



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 The 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 114,000 books to underserved children in the community.**

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.¹
- Access to books in the home **directly predicts reading achievement**, regardless of all other factors such as household income and parental level of education.²
- 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.³

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.⁴

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.

In March 2020, when our world changed with the pandemic, we were required to rethink how we distribute books and support our mission. With children remaining at home and libraries closed, providing books became even more critical. We realize that with so much in all our lives in flux, it may be difficult to commit to a gift at this time...we certainly understand. If you're unable to offer support right now, we hope that you keep us in mind in the future.

For more information or to make a tax-deductible donation, use the enclosed form, visit us at 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.

¹National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) Fourth-Grade Reading, 2001. ²Family Scholarly Culture and Educational Success: Books and schooling in 27 nations. M.D.R. Evans, Jonathan Kelley, Joanna Sikora, Donald J. Treiman. ³The Literacy Crisis. Published by California State University, Jeff McQuillan. ⁴Book Ownership and its relation to reading enjoyment, behaviour and attainment. London: National Literacy Trust. C. Clark and L. Poulton (2011).

2020-2021: A Story of Resolve



9

school districts
were served

14

community partners
were served

23,722

books to a total of

3,627

children

↑ 12.4% more books
than prior year



34,202

books since beginning
of pandemic

1,941

books to



194

Head Start students



113,749

books given away by
The Clackamas Bookshelf
since 2014





The
Clackamas
Bookshelf

Corporate Supporter Form

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

Supporter Levels

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

Please mail checks to:
The Clackamas Bookshelf
PO Box 743
Gladstone, OR 97027

Company: _____

We wish to remain anonymous.

Contact Name: _____

Title: _____

Street: _____

City, St, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Thank you for your generous support!