



Inspiring Imagination

October 2008

Message from the Director

KNTR has had a fun and exciting summer, the closing of which was topped off by the best news we ever could have received. Within two months of filing, we were approved by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)(3) tax exempt corporation. We feel the swift approval by the IRS is a testament to the value of our stated mission and to their confidence in our dedication to fulfill it. Now our young foundation will be able to grow and truly affect the lives of children through the magic of books!



Beyond filing legal papers, our summer was filled with many fun and productive activities, including supporting Can't Stop the Serenity and attending San Diego Comic-Con to work with the California Browncoats on an amazing fundraiser. Now that kids have returned to school, KNTR has a large number of book donations on order to get kids excited about reading. One teacher spent her summer developing a curriculum around the books we sent to her school. Another is using our books to assist her in implementing a strong independent reader program. Nothing could make us happier than to hear that our books are being used as tools to encourage reading! One teacher explained the difficulties she has had in finding the right books for her students and what a hit our books have been with them. Much effort goes into making our book list exemplary, and it is our hope that teachers will use it, whether we are donating to their schools or not. We just want to get kids reading! As school funding cutbacks increase, books and librarians are among the first things to go. With China emerging as a superpower, the United States needs to rethink the education of its children and put priority on what is still the most important educational tool we have – reading!

Our Book Goddess has provided us with additions to our book list, which we will be incorporating soon. Included are more high interest/low level books to help advance reluctant readers and keep them reading beyond one or two books. We want to get this group of kids in the habit of reading. *Every Kid Needs to Read!*

Thank you for sharing our passion.

Denise Gary
Executive Director

[Visit Kids Need to Read!](#)

KNTR Donates Ninety Books to Four Libraries

Kids Need to Read made several donations in May and the first half of June. Ninety new books valued at more than \$1,350 were given to three schools and one public library.

Encinitas Community Library in Encinitas, California and Adelphoi Village in Latrobe, Pennsylvania were both submitted by caring supporters of KNTR. Adelphoi Village is a residency school providing care, education and therapy to children, youth and families in crisis. They were seeking help to build their student library, and KNTR was happy to be a part of fulfilling their need.

Librarian Sharon Navarro of Moreno Valley Public Library in Moreno Valley, California sent us the following submission:

We are a small library servicing a large growing community in Southern California. We are gearing up for our summer reading program "Catch the Reading Bug" and any help would be greatly appreciated!

Kids Need to Read sent the library many books on their wish list for kids of all ages. We know they will help the kids "catch the reading bug"! Sharon told us about the gift they gave to KNTR in return:

Thanks again for the books! The first group is on the "new books" shelf and are being checked out. There is a book plate in each one saying "Donated by Kids Need to Read".

They are beautiful books!

Kids Need to Read really appreciates the book plates!

Ann Brennan, the seventh and eighth grade teacher at Potter Junior High School in Fallbrook, California submitted this request:

Hello! I teach 7th and 8th grade struggling readers and English Learners in Fallbrook, CA, and our library is in desperate need of an update! We need books that are relevant to our students' lives, with characters that they can identify with. I have heard about your series and your mission, and I know that with your help, I will be able to tap into my students' innate curiosity, and they will begin to reach their potential as the readers, writers, and thinkers of tomorrow! Thank you!

Ann's students were very excited over the new shipment of books:

The books arrived on Friday, thank you! My students are devouring them already – I thought you'd like to hear this quote from one of my most reluctant readers, who is reading one of the Actionopolis books: "Dude! I'm reading for the first time in my life!"

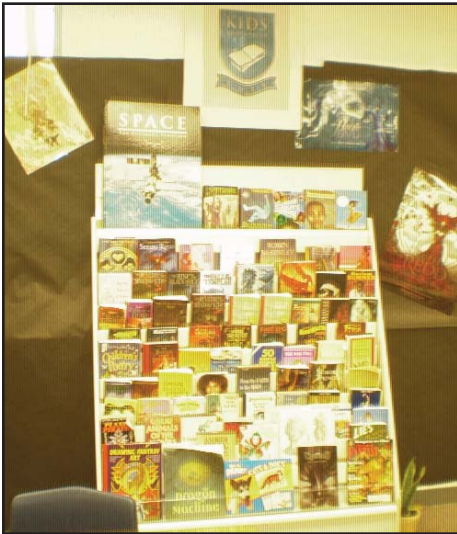
Good thing it's a series! :)

THANK YOU!!!!!!

We consider our mission statement to encourage reading among reluctant readers to be an area of primary concern and one for which our selection of books are especially helpful. To hear that our books helped a reluctant reader find the joy that reading holds for them is especially rewarding for us.

[Read more donation requests on our Community Page.](#)

A Teacher Builds on KNTR's Donation



One caring teacher at a school that Kids Need to Read donated to this summer has taken our donation a giant step further. Melody Polson, the eighth grade English teacher at R. O. Gibson Middle School in Las Vegas, Nevada studied the books during the summer and incorporated them into the reading curriculum for the upcoming school year. She is using them not only to encourage her students to read, but to build their vocabulary, comprehension and test-taking skills as well.

Kids Need to Read sent Gibson Middle School twenty-seven books valued at over \$250.00. This donation was a direct result of Higley Elementary and Middle School's student fundraising drive. Kris Ramsey, Higley's librarian, organized the kids' efforts to raise money for KNTR, and their PTO added a substantial donation to the students' total. Please read more about the amazing kids of Higley, Arizona [here](#).

Melody Polson's thank you letter points out the substantial problems many schools are facing due to budget shortfalls:

I made it in and picked up my box of delights today. Wowiewowowow!!! It is one thing to see the list ... another entirely to see the stacks of titles right in front of you.

I'm soooo excited. I've passed on our correspondence to my principal and the assistant. They are enthused because our state is in a rather deep budget crunch, and the school won't be getting much of what we had hoped at the end of the year. For us, it won't be as bad as for many – our numbers are actually expected to decline due to re-zoning. For others, it is gonna be a tough year.

[Kids Need to Read] – you've shined a light where one was not expected.

Thank you!

Reading cannot be sacrificed due to school districts' cutbacks. Kids need new books with enticing covers and exciting stories waiting to be discovered within. It is through books that many children find their potential, especially in poor districts where mentoring can be scarce. Life lessons, encouragement and the knowledge that one can overcome barriers are all found in quality children's books. Kids Need to Read intends to provide where school systems fail.

[Read more testimonials on our Community Page.](#)

KNTR Contributes to Volunteer Library

Growing up in Louisiana in the early sixties, our family had no city or county libraries available to us. But luckily, the Bookmobile came around on its faithful schedule and afforded us the luxury of regular library visits. I'll always remember the "booky" smell upon entering the library on wheels and excitedly picking out my journeys to adventure. I cannot imagine growing up without a library of some kind in which to mine for fun books, even if it moved around on wheels.

Yet more than four decades later, there are still many rural places in the United States without a library system in place for their local citizens. What would you do if you had no access to a library? Kids Need to Read received the following solution in this anonymous library submission for the River Road Santa Clara Volunteer Library:

The RRSC Volunteer Library was started because of a drastic library shortage in Lane County, Oregon. Lane County, which is about the size of the state of Connecticut, has no county-wide library system –and people who live outside the city limits of places like Eugene, including the residents of the Santa Clara and River Road areas, must pay punitive amounts in order to get a city library card. The RRSC Volunteer Library is a grassroots organization, an effort by and for Eugene residents to create a city-quality library for those who live outside official city limits.

In answer, forty-three new books valued at over \$650 were recently sent to the library. KNTR received the following thanks from Rob Batchelor, the President of the nonprofit library:

As the President of the River Road Santa Clara Volunteer Library, I just want to say "thank you very much" to the Kids Need to Read organization. Almost all of our books are donations from the community and it always seems the children's books are the 'best loved'. The brand new books from KNTR are a welcome addition to our children's section.

All of us at Kids Need to Read share the passion of the River Road Santa Clara volunteers. We were happy to contribute to the volunteer library and admire the citizens' efforts to bring reading opportunities to the people who live in their community.

The Kids Need to Read Browncoat Endowment

All of us at The Kids Need to Read Foundation sincerely thank the Browncoat community for its ongoing support of our efforts to not only provide books for children, but to encourage a life-long love of reading in the kids our books touch. To permanently demonstrate our gratitude, Kids Need to Read is establishing The Kids Need to Read Browncoat Endowment. This fund is being started from a donation by the California Browncoats and expanded by donations from the Austin Browncoats, Mid-South Browncoats and NoVA Browncoats Meetup Group. A percentage of all money raised for Kids Need to Read by any Browncoat group in the future will be added to the endowment so that it will grow and benefit children's literacy in perpetuity. Please accept this endowment named in your honor as our humble thanks for your generous and enthusiastic support of our dream.

KNTR Supports Can't Stop The Serenity



Kids Need to Read supported our Browncoat sponsors' Can't Stop The Serenity screenings by giving ... books, of course! [Can't Stop The Serenity](#) is an annual charity event conducted by Browncoats around the world to raise funds for Equality Now. Each year, movie theaters are rented to put on screenings of writer/director Joss Whedon's 2005 movie, *Serenity*. Several of these screenings host cast and crew from *Serenity* and the TV show that spawned it, *Firefly*. Auctions and raffles are often conducted to raise extra funds. The money raised is then donated to Equality Now in honor of Mr. Whedon – a fervent supporter of the charity that fights abuse against women. What is a "Browncoat"? These are loyal fans of *Firefly/Serenity*, their name taken from the TV show and movie. Many of these fans belong to local, organized groups that are known for their generous and charitable nature.

Several Browncoat groups have taken KNTR under their wings and supported us with fundraising projects: [Austin Browncoats](#), [California Browncoats](#), [Mid-South Browncoats](#) and [NoVA Firefly/Serenity Meetup Group](#). To say thank you to these groups, Kids Need to Read donated books signed by actor Alan Tudyk and author PJ Haarsma to use in their CSTS auctions and raffles. Thank you, Alan and PJ, for supporting Can't Stop The Serenity!

But KNTR did not stop there. Our mission is to give books to kids. To honor our mission and that of Equality Now, Kids Need to Read offered to give \$300 worth of kids' books to a women's crisis shelter in each of these chapters' local areas. We can think of no better way to help children who are caught up in the cycle of abuse than to give them inspiration for their futures through books. These books will be given in honor of these Browncoat chapters for their generosity to our foundation. We appreciate the help each group has given to us and would like to give back to their communities in their names.

We are grateful to the [Chicagoland Browncoats](#), [North Texas Browncoats](#) and [Raleigh Browncoats](#) as well, for giving out free KNTR literacy buttons and postcards at their screenings. We are thankful for the help in spreading the word about Kids Need to Read! KNTR volunteer Marty Dwyer donated a signed Terrify'n

Space Monkey for auction at the Raleigh screening. How wonderful that this critter wound up benefiting two charitable causes – first Kids Need to Read, then Equality Now.

We would like to give a shout out to the Mid-South Browncoats for allowing people to make PayPal donations to either Equality Now or KNTR, or split for both, on their site. Not only that, but they conducted an auction for Kids Need to Read at their screening. What an awesome thing to do!

To thank ALL of the many Browncoats who support Kids Need to Read, we contributed books specially signed by PJ Haarsma and Nathan Fillion for the Global Can't Stop The Serenity eBay auctions.

KNTR and the California Browncoats at San Diego Comic-Con



Several Kids Need to Read volunteers returned from San Diego Comic-Con International excited over the amazing amount of support poured out for our organization. Not only was the work fun, but the sentiments shared with the volunteers, officers, PJ Haarsma and Nathan Fillion were inspirational.

The special limited edition *Serenity: Better Days #1* comic, sold to raise funds for KNTR, was flying off the shelf. We thank Dark Horse Comics and the many sponsors who made this exclusive comic possible. We also thank those who were unable to attend San Diego Comic-Con, but bid on the exclusive comic during the California Browncoats' eBay auctions.

Many of the celebrity guests at the booth, including actor Mark Sheppard, encouraged donations to Kids Need to Read. Thank you Mark, Jamie Chambers, Brian Wiser, and authors Kevin J. Anderson, Rebecca Moesta and Nancy Holder for encouraging and giving! We must give a special mention to The Amazing Tabin and her spectacular donation enticement skills – WOW!

We are so glad that so many people came to visit with PJ at his signings. KNTR co-founder Nathan Fillion also stopped by for a visit – signing and taking pictures with fans for two hours alongside PJ. The fans were so kind to PJ and Nathan, offering so much encouragement for the work KNTR is doing. Each and every success story was appreciated, as well as your voices of enthusiasm.

Kids Need to Read thanks all of the California Browncoats who worked so hard to conduct this fundraiser to benefit Kids Need to Read. The warmth and friendliness of your officers and volunteers made the experience a joy. Thank you, James and Lynn, for allowing our volunteers to be guests in your booth.

We are very pleased to report the final amount for the Comic-Con 2008 fundraiser totaled \$10,565.43. There are still some limited edition *Serenity* comics left over. They will continue to be sold at future conventions and online, very soon, in KNTR's new eBay store.

Austin Browncoats Fundraising Efforts Support KNTR

Beth Nelson of the Austin Browncoats sent us the following letter detailing their recent fundraising events:

We are proud to announce that we have raised \$1250 for Kids Need To Read, one of our supported charities.

At FedCon, a convention that was canceled mid-con, we were able to raise \$250 in donations from attendees, even after the con-goers found out that their travel fees and badge costs might not be recovered. We were so proud of the many Browncoats who showed up to support Kids Need To Read,



and the many other individuals who donated money to a good cause for their love of children and promoting literacy. With less than 300 people in attendance, that means we almost received a dollar per person in attendance!

*For Dragon*Con 2008, our Secretary of the Board of Directors of Austin Browncoats, Claudia Drinovsky (a.k.a. Ma Cobb) proposed a Knit-a-thon. She'd see how many Jayne hats she could knit during booth hours at Dragon*Con, and folks would pledge a dollar amount per hat made. She ended up making 12 hats, and with those donations we were able to raise another \$1000 for Kids Need To Read. Sadly, we were unable to present the check to Mr. Nathan Fillion himself because he left the convention a day early, but we are so proud of Claudia's accomplishments and the generosity of Browncoats, Dragon*Con-goers, and our family and friends.*

KNTR and OSFest 2008

Everyone here at Kids Need to Read knows how important our sponsors are. One of our sponsors, Suze Bolduc, recently attended OSFest (Omaha Science Fiction Education Society) and hosted a table for Kids Need to Read. She raised \$180.00 and procured some GREAT auction items for us! Here is her recap of the convention:

Working the KNTR table at OSFest was a joy, and I look forward to doing it again at future OSFests and other Science Fiction and Gaming conventions around the Midwest. The folks from Omaha Science Fiction Education Society (www.OSFES.org), the sponsor organization, gave us the table for free and have invited us back for next year. People absolutely LOVE the idea of what we are doing and were eager to help. Buttons and information packages such as the mission statement and suggested reading list for kids almost flew off the table. I was using the story from the website about PJ Haarsma seeing teachers pay for books out of their own pockets and kids following him back to the car to beg for copies, which was very well received. A couple of the teachers I met commented that they had also done that more than once, and they were grateful that someone was willing to reach out and help them. I received a very positive response from all, many offers of help, and inquiries into what they could do. People owning book and comic stores asked for postcards to put out near their cash registers.



One of the funniest moments of the con came when a guy came up to the table and pointed to the picture I had displayed of PJ Haarsma and Nathan Fillion. He pointed to Nathan and said "Hey, I know that guy! But from where? Hmmmmm?"

"Captain Mal from Firefly and Serenity?" I suggested -- after all we were at a Science Fiction convention.

"Nope," he replied.

"Slither, perhaps?"

"Mmm, I don't think so."

"Waitress? Desperate Housewives? White Noise 2?"

"Oh, I know," he said, "He's the dude that married Kate on Lost."

My table was next to the one where Denise Crosby was doing autographs. As I was working up my nerve to ask her to give us a donation she turned to me and said, "Hey, I've been hearing what you're telling people, and I want to know more about this! What can I do?" So I told her that donations of auction items would be greatly appreciated and that donations from other Star Trek stars have gone very well on our auction site. She said, "No problem," and promptly gave me the Mortuary autographed DVD and signed a Tasha Yar publicity photo for us. The Guests of Honor

authors were just as quick to volunteer autographed items, as was one of the Filk guests. It was a privilege to have the opportunity to help out! Thanks so much for your support [KNTR]!!

Thank you, Suze. Everyone at KNTR is grateful for all of your enthusiasm and hard work!

Kids Need to Read and Team Winchester

Kids Need to Read is excited to announce that [Team Winchester](#) (a fan effort to promote the CW series *Supernatural*) has adopted Kids Need to Read as one of their official charities! We are thrilled to have their support, and they donated a VERY exciting item for us to auction. They gave us a copy of the *Supernatural* Season 1 DVD Set signed by Eric Kripke, Chad Lindberg, Frederic Lehne, Jensen Ackles and Jared Padalecki. It raised \$200.00 for Kids Need to Read!

We met the leaders of Team Winchester at the Phoenix Cactus Comicon in January. They are very enthusiastic and we love the support they show for our project. Here are a few words from the leaders of Team Winchester:

Since this is the first joint effort between Team Winchester and Kids Need to Read, we wanted to write a little something to tell you guys who we are and what we'd like to do. Team Winchester is a fan effort to promote The CW series Supernatural. We understand the value of well-written television shows and the power that we, the fans, have in deciding their fate. Because of this, we have made it our mission to mobilize the fans to help keep our favorite show on the air. In addition, we have found that the Supernatural fan-base is made up of a lot of wonderful people who really care about making a difference. Therefore, we at Team Winchester have decided to introduce a charity aspect to our mission. This effort is perhaps best summarized in our charity slogan: "You don't need to hunt things to save people." We hope that we will be able to bring a lot more attention to Kids Need to Read, a wonderful organization filled with caring people trying to promote children's literacy. Many people feel that television and the movies are killing literacy these days, but we see no reason why these various forms of media can't work in conjunction. So, we'd like to get some TV show fans behind this worthy cause and help get some books to the kids!

Kids Need to Read is thrilled to be working with Team Winchester. We would like to thank Ivy and Diane and all of Team Winchester for supporting us in our mission to place books into the hands of kids who need them!

The Auction Block

We have had a little bit of everything up for auction on the Kids Need to Read eBay site! It is always fun to see how things do. I have learned that you can never tell what will do well and what will not! Our biggest sellers this quarter were the *Firefly/Serenity* Book Pack and the Mal Dog Tag. They both went for over \$400.00 each! WOW!

As a result of our recently acquired tax exempt status, we have opened an eBay store. To kick things off, we will be hosting "The Holiday Shopping to Benefit KNTR" event from November 1, 2008 through December 19, 2008. We have over 50 items that will be available for purchase in our eBay store during this exciting occasion. There will be something for everyone, including *Firefly/Serenity* items, limited edition art prints, autographed books, books on tape, jewelry and much more! Check a few names off of your shopping list, save yourself time and money, and help Kids Need to Read purchase more books for kids!



Our recent 501(c)(3) tax exempt approval also gives our supporters one more way to help KNTR grow. If you have an auction on eBay, you can now donate all or a portion of your auction's proceeds to Kids Need to Read! When you fill out your auction post, just designate The Kids Need to Read Foundation as the charity to whom you wish to donate the proceeds. It is that simple! In return, you will receive a tax receipt for the proceeds you donate. A win-win for everyone!

I would like to give a thank you to our volunteers who attended the San Diego Comic-Con with us this past July. They were a big help with procuring some remarkable auction items for us. I really appreciate you gals putting yourself out there and asking for the items. It is not always easy to do, but you guys did it, and we got quite a load of stuff! Way to go!

A big thank you to everyone who has bid, donated, or won one of our auctions. Without your support we would not be able to do what we do. Be on the lookout for more of our auctions and join in the fun!

Debbie Brown
Auction Coordinator

Kids Need to Read is always looking for auction items. If you have something you would like to donate, please contact me at debbie@kidsneedtoread.org.

[Visit KNTR auctions on eBay.](#)

[Read KNTR auction news on our Community Page.](#)

Where in the World is KNTR

Kids Need to Read is all over the internet! You can become our friend on MySpace, join our Facebook group, browse our bookshelf at Goodreads, follow us on Twitter, and/or watch KNTR videos on YouTube.

[Visit us on Myspace!](#)

[Follow KNTR on Twitter!](#)

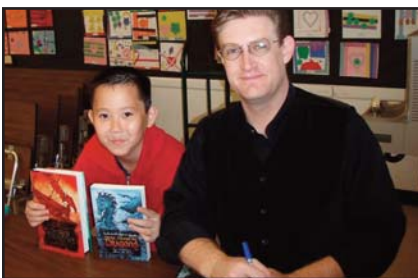
[Join our Facebook Group!](#)

[Checkout KNTR videos on YouTube!](#)

[Browse our bookshelf at Goodreads!](#)



Michael's Book Bytes



Michael is a seventh grade student who loves to read and cook. That's right, cook! He joined Kids Need to Read because he thought that it would be a great opportunity to help everyone open up to literacy.

Michael's blogs include interviews with authors James A. Owen (pictured), Dean Lorey, Kara Kingsley, J. S. Lewis, and Brandon Mull.

We hope you will stop by occasionally to enjoy *Michael's Book Bytes*.

[Read Michael's Book Bytes Blog.](#)

KNTR Merchandise

Help promote literacy at school or at your office with our shiny line of mousepads and mugs ... perfect for students and teachers! While you are there, be sure to check out our complete line of shirts and accessories. The net proceeds from our CafePress store will help us buy more books for schools and libraries. Thanks for shopping!

[Visit KNTR's CafePress Store!](#)



A Message from Founder PJ Haarsma

I'm sure everyone is now aware of the huge success we experienced this year at San Diego's Comic-Com. I really want to thank James, Kim, Lynn and everyone with the California Browncoats. They're support was the catalyst for our success.

After heroic efforts by Denise and all the other board members, our eagerly awaited approval of our 501(c)(3) charity status is now a reality. I hope everyone is just as excited as I am to begin this new stage in KNTR's history.

I look forward to working with everyone in the coming months, and I want to thank you for all your support.

About The Kids Need to Read Foundation



Kids Need to Read is a children's literacy foundation established by children's author PJ Haarsma and actor Nathan Fillion. The foundation is supported by a global group of volunteers whose dream is to get more books into the hands of the children who need them.

Kids Need to Read raises money to buy books for under-funded schools and libraries, as well as for organizations who give books to children. Funds are raised through various fundraising events.

Kids Need to Read donates from an [official book list](#) that includes a variety of well-reviewed books for preschool to teenaged children. The foundation especially strives to donate books that appeal to reluctant readers.

[Learn more about Kids Need to Read!](#)

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www.kidsneedtoread.org

<http://community.kidsneedtoread.org>

www.myspace.com/kidsneedtoread
