



## The Clackamas Bookshelf

Dear Clackamas County neighbor:

We all know that reading is important, and the earlier we can instill a love of reading and create a habit of reading in children, the better our community will be.

Our passion at Clackamas Bookshelf is to make sure that all kids have books in their homes. We provide free books to low-income children in Clackamas County, with the understanding that widespread access to books offers positive, long-term benefits to our entire community. Since 2014, we have distributed more than 173,000 books to underserved children in the community. **In fact, this last school year we gave 30,093 books to 4,871 children!**

Why the need for books in the home? Don't we have libraries? Libraries are wonderful resources, but research shows that having **age-appropriate books in the home provides a vital head start** to children of every age and income level.

- Children who start Kindergarten with few or no books at home **start out behind and stay behind**...showing below-peer scores in reading assessments by 4th grade.<sup>1</sup>
- **Access to books in the home directly predicts reading achievement**, regardless of all other factors such as household income and parental level of education.<sup>2</sup>
- Children from low-income families average **only 2 age-appropriate books in their homes**, compared to 54 books on average for middle-income families, and 199 books on average for higher-income families.<sup>3</sup>

**Kids need books they can call their own.** Compared to their peers, children who own their own books:

- Have greater enjoyment of reading
- Read more frequently and for longer lengths of time
- Have more positive attitudes toward reading.<sup>4</sup>

**Children need books. Children need you.** Many low-income families struggle with basic expenses such as food, rent, healthcare, transportation...so adding books to the budget often is just not possible. But you can make a difference with a generous donation.

- For a \$250 gift, your company can provide a personal library of 10 books to every student in a Kindergarten class.
- For a \$500 gift, your company can give one book to every student in an elementary school.
- For a \$1,000 gift, your company can ensure every student at a middle school receives one book.
- For a \$2,500 gift, your company can give a personal library of 10 books to 250 Head Start students.

Join us in making a difference today! For more information or to make a tax-deductible donation, use the enclosed form, visit us at [www.theclackamasbookshelf.org](http://www.theclackamasbookshelf.org), or call 503-908-3766.

With sincere thanks,

Katy Preston  
Executive Director

The Clackamas Bookshelf is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, registered in the state of Oregon. Taxpayer ID: 47-1189318. <sup>1</sup>National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) Fourth-Grade Reading, 2001. <sup>2</sup>Family Scholarly Culture and Educational Success: Books and schooling in 27 nations. M.D.R. Evans, Jonathan Kelley, Joanna Sikora, Donald J. Treiman. <sup>3</sup>The Literacy Crisis. Published by California State University, Jeff McQuillan. <sup>4</sup>Book Ownership and its relation to reading enjoyment, behaviour and attainment. London: National Literacy Trust. C. Clark and L. Poulton (2011).

# 2022-2023: Growing Good Readers



**30,093**

books to  
a total of

**4,871**

children

**8**

school districts  
were served

**17**

community partners  
were served



**6,011**

books to



**550**

pre-K children



**173,287**

books gifted by  
The Clackamas Bookshelf  
since 2014





## 1: Supporter Level

In exchange for your donation, we'd be honored to recognize your business on our website, social media, and at our weekly book sales.

- Harry Potter Level - **\$2,500+**
- The Cat in the Hat Level - **\$1,000**
- Winnie the Pooh Level - **\$500**
- Ramona Quimby Level - **\$250**

## 2: Contact Information

Company Name

Contact Name

Title

Phone

Email

Mailing Address

Mailing Address

Website

## 3: Optional Gift Information

We wish to have this gift remain anonymous.

Please make this gift:

In Memory Of

In Honor Of

\_\_\_\_\_ Name

## 4: Mail

Check enclosed (*made payable to The Clackamas Bookshelf*)

Send donation with this completed form to:

**The Clackamas Bookshelf**  
**PO Box 743**  
**Gladstone, OR 97027**

## Thank you for your generous support!