60% Hispanic/Latino/Latino
1% Middle Eastern
7% Native American
3% Pacific Islander
3% Other

Brunson-Lee Elementary School
Phoenix, Arizona
(School)
300 children served
81% at or below poverty level
14% African American
1% Asian
2% Caucasian
71% Hispanic/Latino/Latino
8% Native American
3% Two or more races

Show Low Public Library
Show Low, Arizona
(Library)
5000 children served
63% at or below poverty level
1% African American
1% Asian
76% Caucasian
16% Hispanic/Latino/Latino
4% Native American
1% Pacific Islander

1% Two or more races
Lutheran Social Services of the
SW
(Service Organization)
104 children served
100% at or below poverty level
5% African American
20% Caucasian
75% Hispanic/Latino/Latino

Pendergast Elementary School
Phoenix, Arizona
(School)
168 children served
100% at or below poverty level
4% African American
7% Caucasian
85% Hispanic/Latino/Latino
2% Native American
2% Two or more races

Cactus Wren Elementary (Head
Start Program)
Phoenix, Arizona
(School)
85 children served
100% at or below poverty level
13% African American
2% Asian
24% Caucasian
49% Hispanic/Latino/Latino
7% Native American
1% Pacific Islander
4% Two or more races

Wilson Elementary School
Phoenix, Arizona
(School)
155 children served
95% at or below poverty level
7% African American
1% Asian
1% Caucasian
89% Hispanic/Latino
1% Native American
1% Two or more Races

Arizona (continued)

Martin Luther King Jr. School
Phoenix, Arizona
(School)
348 children served
100 at or below poverty level
33% African American
1% Caucasian
65% Hispanic/Latino/Latino
1% Other

Eagle Pathway
Mesa, Arizona
(Service Organization)
3000 children served
100% at or below poverty level
20% African American
20% Asian
20% Caucasian
20% Hispanic/Latino/Latino
20% Native American

Mesa United Way
Mesa, Arizona
(Service Organization)
66 children served
90% at or below poverty level
10% African American
15% Caucasian
70% Hispanic/Latino/Latino

Mexicayotl Academy
(School)
Tucson, Arizona
64 children served
85% at or below poverty level
1% African American
1% Asian
9% Caucasian
86% Hispanic/Latino/Latino
6.4% Native American
1% Pacific Islander

Assistance League of Phoenix
Phoenix, Arizona
(Service Organization)
1684 children served
99% at or below poverty level
7% African American
2% Asian
6% Caucasian
78% Hispanic/Latino/Latino
2% Middle Eastern
3% Native American
1% Pacific Islander

1% Other

C.R.I.T. Head Start
Parker, Arizona
(School)
384 children served
69% at or below poverty level
1% African American
1% Asian
17% Caucasian
46% Hispanic/Latino/Latino
30% Native American

Nevitt Elementary School
Phoenix, Arizona
(School)
1198 children served
95% at or below poverty level
12% African American
1% Asian
6% Caucasian
77% Hispanic/Latino/Latino
2% Native American
2% Two or more races

Eisenhower Center for Innovation
Mesa, Arizona
(School)
200 children served
90% at or below poverty level
10% African American
1% Asian
11% Caucasian
70% Hispanic/Latino/Latino
4% Native American
1% Pacific Islander
3% Two or more races

Our Savior's Lutheran Church
Mesa, Arizona
(Church)
270 children served
100% at or below poverty level
6% African American
1% Asian
35% Caucasian
53% Hispanic/Latino/Latino
2% Native American
1% Pacific Islander
2% Two or more races

Altrusa of the West Valley
Surprise, Arizona
(Service Organization)
41 children served

75% at or below poverty level
14% African American
50% Caucasian
25% Hispanic/Latino/Latino
11% Native American

Backpacks 4 Kids AZ
Phoenix, Arizona
(Service Organization)
250 children served
60% at or below poverty level
25% African American
25% Caucasian
40% Hispanic/Latino/Latino
10% Other

VH Lassen School
Phoenix, Arizona
(School)
315 children served
90% at or below poverty level
10% African American
1% Asian
1% Caucasian
87% Hispanic/Latino/Latino
1% Native American

Combs Traditional Academy
San Tan Valley, Arizona
(School)
35% children served
8% African American
3% Asian
50% Caucasian
31% Hispanic/Latino/Latino
1% Native American
1% Pacific Islander

Western National Parks Hubbell
Trading Post Little Free Library
Ganado, Arizona
(Service Organization)
701 children served
100% at or below poverty level
1% African American
1% Asian
1% Caucasian
2% Hispanic/Latino
92% Native American



Arizona (continued)

Indian Wells Elementary School
Holbrook, Arizona
(School)
407 children served
100% at or below poverty level
1% African American
1% Asian
1% Caucasian
2% Hispanic/Latino
92% Native American

Holmes Elementary School
Mesa, Arizona
(School)
143 children served
96% at or below poverty level
2% African American
1% Asian
5% Caucasian
91% Hispanic/Latino
1% Native American

John Jacobs Elementary School
Phoenix, Arizona
(School)
580 children served
85% at or below poverty level
6% African American
2% Asian
34% Caucasian
53% Hispanic/Latino
1% Native American
1% Pacific Islander
3% Two or more races

Foothills Food Bank
Cave Creek, Arizona
(Service Organization)
350 children served
100% at or below poverty level
6% African American
12% Asian
47% Caucasian
29% Hispanic/Latino
1% Middle Eastern
1% Native American
4% Other

Phoenix Police Sergeants and Lieutenants Association
Phoenix, Arizona
(Service Organization)
30 children served
Demographics not available

A Mighty Change of Heart
Surprise, Arizona
(Service Organization)
2681 children served
90% at or below poverty level
35% African American
5% Asian
15% Caucasian
35% Hispanic/Latino
5% Native American
5% Other

Arizona Helping Hands
Phoenix, Arizona
(Service Organization)
786 children served
100% at or below poverty level
35% African American
5% Asian
15% Caucasian
35% Hispanic/Latino
5% Native American
5% Other

Porter Elementary School
Mesa, Arizona
(School)
316 children served
66% at or below poverty level
6% African American
1% Asian
37% Caucasian
46% Hispanic/Latino
4% Native American
2% Pacific Islander
4% Two or more races

Crestview Preparatory School
Phoenix, Arizona
(School)
25 children served
100% at or below poverty level
20% Caucasian
65% Hispanic/Latino
3% Middle Eastern
2% Native American
10% Other

Sky View Elementary School
Peoria, Arizona
(School)
100 children served
51% at or below poverty level
6% African American
2% Asian

48% Caucasian
36% Hispanic/Latino
1% Native American
7% Other

Copper Queen Library
Bisbee, Arizona
(Public Library)
1000 children served
85% at or below poverty level
1% African American
1% Asian
27% Caucasian
69% Hispanic/Latino
2% Two or more races

City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation
Phoenix, Arizona
(Service Organization)
202 children served
85% at or below poverty level
23% African American
5% Asian
17% Caucasian
46% Hispanic/Latino
6% Native American
12% Two or more races

Tempe Elementary School District
Tempe, Arizona
(School)
1375 children served
74% at or below poverty level
11% African American
3% Asian
21% Caucasian
52% Hispanic/Latino
7% Native American
1% Pacific Islander
5% Two or more races

Imagine East Mesa
Mesa, Arizona
(School)
310 children served
59% at or below poverty level
3% African American
2% Asian
50% Caucasian
39% Hispanic/Latino
1% Native American
1% Pacific Islander
4% Two or more races

Arizona (continued)

Imagine Schools Avondale
Avondale, Arizona
(School)
460 children served
100% at or below poverty level
14% African American
1% Asian
13% Caucasian
67% Hispanic/Latino
1% Native American
1% Pacific Islander
3% Two or more races

Stevenson Elementary School
Mesa, Arizona
(School)
420 children served
100% at or below poverty level
6% African American
1% Asian
35% Caucasian
53% Hispanic/Latino
2% Native American
1% Pacific Islander
2% Two or more races

Adams Elementary School
Mesa, Arizona
(School)
400 children served
100% at or below poverty level
11% African American
1% Asian
10% Caucasian
57% Hispanic/Latino
15% Native American
2% Pacific Islander
4% Two or more races

Brinton Elementary School
Mesa, Arizona
(School)
600 children served
100% at or below poverty level
3% African American
1% Asian
56% Caucasian
34% Hispanic/Latino
1% Native American
1% Pacific Islander
4% Two or more races

Field Elementary School

Mesa, Arizona
(School)
420 children served
100% at or below poverty level
6% African American
1% Asian
33% Caucasian
50% Hispanic/Latino
6% Native American
1% Pacific Islander
3% Two or more races

Imagine Prep Surprise
Surprise, Arizona
(School)
540 children served
100% at or below poverty level
4% African American
3% Asian
61% Caucasian
23% Hispanic/Latino
1% Native American
1% Pacific Islander
7% Two or more races

Whitman Elementary School
Mesa, Arizona
(School)
500 children served
100% at or below poverty level
5% African American
1% Asian
12% Caucasian
63% Hispanic/Latino
15% Native American
1% Pacific Islander
1% Other

Roosevelt Elementary School
Mesa, Arizona
(School)
330 children served
100% at or below poverty level
17% African American
3% Asian
13% Caucasian
52% Hispanic/Latino
1% Middle Eastern
11% Native American
2% Pacific Islander
1% Other

Franklin West Elementary School
Mesa, Arizona
(School)

330 children served
100% at or below poverty level
1% African American
1% Asian
54% Caucasian
37% Hispanic/Latino
1% Native American
3% Pacific Islander
3% Two or more races

Mesa Public Library
Mesa, Arizona
(Public Library)
325 children served
N/A at or below poverty level
10% African American
10% Caucasian
70% Hispanic/Latino/Latino
5% Native American
5% Other

California

San Bernardino County Superintendent of schools
San Bernardino, California
(Public School)
2000 children served
72% at or below poverty level
13% African American
1% Asian
21% Caucasian
59% Hispanic/Latino
1% Native American
1% Pacific Islander
1% Other
3% Two or more races

Baypoint Preparatory Academy
St. Hemet, California
(School)
430 children served
75% at or below poverty level
6% African American
1% Asian
26% Caucasian
60% Hispanic/Latino/ Latino
1% Native American
1% Pacific Islander
1% Other
4% Two or more races

California (continued)

Will C Wood Middle School
Sacramento, California
(School)
750 children served
95% at or below poverty level
9% African American
33% Asian
4% Caucasian
45% Hispanic/Latino
1% Native American
4% Pacific Islander
1% Other
3% Two or more races

Shadow Hills High School & Oliphant Elementary School
Indio, California
(School)
606 children served
83% at or below poverty level
7% African American
9% Asian
22% Caucasian
59% Hispanic/Latino
1% Middle Eastern
2% Native American

San Gabriel Educational Foundation
San Gabriel, California
(Service Organization)
2108 children served
61% at or below poverty level
2% African American
30% Asian
8% Caucasian
48% Hispanic/Latino
1% Native American
1% Pacific Islander
10% Two or more races

Camarena Memorial Library
Calexico, California
(Public Library)
7415 children served
93% at or below poverty level
1% African American
1% Asian
2% Caucasian
94% Hispanic/Latino
1% Middle Eastern
1% Other

Aspire Langston Hughes Academy
Stockton, California
(School)
796 children served
78% at or below poverty level
14% African American
6% Asian
6% Caucasian
64% Hispanic/Latino
2% Native American
3% Pacific Islander
5% Other

Colorado

Alamosa Public Library
Alamosa, Colorado
(Public Library)
4000 children served
48% at or below poverty level
1% African American
1% Asian
28% Caucasian
67% Hispanic/Latino
2% Native American
1% Pacific Islander
2% Two or more races

Boys and Girls Club- Denver
Denver, Colorado
(Service Organization)
120 children served
100% at or below poverty level
40% African American
2% Asian
10% Caucasian
45% Hispanic/Latino
3% Middle Eastern

Connecticut

Brass City Charter School
Waterbury, Connecticut
(School)
69 children served
52% at or below poverty level
40% African American
2% Asian
10% Caucasian
45% Hispanic/Latino
3% Middle Eastern

Delaware

Laurel High School Library
Laurel, Delaware
(School)
1100 children served
100% at or below poverty level
32% African American
1% Asian
55% Caucasian
9% Hispanic/Latino
1% Native American
2% Other

Florida

Christmas Come True Inc
Bunnell, Florida
(Service Organization)
567 children served
100% at or below poverty level
30% African American
1% Asian
60% Caucasian
3% Hispanic/Latino
1% Middle Eastern
1% Native American
1% Pacific Islander
4% Other

Georgia

Heritage Elementary School
Atlanta, Georgia
(School)
30 children served
100% at or below poverty level
84% African American
1% Asian
5% Hispanic/Latino
10% Native American

Idaho

The Jesse Tree of Idaho
Boise, Idaho
(Service Organization)
360 children served
100% at or below poverty level
5% African American
50% Caucasian
45% Hispanic/Latino



Illinois

Rush University Medical Center
Chicago, Illinois
(Service Organization)
175 children served
75% at or below poverty level
25% African American
10% Asian
35% Caucasian
15% Hispanic/Latino
5% Middle Eastern
5% Native American
3% Pacific Islander
2% Other

Indiana

Fayette County Schools
Connersville, Indiana
(School)
2000 children served
80% at or below poverty level
10% African American
5% Asian
80% Caucasian
5% Hispanic/Latino

Iowa

Clarke High School
Osceola, Iowa
(School)
420 children served
57% at or below poverty level
4% African American
70% Caucasian
26% Hispanic/Latino

Kansas

Western Kansas Child Advocacy
Hays, Kansas
(Service Organization)
589 children served

70% at or below poverty level
3% African American
74% Caucasian
23% Hispanic/Latino

Atchison Public Library
Atchison, Kansas
(Public Library)
3000 children served
66% at or below poverty level
5% African American
1% Asian
84% Caucasian
4% Hispanic/Latino
1% Native American
1% Pacific Islander
4% Other

Kentucky

Harlan County High School
Baxter, Kentucky
(School)
96 children served
70% at or below poverty level
30% African American
60% Caucasian
10% Hispanic/Latino

Maryland

Wheaton High School
Silver Springs, Maryland
(School)
683 children served
50% at or below poverty level
23% African American
12% Asian
8% Caucasian
55% Hispanic/Latino
2% Other

Massachusetts

True Christmas
Turner Falls, Massachusetts
(Service Organization)
150 children served
100% at or below poverty level
10% African American
10% Asian
50% Caucasian
10% Hispanic/Latino
5% Middle Eastern

10% Native American
5% Pacific Islander

Minnesota

Southside Family Nurturing
Minneapolis, Minnesota
(Service Organization)
30 children served
100% at or below poverty level
15% African American
69% Hispanic/Latino
4% Native American
12% Other

Mississippi

Benndale Elementary School
Lucedale, Mississippi
(School)
155 children served
78% at or below poverty level
27% African American
71 % Caucasian
1% Hispanic/Latino
1% Two or more races

Montana

Lewis and Clark Public Health
Helena, Montana
(Service Organization)
800 children served
95% at or below poverty level
1% African American
1% Asian
92% Caucasian
3% Hispanic/Latino
2% Native American
1% Other

Nebraska

Crete Public Library
Crete, Nebraska
(Public Library)
300 children served
57% at or below poverty level
5% African American
5% Asian
45% Caucasian
40% Hispanic/Latino
5% Pacific Islander

Nevada

Pat Diskin Elementary
Las Vegas, Nevada
(School)
630 children served
100% at or below poverty level
15% African American
8% Asian
12% Caucasian
57% Hispanic/Latino
2% Pacific Islander
6% Other

New Jersey

School 21 Paterson Public School
Paterson, New Jersey
(School)
810 children served
100% at or below poverty level
26% African American
74% Hispanic/Latino

Brown Kids Read
Parlin, New Jersey
(Service Organization)
327 children served
100% at or below poverty level
40% African American
1% Asian
8% Caucasian
49% Hispanic/Latino
1% Native American
1% Pacific Islander

New Mexico

Career Guidance Institute
Albuquerque, New Mexico
(Service Organization)
210 children served
63% at or below poverty level
6% African American
2% Asian
14% Caucasian
70% Hispanic/Latino
6% Native American
2% Pacific Islander

New York

Good Neighbors Community Outreach Agency
Bronx, New York

(Service Organization)
100 children served
80% at or below poverty level
44% African American
3% Asian
1% Caucasian
45% Hispanic/Latino
5% Middle Eastern
1% Native American
1% Other

Suffolk Co. Div. for Serv. for Children with Special Needs
Hauppauge, New York
(Service Organization)
510 children served
45% at or below poverty level
1% African American
1% Asian
63% Caucasian
31% Hispanic/Latino
1% Middle Eastern
1% Native American
1% Pacific Islander
1% Other

North Carolina

Martin Memorial Library
Williamston, North Carolina
(Public Library)
5000 children served
92% at or below poverty level
53% African American
1% Asian
35% Caucasian
6% Hispanic/Latino
1% Native American
1% Pacific Islander
3% Two or more races

Ahoskie Public Library
Ahoskie, North Carolina
(Public Library)
3000 children served
99% at or below poverty level
77% African American
1% Asian
16% Caucasian
4% Hispanic/Latino
1% Native American
1% Pacific Islander
1% Two or more races

Bertie County Public Library
Windsor, North Carolina
(Public Library)
3441 children served
100% at or below poverty level
80% African American
1% Asian
14% Caucasian
2% Hispanic/Latino
1% Native American
2% Two or more races

J. Glenn Edwards School
Cameron, North Carolina
(School)
530 children served
80% at or below poverty level
22% African American
1% Asian
27% Caucasian
43% Hispanic/Latino
1% Native American
6% Other

Oregon

Lincoln Street Elementary School
Hillsboro, Oregon
(School)
150 children served
80% at or below poverty level
1% African American
1% Asian
20% Caucasian
74% Hispanic/Latino
1% Native American
1% Pacific Islander
2% Two or more races

Pennsylvania

Woodrow Wilson Middle School
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
(School)
100 children served
83% at or below poverty level
30% African American
20% Asian
13% Caucasian
24% Hispanic/Latino
1% Native American
1% Pacific Islander
11% Other

Tennessee

Overton County Schools
Livingston, Tennessee
(School)
360 children served
95% at or below poverty level
1% African American
1% Asian
94% Caucasian
1% Hispanic/Latino
1% Native American
1% Pacific Islander
1% Two or more races

Memphis Shelby County Education Association
Memphis, Tennessee
(School)
503 children served
81% at or below poverty level
73% African American
1% Asian
7% Caucasian
15% Hispanic/Latino
4% Other

Texas

Tatum Primary School
Tatum, Texas
(Service Organization)
40 children served
100% at or below poverty level
18% African American
43% Caucasian

35% Hispanic/Latino
4% Other

WayWesX17 Homeless Project
Fort Worth, Texas
(Service Organization)
400 children served
98% at or below poverty level
40% African American
2% Asian
30% Caucasian
25% Hispanic/Latino
1% Middle Eastern
1% Native American
1% Pacific Islander

Knox City High School
Knox City, Texas
(School)
80 children served
85% at or below poverty level
10% African American
1% Asian
40% Caucasian
49% Hispanic/Latino

University of Texas Charter School
-Pathways
Mountain Home, Texas
(School)
35 children served
90% at or below poverty level
25% African American
40% Caucasian
25% Hispanic/Latino
10% Native American

Jones Memorial United Methodist
Houston, Texas
(Service Organization)
660 children served
97% at or below poverty level
63% African American
1% Caucasian
35% Hispanic/Latino
1% Other

Utah

4th East Community Garden
Salt Lake City, Utah
(Service Organization)
50 children served
90% at or below poverty level
10% African American
20% Asian
10% Caucasian
30% Hispanic/Latino
10% Middle Eastern
5% Native American
5% Pacific Islander
10% Other

Virginia

The Free Book Bus
Charlottesville, Virginia
(Service Organization)
1500 children served
60% at or below poverty level
15% African American
5% Asian
41% Caucasian
17% Hispanic/Latino
10% Native American
2% Pacific Islander
10% Other

J.B. Fisher Elementary School
Richmond, Virginia
(School)
276 children served
70% at or below poverty level
51% African American
1% Asian
17% Caucasian
22% Hispanic/Latino
1% Pacific Islander
8% Other



Washington

The Carrie House Church
Seattle, Washington
(Church)
500 children served
60% at or below poverty level
34% African American
31% Asian
16% Caucasian
4% Hispanic/Latino
1% Middle Eastern
1% Native American
1% Pacific Islander
4% Other

Wyoming

Hot Springs County Library,
344
Thermopolis, Wyoming
(Public Library)
450 children served
95 at or below poverty level
1% African American
1% Asian
93% Caucasian
4% Hispanic/Latino
1% Other

“ Thank you so much for the books you brought for our students! My own children are always excited to pick out a new book and they were thrilled with the choices you had to offer! The reading levels were appropriate for each age group and the subjects were very engaging! As an Instructional Aide in our Reading Lab, I work with struggling readers. I have found that many of them do not have reading material at home to practice their reading skills. These types of resources help support our students in their learning so they can succeed in the classroom.”-

Sherrada Matthews -Porter Elementary





Contributing Organizations

\$20,000 and Above

Kathy and Jerry Wood Foundation
Thunderbirds Charities

\$10,000 to \$19,999

Pi Beta Phi Foundation
Elkes Foundation III

\$5,000 to \$9,999

Phoenix Suns Charities
Square Egg Entertainment
Embraer Foundation
Mesa United Way

\$1,000 to \$4,999

Cox Charities
Employees Community Fund of Boeing
Faith Christian Center
Northrop Grumman Corporation

\$5000 to \$999

AAA
Amazon Smile Foundation
Fry's Food Stores
GreaterGood.Org
Liberty Mutual
Lohman Company, PLLC
Utah Browncoats Society
Wicklund School Student Council

Contributing Individuals



\$5,000 and Above

Anonymous

\$2,000 to \$4,000

Judy Egett Laufer
Khai Victor Nguyen
Gary & Tina Mlodzik
Morgan R. Sexton

\$1,000 to \$1,999

Lori Klemenswicz
Dawn Russo
Jim Smith

\$500 to \$999

Tyson Breinholt
Faye Bender
Randi Ellias
Kevin and Robyn Kelly
Joanne and John Markis
Heather Miller
Charity Smith

\$100 to \$499

Honey Apostos
Andrew Baker
Dana Biehn
Jessica Bevivino
Andrew Bockelman
Robert DeRosa
Melissa Drake
Diane Elhard
Frank Friet
Linda Garrey
Kyle Haemig
Jennifer Hammer
Sarah Horowitz
Maryann Johnson
Jeffery Kobacker
Peter Kowalski
Sigrid Kuster
Tara Lince
Andrew Marnik
Maria Martin
Joy Nuttmann
Kim Obrien
Val and Ron Ontell
Betty Rago
Bryan Thomas
C.J. Viosca
Nicole West



In-Kind Donors

Over \$25,000 Value

Animal Welfare Institute
Barnes and Noble Chandler
Highlights for Children

\$15,000-\$24,999

Barnes & Noble Desert Ridge
Barnes & Noble Surprise
Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

\$5,000-\$14,999

Arizona Renaissance Festival
AZ Helping Hands
Bellwether Media
Lance Noel
Scholastic

\$100-\$4,999

Abaton Book Publishing
Abrams Publishing
Bayer Private School
Daniel Biau
Bookmans Entertainment
Exchange #4
Candlewick Press
Soman Chainani
Chronicle Books
Coil Records
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical
University
James Gordon Schools
Libby Piper Ancient Wisdom
LLC
Libraries, LTD.
Melinda Mazkuriewtiz
Palomino Elementary School
Penguin Random House

Spencer Hill Press
Julie Stallings
Justine Stiffler
Amanda West

\$100-\$999

AAA OREM
Michael Adelman
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Michael Burgan
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Miguel Lopez de Leon
Amy Fellner Dominy
Jeffrey Dunnihoo
Elizabeth Eulberg
Linda Feltman
Eddie Ferriter
GreaterGood.Org
Barbara Guidotti
HarperCollins Publishers
Harvey Kilinger Inc
Hatchette Book Group
Publishing
Hazy Dell Press
Henry Holt and Company
Rebecca Hirsch
Dani Hoots
Lori Horn
Imagine Prep Superstitio
Tiernnee Jefferis

Abigail Johnson
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Quirk Books
Adam Rex
Jewell Parker Rhodes
Carol P. Roman
Root Literary
Safelight Auto Glass Solutions
Thomas and Linda Schneide
Lisa Schroeder
Silver String Circus
Simon & Schuster
Jennifer E. Smith
Society of Children's Book
Writers and Illustrators
Paula Stokes
Sonja Stone
Shawn Stout
Thomas Jefferson Middle
School Student Council
Paul Warnke
David Harten Watson
Lily Williams
Amy Young
Sara Zarr

Covid 19 Relief



I cannot thank you enough for EVERYTHING you have done for us. Please, please know that we appreciate it all—the books, the wonderful gifts, the packing and unpacking, the driving, the organizing!!!
—Karen O’Keefe, ELL Testing Specialist, Mountain View School,
Phoenix, Arizona

Nonprofits are often needed most during times of crisis. Kids Need to Read is no exception. Demand for the organization's support increased dramatically following COVID-19 school and library closures. Arizona grant funding was exceedingly helpful in delivering desperately needed reading resources to children via agencies providing pandemic relief services in the Phoenix metropolitan area. Thousands of books were delivered to 19 school meal programs and the entire Tempe Elementary School District during the month of March 2020. In addition to Tempe, campuses served included locations in Phoenix, Mesa, Avondale, Peoria and Surprise, Arizona. This program later expanded to food banks and other community nonprofits as the pandemic kept children isolated into the new fiscal year.

Kids Need to Read will continue to provide family reading relief packages into the foreseeable future. The packages are self-contained, making them easy to distribute, and feature family read-aloud books, activity books, *Highlights* magazines, widely-appealing books for all ages, bilingual ABC music CDs, and bilingual educational reading tips for caregivers—a treasure trove of incentives to invest families in the vital act of reading together.



Event Participation 2019-2020

Kids Need to Read takes pride in being active in the communities that it touches. In each event that we participate we seek to connect children to the joy of literacy and the power of a literate mind. Children always leave our tables with smiles and something fun to read. In 2019-2020 we participated in 14 community based events around the Phoenix metropolitan area and reached out to 3,371 children outside of our usual literacy program donations.

Arizona Museum of Natural History
Mesa, Arizona
(Community Event)
372 Children served

Arizona Renaissance Festival
Gold Canyon, Arizona
(Community Event)
589 Children served

Barnes and Noble– Chandler
Chandler, Arizona
(Community event)
210 Children served

Barnes and Noble– Dana Park
Gilbert, Arizona
(Community event)
127 Children served

Barnes and Noble– Desert Ridge
Phoenix, Arizona
(Community event)
205 Children served

Barnes and Noble– Rio Salado
Tempe, Arizona
(Community Event)
95 Children served

Bayer Private School
Scottsdale, Arizona
(School Event- Storytime)
121 Children served

Bookman's Entertainment Exchange
Mesa, Arizona
(Community Event)
16 children served

IDEA Museum
Mesa, Arizona
(Museum-Exhibit partnership)
240 Children served

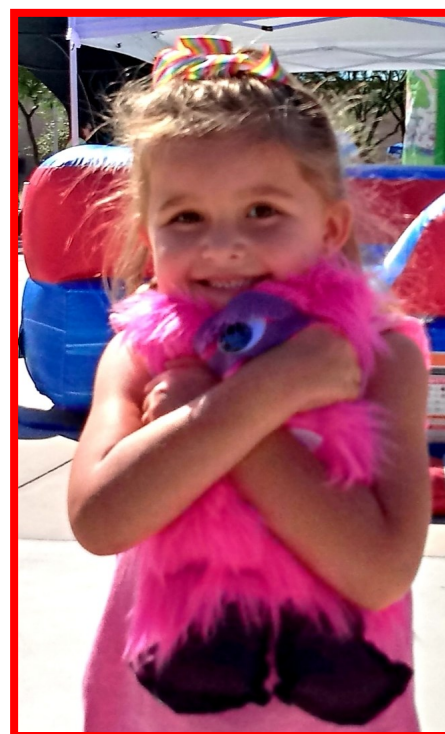
PetSmart Christown Spectrum
Phoenix, Arizona
(Community Event)
58 Children Served

Phoenix Fan Fusion
Phoenix, Arizona
(Community Event)
469 Children served

Silver Springs Circus
Phoenix, Arizona
(Community Event)
6 Children served

Tempe Public Library
Tempe, Arizona
(Community event)
530 Children served

1st annual KNTR Open House
Mesa, Arizona
(Community Event)
13 Children served





Spotlight on The Page Coach:

The Page Coach, Kids Need to Read’s mobile outreach unit provides literary treasure to disadvantaged children, proudly served 44,544 children during the 2019–2020 fiscal year (April 1, 2019–March 31, 2020). Distributing inspiring books and literacy programming at a diverse array of schools, libraries, and community events in low socioeconomic communities throughout the State of Arizona, and California; this represented an 18% increase over the 36,449 children served by the program the previous year. The number of reading resources provided by the program more than doubled, from 42,865 books valued at \$371,457 in 2018–2019, to 92,922 books valued at \$631,779 during 2019–2020. 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. This included interactive presentations, as well as book giveaway events. Of the 26 Page Coach survey respondents, 15 reported 100% increased desire to read after the program. Four reported a 90–95% increased desire to read, while two reported 70–75%. Five respondents could not estimate a percentage, but provided positive feedback, such as this:

“Students had to come find me and show me their books. Students said they were excited to be able to read them.” (LeeAnna Woodward-Frisbie, Kindergarten Teacher, Porter Elementary School, Mesa, Arizona)

During the month of March 2020, in a proactive response to the pandemic, Kids Need to Read adapted its Page Coach programming from on-site events to the provision of books to be handed out to children during free meal giveaways at schools throughout the Valley. In this way, students continued to have access to books while isolating at home for the remainder of the school year.

Beyond COVID-19 relief work, The Page Coach will continue its appealing approach to helping children discover the **JOY of reading** and the **POWER of a literate mind!**

Arizona Agencies Served

Avondale

Imagine Schools Avondale

Cave Creek

Foothills Food Bank

El Mirage

Valley View Community Food Bank

Ganado, Navajo Nation

Western National Parks Association

Glendale

Bayer Private School

Indian Wells, Navajo Nation

Indian Wells Elementary School

Mesa

Adams Elementary School
Arizona Museum of Natural History
Brinton Elementary School
Eagle Pathway
Edison Elementary School
Eisenhower Center for Innovation
Field Elementary School
Franklin West Elementary School
Guerrero Elementary School
Holmes Elementary School
i.d.e.a. Museum
Imagine Schools East Mesa
Kerr Elementary School
Lowell Elementary School
Lutheran Social Services of the SW
Mesa Public Library
Mesa United Way
Our Savior's Lutheran Church
Porter Elementary School
Roosevelt Elementary School
Sousa Elementary School
Stevenson Elementary School
Whitman Elementary School



Parker

Colorado River Indian Tribes Head Start

Peoria

Sky View Elementary School

Phoenix

Arizona Helping Hands
Assistance League of Phoenix
Brunson-Lee Elementary School
Cactus Wren Head Start
City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation
Crestview Preparatory School
Faith Christian Center
Imagine Schools Cortez Park
J. B. Sutton Elementary School
Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest
Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary School
Mountain View School
Nevitt Elementary School
Palomino Primary School
Pendergast Elementary School District
V. H. Lassen Elementary School
Wilson Elementary School

San Tan Valley

Combs Traditional Academy

Sells, Tohono O’odham Nation

Indian Oasis Elementary-Intermediate
Indian Oasis Elementary-Primary

Show Low

Show Low Public Library

Surprise

Altrusa of the West Valley
A Mighty Change of Heart
Imagine Prep Surprise

Tempe

Tempe Elementary School District No. 3

Tolleson

Backpacks 4 Kids AZ



California Agencies Served

Indio

Oliphant Elementary School/
Shadow Hills High School

"This event went better than I imagined. The Page Coach showed up early and everything was ready to go when my group of high school wrestlers showed up to help with the event. "Kids Need to Read" went above and beyond by giving the youngest kids a stuffed animal and even brought books for my wrestlers."

—Jody Davis, Teacher and Coach,
Shadow Hills High School, Indio, California

San Gabriel

San Gabriel Educational
Foundation

"We cannot begin to thank you enough for your generous support of our community & our students. Your investment in our efforts is long lasting & impactful on so many levels."

—SEF Board of Directors, San Gabriel
Educational Foundation, San Gabriel,
California



Book Giveaway Events



This was an incredibly uplifting experience! I hope we have the opportunity to work with this organization again. Thanks to the ladies who came out to help! It was awesome!

—Nicole Shamblin, Principal, Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary School, Phoenix, Arizona

School-wide book giveaways! Family literacy nights! STEM nights! Fall carnivals! Parent meetings! Community events! Food bank events! Holiday events! The Page Coach travels throughout Arizona, and even into surrounding states, to set up major book giveaway events for kids. What a fantastic opportunity to inspire children and families to read! During most

giveaways, children (or parents) are able to select both a fiction and nonfiction book of their choice, as well as receive a Highlights magazine, and either a stuffed reading buddy or a third book, depending upon the age of the children. Sometimes the kids get to spin the Wheel of Literacy for reading-related prizes. The excitement at these events is always incredibly palpable!

Kids Need to Read rolled with the Page Coach to 30 locations in Arizona and 2 in California to host massive book giveaway events, in addition to the Story Quest and Storybook Adventures events mentioned previously. Thousands of books were also delivered to 25 schools and other agencies for crucially important needs, not including COVID relief already acknowledged.

It is a pleasure to see children reveling in the written word. The real power of the Page Coach is its ability to travel directly to the children, especially those living in rural and low socioeconomic areas often overlooked by other literacy programs. This is where we can help to close the literacy gap between high- and low-income children—right there among the children!





Story Quest

Thank you so much for coming to Edison! The teachers look forward to this every year and the kids always have so much fun. Steven Riley is so entertaining and engaging. The students and the teachers love the books. ... This is the best program for our Kindergartners that we have all year! —Jessica Cobley, Title 1 Specialist, Edison Elementary School, Mesa, Arizona

Inspiring children to discover the joy of reading and the power of a literate mind—this is the impassioned mandate Kids Need to Read follows every day! One of the organization's most exciting and powerful events of the year is when it hosts Story Quest with author Steven Riley for kindergarten students at area schools, with each student receiving two new hardcover books, a *Highlights* magazine, and stuffed PetSmart Charities reading buddy to help them practice reading aloud. Mr. Riley presents a most highly entertaining and educational story creation program, although the children never realize they are being taught as the author takes them on a journey of creating plot, setting and characters. Working together as a team, the children bring to life an exciting story from their own imaginations.

This program is so popular, Kids Need to Read added an extra day in order to accommodate more locations and reach more children. This took the number of schools served from seven to nine. Located in low socioeconomic areas of Phoenix and Mesa, Arizona, as well as the Tohono O'odham Nation, many vulnerable families living in these communities struggle to make ends meet, much less provide books to their children. Kids Need to Read extended a helping hand to the ultra-excited kindergarten students, delivering priceless story programming and literary treasure to each via the Page Coach. 1,790 children were provided with 5,514 brand new reading resources, including books and *Highlights* magazines given to first grade students, as well.

Storybook Adventures



Our patrons really enjoyed the visit and it was an awesome experience for our library and community. —Heather Hatcher, Library Information Specialist, Show Low Public Library, Show Low, AZ

Immersing children into the world of stories is the magic of Kids Need to Read's Storybook Adventures. Sharing a passion for reading is contagious! Add tables piled high with books and other literacy gifts to the programming excitement and suddenly the joy and power of reading is passed on to the children. Books are so clearly vital, not only as a means to learn to read but as a tool for children to dream and to accomplish those dreams. Storybook Adventures throws open the door for each child to begin the process of dreaming for their bright future.

Schools and libraries served with onsite Storybook Adventures events included:

Glendale: Bayer Private School
Mesa Public Schools: Edison, Guerrero and Lowell Elementary Schools
Mesa: Bookmans Entertainment Exchange
Navajo Nation: Indian Wells Elementary School
Phoenix area schools: J. B. Sutton Elementary, Mountain View School, and Palomino Primary School
Phoenix: Phoenix Fan Fusion
Show Low: Show Low Public Library
Tohono O'odham Nation: Indian Oasis Elementary School-Primary Campus



Spotlight on Grow Your Library

“You touch so many lives & do so much for kids—y’all are great & I want you to know that!”

—Nancy Hughes, Branch Manager, Bertie
County Public Library, Windsor, North Carolina

April of 2019 birthed a year of big plans for the Grow Your Library program with Kids Need to Read. Six live events were scheduled, while six more were coming together. Book donations were coming in strong. Social media exposure was on the rise and new contacts were being made. Everything looked wonderful! Program records were being set! The year ended in a way no one could ever have imagined. Mayhem had struck, as COVID-19 brought plans to a halt.

The first story time event of the fiscal year was at the Alamosa Public Library in Colorado. Tina Mlodzik delivered a wonderful story time event for just shy of 100 children. This was the largest attendance for a Grow Your Library gathering yet!

The Grow Your Library team then visited the small rural town of Thermopolis, Wyoming and delivered story time to ten children at Hot Springs County Public Library. These were home school kids and they loved the event. When home schoolers get free books they consider those books resources, not just entertainment. Parents and kids were all smiles. Most of the children went home with two to three books each, along with the ever-popular *Highlights* magazines.

September 7, 2019 marked a landmark 25th event for Grow Your Library. The Show Low Public Library in Show Low, Arizona received 500 books valued over \$5,600, a record number for the Grow Your Library program. This impressive 500 book donation included a collection of 89 books written by Arizona authors. The Arizona author collection was funded by a \$1,000 donation to Kids Need to Read from Arizona-based Libraries, Ltd.

The story time event in Show Low was partnered with a visit from Kids Need to Read’s Page Coach to allow even more joy to be shared with the community. Board Member Tina Mlodzik and Executive Director Denise Gary shared stories with the children. More than 50 children in attendance were given a hard cover picture book, a *Highlights* magazine, a plush reading buddy courtesy of PetSmart Charities, and choice of another book from a variety of titles available. The many parents, grandparents and, of course, children were thankful for this wonderfully exciting community event. It was entirely our pleasure to serve!

Spotlight on Grow Your Library Continued

After the Show Low event, plans were confirmed for the next six Grow Your Library visits! The locations ranged from Alaska in the north to Arizona in the south, California in the west to Nebraska and Kansas in the Midwest, with poverty levels between 54 and 100%:

Crete Public Library, Crete, Nebraska

Atchison Public Library, Atchison, Kansas

Camarena Memorial Library, Calexico, California

Copper Queen Library, Bisbee, Arizona

Copper Valley Community Library, Glennallen, Alaska

Tok Community Library, Tok, Alaska



The libraries were carefully vetted as to their book needs. The Grow Your Library team compiled book donations to help each library receive books to suit their specific needs. All six libraries for which events were planned for 2020 received their book donations before the fiscal year end, 3,080 books in total. By mid-March 2020, it was clear that none of these libraries would be able to host a live story time event, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the team certainly tried! They flew to the Midwest to deliver events. Two days later, city library boards shut down both the Crete, NE library, as well as the library in Atchison, KS. Neither library hosted a live event, but Kids Need to Read was still able to deliver boxes of books to the libraries for distribution to the communities' children. The librarians were clearly pleased.

Another Grow Your Library record was set by providing 1,310 books valued over \$15,000 to the community libraries in Tok and Glennallen in southeast Alaska. These donations were more books than they have a budget to purchase over a three-year period! Tok is a community with 100% of their residents living beneath the national poverty level.

Record setting donations are possible thanks to generous supporters. The Grow Your Library program received over 4,500 new book donations during the 2019–2020 fiscal year. This figure represents donations from 28 publishers and 58 authors. The largest donation of 2019 came from Houghton Mifflin Harcourt with 2,021 books, carrying a retail value over \$25,000.

Again, another Grow Your Library record set!

The annual Grow Your Library fundraiser conducted by program directors Tina and Gary Mlodzik raised \$3,800. These funds were primarily used to pay shipping costs for Grow Your Library and other Kids Need to Read programs.

The Grow Your Library team is now making plans for live events during the fall and early winter of 2021. Everything is fluid at this time, but one thing is certain. The desire to open the doors of literacy to children in need will always be driving the Grow Your Library team to put books into their hands. Obstacles will be overcome and the mission will be kept alive.

Agencies Served

Alamosa Public Library
Alamosa, Colorado
Poverty Level 79%

Atchison Public Library
Atchison, Kansas
Poverty Level 66%

Camarena Memorial Library
Calexico, California
Poverty Level 100%

Copper Queen Library
Bisbee, Arizona
Poverty Level 75%

Copper Valley Community Library
Glennallen, Alaska
Poverty Level 54%

Crete Public Library
Crete, Nebraska
Poverty Level 73%

Hot Springs County Library
Thermopolis, Wyoming
Poverty Level 48%

Show Low Public Library
Show Low, Arizona
Poverty Level 63%

Tok Community Library
Tok, Alaska
Poverty Level 100%



I was really impressed with the selection of books. I don't want to sound ungrateful, but when someone is offering me free books, my first question is always are they books that the kids will want to read and we can actually use, or are they going to just be taking up shelf space? But the books you guys provided were great, a lot of popular and recent titles. And there were so many of them! With everything else going on in the world and the need to scale back our budgets, that has been especially beneficial this year, helping us to keep a good selection of new books on the shelves for the kids.

—Patrick Glancy, Children's Librarian, Atchison Public Library, Atchison, Kansas

Highlights, Books and Buddies

This is such a great program! Our students do not usually have new books at home. This program gives them the pride of ownership and helps teach them the importance of reading books at home. The kindergartners love the reading buddies! —Julie Kautenburger, Reading Specialist, Palomino Primary School, Phoenix, 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:



Arizona Renaissance Festival
2,408 books

Barnes & Noble Chandler Fashion Mall
3,311 books



Barnes & Noble Desert Ridge Marketplace
3,246 books



Barnes & Noble Surprise
2,155 books

Bookmans Entertainment Exchange Mesa
1,205 books

One teacher told me that her students said "This is the best Friday ever!" I was impressed with the quality of the books and the overall organization for the day. Everything went smoothly and the materials the students received were engaging and appropriate. Thank you for bringing The Page Coach all the way to our desert! —Lynda Cordova, Instructional Coach, Oliphant Elementary School, Indio, California



Highlights for Children donated over 58,709 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.

“... 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, Imagine Schools Camelback, Phoenix, Arizona



PetSmart Christown Spectrum Phoenix, in conjunction with **PetSmart Charities**, raised 973 stuffed reading buddies. They also called other area stores to get 609 additional buddies donated to Kids Need to Read by the North Phoenix and Glendale locations, for a total of 1,582 buddies. The irresistible pals serve as comforting read aloud companions for the children we serve, especially those whose caregivers have difficulties helping with at-home reading due to burdensome schedules, language barriers, or other challenges.

“Thank you so much for the generous book donation and

reading buddies for the special needs preschoolers at Mountain View Elem. School! The children were so excited and many brought their books and buddies back the next day.”

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

Spotlight on From Our Shelves to Yours.

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 direly needed books.

The program distributed reading resources to 20,557 children during the 2019–2020 fiscal year (April 1, 2019–March 31, 2020). The number of reading resources provided across the country increased by over 14%, from 20,300 books valued at \$159,694 in 2018–2019, to 23,755 books valued at \$144,165 during 2019–2020. The average poverty rate of clients served was 82%. Fifty-three fulfillments were provided through the program in 31 states, up from 25 states during the 2018-2019 fiscal year.



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.

Thank you for your generosity! I was not expecting so many boxes! This honestly means a lot to our students. I am happy to say that with your donation we were able to send every student home with a book to add to their personal collection over the holidays. The way our students lit up when they realized that they were being gifted a book of their choice to keep is something that will stay with me. I cannot thank you enough! Please continue to do the amazing work that you do. I extend my gratitude to you and your team!

-Amber Anglada, Library Media Specialist, J. B. Fisher Elementary School, Richmond, Virginia

Agencies Served

Alabama

Repton Junior High School

Arizona

Brunson-Lee Elementary School

John Jacobs Elementary School

Mexicayotl Academy

Phoenix Police Sergeants and Lieutenants Association

Sky View Elementary School

California

Aspire Langston Huges Academy

Baypoint Preparatory Academy

San Bernardino County

Superintendent of schools

San Gabriel Educational
Foundation

Will C Wood Middle School

Colorado

Boys and Girls Club- Denver

Connecticut

Brass City Charter School

Delaware

Laurel High School Library

Florida

Christmas Come True Inc

Georgia

Heritage Elementary School

Iowa

Clarke High School

Idaho

The Jesse Tree of Idaho

Illinois

Rush University Medical Center

Indiana

Fayette County Schools

Kansas

Western Kansas Child Advocacy

Kentucky

Harlan County High School

Massachusetts

True Christmas

Maryland

Wheaton High School

Minnesota

Southside Family Nurturing

Mississippi

Benndale Elementary School

Montana

Lewis and Clark Public Health

North Carolina

J. Glen Edwards School

New Jersey

Brown Kids Read

School 21 Paterson Public School

New Mexico

Career Guidance Institute

Nevada

Pat Diskin Elementary

New York

Suffolk Co. Div. for Serv. for
Children With Special Needs

Oregon

Lincoln Street Elementary School

Pennsylvania

Woodrow Wilson Middle School

Tennessee

Memphis Shelby County
Education Association

Texas

Jones Memorial United Methodist

Knox City High School

Tatum Primary School

University of Texas Charter School
-Pathways

WayWesX17 Homeless Project

Utah

4th East Community Garden

Virginia

J.B. Fisher Elementary School

The Free Book Bus

Washington

The Carrie House Church



KIDS NEED TO READ

Inspiring Imagination

Our Vision:

All children and adolescents will have access to quality books no matter their race, economic status, or capabilities. Further, our organization will provide inspiring programs to increase literacy rates and decrease dropout rates throughout the United States. These programs will be presented in a manner that will foster and uphold dignity and self-respect. We will consistently demonstrate to children and adolescents the need to read, as we believe literacy contributes to school and life success.

Kids Need to Read

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