



**KIDS NEED TO READ**  
Inspiring Imagination

[WWW.KIDSNEEDTOREAD.ORG](http://WWW.KIDSNEEDTOREAD.ORG)

2023-2024 Annual Report

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*“My summer school students really love receiving books that they get to take home and keep. Sometimes these books are the only access they have to books outside of school. I love seeing their big smiles.”*

Audrey Arvizu, Adams Elementary, Mesa, Arizona



## Our Mission:

Kids Need to Read helps children discover the joy of reading and the power of a literate mind by providing inspiring books and literacy programs to underfunded schools, libraries, and community agencies across the United States, especially those serving disadvantaged children.



## Letter from the Chair Person,

One can never overestimate the importance of reading. Victor Hugo, French poet and novelist, best known for his famous work, *Les Misérables*, declared, “***To learn to Read is to light a fire; every syllable that is spelled out is a spark.***” 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’ll Know. The more you Learn, the more Places you’ll go!***”

During our fiscal year, 2023-2024, Kids Need to Read continued its mission to provide thousands of books to at risk children living in low socioeconomic communities. In excess of 111,000 children were served and over \$1,000,000 in books were distributed 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: Arizona Renaissance Festival, Barnes & Noble, Bookman’s Entertainment Exchange Mesa, Cox Charities, Highlights for Children, Kathy and Jerry Wood Foundation, Mesa United Way, PetSmart Charities/PetSmart West Valley Stores, 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.

Thanks to Jessica Payne, our Executive Director, whose tireless efforts are an inspiration to us all. Thanks also to Tiernnee Jefferis, Operations Assistant, and Leah Erne, Warehouse Manager; Levi Chaplin Payne, Warehouse Assistant, Bruce Matsunaga, Secretary; Heather Miller, Treasurer; and our Board of Directors, composed of Joe Boudrie, Diane Elhard, Tiffany Ellington, Denise Gary, Gary Mlodzik, Tina Mlodzik, and Kim O'Brien. 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, Board Chairman  
Kids Need to Read



# Letter from the Executive Director

“...The students are already anticipating checking out the new materials. Thank you for encouraging the love of literacy in our children and thank you for all that you do!”

Amanda Coltman, Library Coordinator, Yuma District One, Yuma, Arizona

Dear Friends,

Emerson once wrote, "Good luck is another name for tenacity of purpose," and I can't think of a better quote for Kids Need to Read. Over the past 16 years, Kids Need to Read has been dedicated to providing books to children and helping them discover the joy of reading and the power of a literate mind. This has been possible because of our unwavering purpose and the steadfast support of individuals like you.

This year Kids Need to Read started a new chapter in our organization's story as we moved locations and have restructured some of our programming. Our new warehouse is brimming with opportunities waiting to be discovered by those we serve. As we look forward to the future, we are thrilled about the new books, buddies, and resources we can provide to children throughout the year.

We also have seen the retirement of our “Grow Your Library” program and the creation of a new library focused program “Share Our Libraries”. This program will continue the tradition of building up rural libraries that was started with the GYL program and expand to partner with the local youth leaders to create student lead literacy events in the communities that we serve.

At Kids Need to Read, we are constantly evolving, expanding our efforts and knowledge to better serve the diverse needs of the children and communities we support. We continuously look ahead, exploring innovative ways to enhance access to books. Our greatest reward is the joyful smiles and heartfelt gratitude we receive from those we help.

A heartfelt thank you to all who are part of our story, supporting our purpose and joining us in helping children discover the light of literacy in their lives.

Happy Reading,

Jessica Payne,

Executive Director,

Kids Need to Read



## Board of Directors 2023

**Tyson Breinholt**, Chairman    **Tiffany Ellington**, Director  
**Jessica Payne**, Executive Director    **Denise Gary**, Co-Founder, Director  
**Bruce Matsunaga, Ph.D.**, Secretary    **Gary Mlodzik**, Director, Program Lead  
**Heather Miller**, Treasurer    **Tina Mlodzik**, Director, Program Lead  
**Joe Boudrie**, Director    **Kim OBrein**, Director  
**F. Diane Elhard**, Director

## Advisory Council 2023

Margaret Bostrom    James A. Owen  
Faith Hochhalter    Janette Rallison  
Tom Leveen    Steven Riley  
Jackie Morris    Dr. Marlinda White-Kaulait

## Staff

**Jessica Payne**  
Executive Director

**Levi Payne**  
Warehouse Assistant

**Leah Erne**  
Warehouse Manager, Program Lead

**Robert Gary**  
Creative Director

**Tiernnee Jefferis**  
Operations Assistant



[We loved] Everything! The books are amazing, the story time was wonderful, and the staff was terrific! [There has been] Increased checkouts in the Children's Collection and increased new juvenile patron card registrations. We are so grateful for the support of this [Kids Need to Read's Grow Your Library], and the willingness to serve our community. Thank you!

Alison E. Williams, Library Services Coordinator, The Copper Queen Library, Bisbee, AZ



# A New Chapter for Kids Need to Read

In December 2023 Kids Need to Read welcomed a new board, though still under the direction of Chairperson Tyson Breinholt and Executive Director Jessica Payne. The old board, who had served for many years moved to the capacity of the Advisory council and the new had their first official meeting in December.

The organization’s goals and mission remain the same: to put books into the hands of children so that they may discover the joy of reading and the power of a literate mind.

## Board of Directors 2024

- Tyson Breinholt**, Chairman
- Jessica Payne**, Executive Director
- Theresa Warber** Secretary
- Glenna Breinholt**, Director
- Jamie Breinholt**, Director

## Advisory Council 2024

- |                               |                                    |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>Bruce Matsunaga, Ph.D.</b> | <b>Julianne Kucera</b>             |
| <b>Heather Miller</b>         | <b>Gary Mlodzik</b> , program lead |
| <b>Joe Boudrie</b>            | <b>Tina Mlodzik</b> , program lead |
| <b>F. Diane Elhard</b>        | <b>Kim O’ Brien</b>                |
| <b>Tiffany Ellington</b>      |                                    |

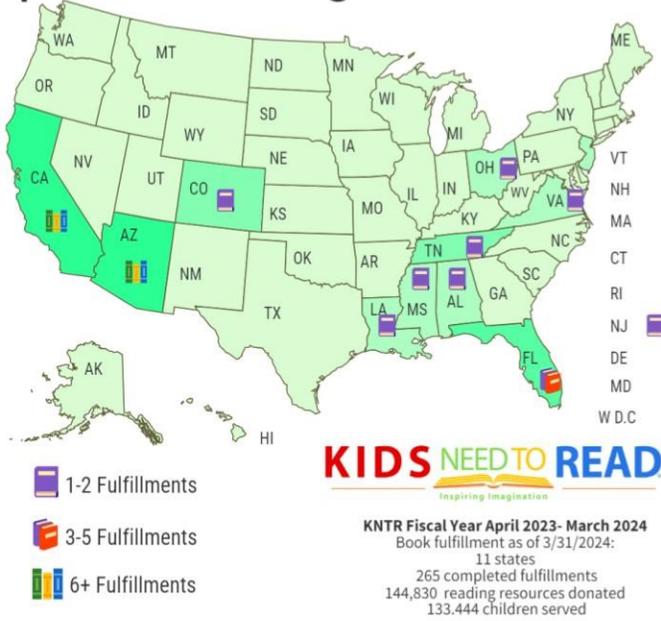


*“I’d like to take a moment to thank your organization for your donation of middle school-aged books. I don’t think you understand just how big of an impact you’ve made. We serve a community that is made up of predominantly low-income households. Many of these students have no access to prints. They were beyond thrilled to receive a book and just about all expressed an interest in receiving another book in the future. Please keep us in mind if you are able to spare another shipment of books. We are ever so grateful for what you did for our community’s children, the future!”*

Katherine Bonilla, Lieutenant, Passaic County Sheriff’s Office, Wayne, NJ

# Our Impact 2023-2024

## Book Fulfillment April 2023 through March 2024

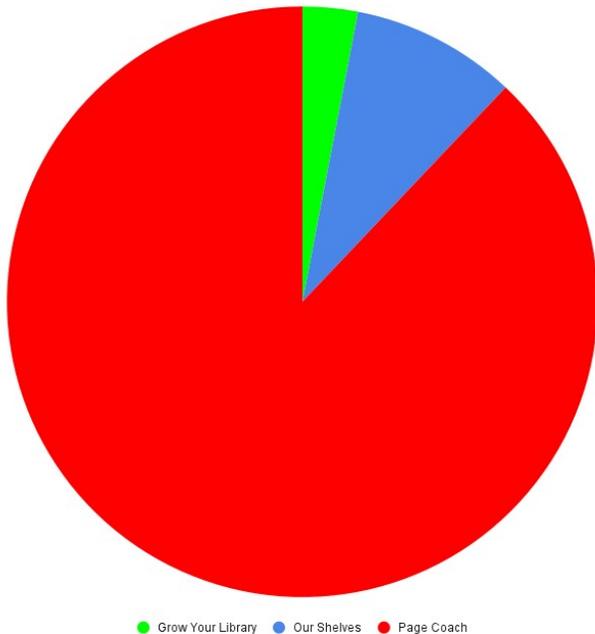
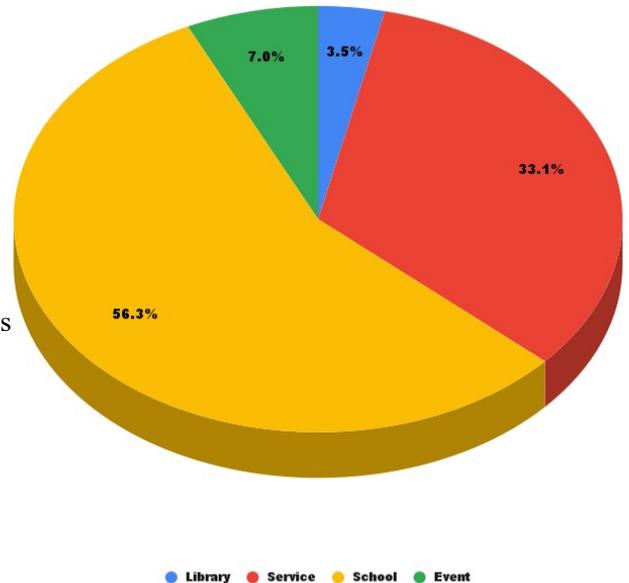


## Growing our giving

This year Kids Need to Read completed 265 fulfillments or orders for books. A new record for us! Those orders contained 144,830 books and reading resources worth over \$1.2 million dollars.

## Who is providing book access to children?

Representing 173 unique applicants, this chart breaks down the types of organizations or community events Kids Need to Read partnered with to bring high-quality books and reading resources to children. The children served live in families with incomes with an average of 87% below the poverty line across all 3 programs



## How do our Programs serve?

A grand total of 265 requests for books and reading resources serving 119,956 unique children were fulfilled. This chart represents a breakdown of the Kids Need to Read programs. Each program is built to address a type of geographical need. Grow Your library focuses on rural libraries, From Our Shelves to Yours addresses needs outside of Arizona and Page Coach Territory. The Page Coach addresses the literary needs of communities within a driving distance of Kids Need to Read

● Grow Your Library ● Our Shelves ● Page Coach

This was AMAZING and I couldn't be happier! The variety and grade appropriate books that were donated are in great condition. The planning and care that went into the whole process was perfect. Thank you Kids Need to Read and the entire team!

Jesse Reese, Teacher, Sundance Elementary School, Peoria, Arizona



## Let's Get Kids Reading

Not all literacy needs are the same; some grant requests require more than just books to get kids excited about reading. Kids Need to Read has developed numerous strategies to tailor our donations to meet all of our children's needs. This report illustrates the various tools Kids Need to Read has created to support agencies aiming to increase literacy.

Storybook Adventures feature characters that capture the imagination of children in the audience. In addition to storybook characters like pirates, mermaids, and Christmas cat ladies visiting libraries and schools, Kids Need to Read partners with local cosplay groups and authors, making every reading event a memorable adventure.

The Wheel of Literacy, where children spin to determine their "literary fate," is paired with community and school events. It brings the supportive feeling of winning to reading. Reading buddies and activity books from Highlights for Children are often prizes that support a child's reading journey.

Grow Your Library hosts events in rural areas to reconnect communities with their local libraries. These events feature story time and book giveaways. Through the "Library Seeds" initiative, children discover the book they donated, empowering them with the idea that they too can make a difference in their community.

Looking ahead, 2024-2025 will mark the creation of new programming involving community youth leaders from across the country as reading ambassadors. Kids Need to Read will utilize a powerful resource to support community literacy while encouraging students' personal growth. The opportunities for this type of programming are endless, and we are excited to see the innovation that will spring from empowering our youth to make a difference in their communities.

From story times to career talks, book giveaways to community events, our service is about more than the number of books we send out of the warehouse. Kids Need to Read strives to generate a truly deep and lasting impact on the vulnerable children we serve by helping all discover the joy of reading and the power of a literate mind.

# Kids Need to Read Sponsors 2023-2024

Fiscal April 1, 2023-March 31, 2024

Kids Need to Read would like to thank its paid sponsors for their continued support and generosity.

In the past five years, Kids Need to Read has proudly delivered an astounding

**748,791** books

and reading resources, valued at over

**\$5.1 million,**

to

**494,922** children

across the

United States.

Arizona Renaissance Festival  
Talking Stick Resort  
Zen Business



*Kids Need to Read is an amazing program that I have had the privilege of partnering with. [The Staff] provided amazing "ocean" themed books for the kids and did an amazing job at not only reading but singing & dancing too! Not to mention, they donated high quality books for our community library and puzzle books for kids.*

Alex Kenzler, Resident Services Specialist, Catholic Charities Community Services, Tempe, Arizona

# Kids Need to Read Contributors 2023-2024

Fiscal April 1, 2023 -March 31, 2024

## Contributing Organizations

### \$25,000 to \$10,000

Cox Charities  
Kathy and Jerry Woods Foundation  
Pi Beta Phi Foundation  
Elkes Foundation  
Yardi Systems

Rainforest Plumbing  
Run Your Race AZ  
Tucson Comic Con  
Wells Fargo  
Your Cause

### \$6,000 to \$1,000

Barnes And Nobles Phoenix Area Stores  
Benevity  
Berglund Family Foundation  
Beyond Words  
Bright Funds  
Bob's Discount Furniture  
California State CAR Society  
Calvin K Kazanjian Foundation  
Employee Community Fund of Boeing  
Janis Chapman Merrill  
John F Long Foundation  
Nora Roberts Foundation  
Southwest Foundation  
Square Egg Entertainment  
Walmart Spark Grant

### Under \$1,000

Amazon  
American Express Charitable Giving  
American Online Giving  
ARC Thrift Store  
Charity Gift Certificates  
Costco  
Cyber Grants - SRP employees  
Fidelity Charitable  
Fry's Food Stores/ Krogers  
Gilbert Lions Club  
Macon Dreams Come True Foundation  
PayPal Giving Fund

*According to research, children who are read to at least three times a week are almost twice as likely to score in the top 25% in reading compared to children who are read to less frequently.*

*However, not all families have equitable access to books, highlighting the need for organizations like Kids Need to Read. These organizations work tirelessly to ensure that every child has the opportunity to experience the joy and educational benefits of regular reading.*



*“Again, we wanted to express our gratitude for your generous donation. We recently received an email from a family who greatly appreciated your contribution. The mother shared that she was overjoyed to be able to read Dr. Seuss's books with her two boys, who love them. All of the children were very excited to receive the books and we even provided backpacks. Once again, thank you for your kindness and support.”*

Christina Hill, CEO, Elimu Is Power, San Diego, CA

# Kids Need to Read Contributors 2023-2024

Fiscal April 1, 2023 -March 31, 2024

## Contributing Individuals

### Over \$1000

Anonymous Donors Total  
Sandra and Harvey Belfer Foundation  
Michael Butt  
Jess & Shelia Schwartz Family Foundation  
Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Phoenix  
Hirtle Callaghan  
Gary and Tina Mlodzik  
Kerri Moore  
Sacks Tierney

### Under \$1000

Andrew Family Foundation  
Kyle Agoalo  
Honey Apostos  
Barbara Baker  
Dennis & Glenda Boesiger  
Judy Bounds  
Robin Brody  
Melissa Buckley  
Jeremy Conigliari  
Susan Farber  
Nancy Federman  
Cynthia Franklin  
Frank Friet  
Linda Garrey  
Richard Gohl  
Marilyn Gimbel  
Jennifer Hammer  
Lorraine Hawley  
Ruth & Ruthann Heidgerken  
Heather Hinks

Russ Kazmierczak  
Jim Kelly  
Joel Kramer  
Courtney Kreilein  
Sigrid Kuster  
Melanie Levinson  
Tara Lincea  
Charles Martin  
Danella Manguin  
Patty McCallister  
David Mihion  
Susan Munro  
New Life Church  
Joy Nuttmann  
Rebecca Obrock  
Jessica Payne  
Jim and Linda Payne  
Elizabeth Phelan  
Denny Rauch  
Dawn Russo  
Victoria Schneider  
Jim Smith  
Tanya Stay  
Nancy Stillings  
Elton & Janet Thayer  
Marco & Katheryn Turk  
Gayle Weisz  
Virgina White

... it's wonderful to hear how these books are making an impact within several communities. Thank you and the entire team for all you do..."

-Lizette Serrano, Executive Director Educational Marketing, Scholastic



# Kids Need to Read Contributors 2023-2024

Fiscal April 1, 2023-March 31, 2024

## Reading Resources

### \$5,000 and above

Anonymous Donors Total  
Animal Welfare Institute  
Arizona Diamondbacks  
Arizona Renaissance Festival  
The Bookish box  
The Creative Company  
Barnes and Noble Goodyear  
Bellwether Media  
Brophy college prep  
Harvey Klinger INC  
Incognito Publishing Press  
Barbara Meland  
The Mother Company  
National Charity League: Phoenix  
PetSmart Arrowhead  
Primrose Preschool  
Teaching Strategies  
Towne Meadows Elementary School.

### \$4,999 to \$1,000

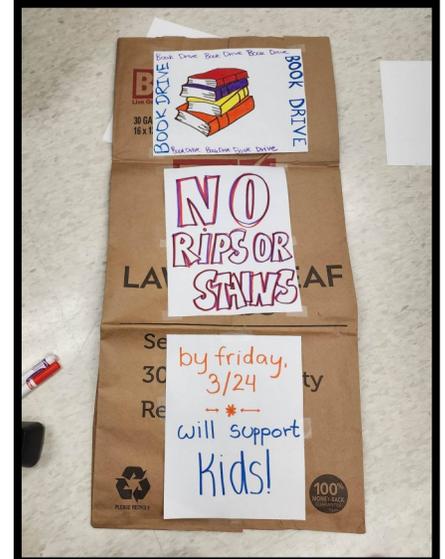
Adams Elementary  
Amazon Brilliance Publishing  
Archway Classical Academy  
Barnes and Noble Arrowhead  
Barnes & Noble Metro Center  
Barnes and Noble Scottsdale  
Barnes & Noble Surprise  
Charlesbridge Publishing  
Leah Erne  
Lee & Low Books  
Coiling Media  
Gilbert Classical Academy  
Insight Editions  
Patricia LaFlesch  
Lickety Split Press  
Jody Mays  
Melinda Mazurkiewitz  
Penguin Random House  
Pi Beta Phi—Beta Chapter  
Simon & Schuster  
Sonoran Sky Elementary  
Teaching Strategies

### Under \$1000

Olivia Abrahi  
AMink Publishing  
Amazon Book Donors  
Barbara Bush Elementary  
Barnes and Noble Chandler

Barnes & Noble Desert Ridge  
Barnes and Noble San Tan  
Barnes and Noble Tempe  
Ava Behat  
The Book Group  
Bookman's Entertainment Exchange  
Brainytops Press  
Madelyn Burt  
Bundled LLC  
Candlewick Press  
Chronicle Books  
Collins  
Cricket Media  
Susan Deporre  
Desert Edge High School  
Desert Wellness Chiropractic  
DK Publishing  
Teresa Dlouhy  
Jennifer Dolce  
EX Publishing  
Fedex Employee Credit Association  
Lindsay French  
GBS Gardners Book Service  
Hatchette Book Group  
Kelcie Hoes  
The Ice Den of Scottsdale  
Jessica Kingsley Publishers  
Tiernnee Jefferis  
Lawley Publishing  
Lerner Publications  
Library Tales Publishing  
Pat Longo  
MacMillian Books  
Mesa Chamber of Commerce  
David Milhon  
Gary & Tina Mlodzik  
Diana Naramore  
Susan O'Donnell  
Galen Pauling  
Jessica Payne  
Pippin Properties  
India Phillips FDN  
Root Literary  
Asima Shaikh  
Xiao Shuwen  
Thomas Jefferson Highschool  
Ella Toenjes

Alma Toric  
Whimsical World Publishing  
Women Franchising Network  
Corie Wyatt  
Paul Warnke



# Kids Need to Read Contributors 2023-2024

Fiscal April 1, 2023-March 31, 2024

## Author Contributors

### \$5,000 and above

The DML Foundation \*  
Anthony C Delauney— Author  
Shannon Messenger—Author  
Robin Reynolds Gold—Author  
One Monkey Books \*

### \$4,999 to \$1,000

Laurelle Adrian  
Cindy Callaghan  
Soman Chainani  
Nicollette Dimaggi  
Renata Kotowska  
Patricial LaFlesch  
Jody Mays  
Shaunna Robinson  
Jerome Tiller

### Under \$1000

Olivia Abrahi  
Jennifer Bertman  
Laura Bullock  
Michael Burgan  
N. D. Byma  
Beth Cato  
Marisha & Joe Cautilli  
Debbie Chamberlain  
Ryan Dalton  
Alan Finneey  
Amy Fellner Dominy  
Karl Fields  
Shana Gorian  
Margaret Peterson Haddix  
Lorraine Hawley  
Leanna Hieber  
Raven Howell  
Brett Hymphrey  
J. E. Laufer  
Lele  
Larry Lindberg  
Barry Lyga  
Mercer Mayer  
Lisa McMann  
Vincent Miceli  
Michael Murphy  
Louisa Onome  
Roxanne Orgill  
Helen Perelman  
Barbara Renner

Jewel Rhodes  
Amy Krouse Rosenthal Founda-  
tion \*  
Kate Simpson  
Francis Stork  
Juliete Tregallo  
Denise Turney  
Wendelin Van Draanen  
David Harten Watson  
J.L. Witterick

In 2023-2024, five  
groups of student  
leaders hosted  
book drives  
totaling over  
\$5,000 in books.



# Event Participation 2023-2024

Bring a Book– Take a Book! Family literacy nights! STEM nights! Fall carnivals! Parent meetings! Community events! Food bank events! Holiday events! What fantastic opportunities to inspire children and families to read. Kids Need to Read served children as a part of 53 community and school events in 16 different cities in 2023-2024.

The “Wheel of Literacy” continues to remain a staple of our community events. Designed to excite children with the prospect of winning at reading, children spin the wheel for an opportunity to win something extra to take on their reading adventures. Prizes include reading buddies, small bags of reading swag, and additional reading related resources and small books.



- ◇ Apache Junction: Apache Junction Public Library: Library Con
- ◇ Black Canyon City: Foothills Food Bank-Multiple Events
- ◇ Cave Creek: Foothills Food Bank: Multiple Events
- ◇ Chandler: Sirrine Elementary School: Family Night
- ◇ Florence: Office of Pinal County Attorney Kent Volkmer: Community Event
- ◇ Gilbert: AZcend : Community Storytime
- ◇ Gold Canyon: Arizona Renaissance Festival: Community event
- ◇ Kingman: Workplace Education and Literacy Coalition of Mohave County: Community Event
- ◇ Litchfield Park: Wigwam Creek Middle School : STEM Night
- ◇ Mesa: Arizona Museum of Natural History: Dino Day
- ◇ Mesa: Artist Assemble: Horror Fest Con: Community Event
- ◇ Mesa: Brinton Elementary: Family Night
- ◇ Mesa: Ida Redbird Elementary: Family Night
- ◇ Mesa: Irving Elementary: STEM night
- ◇ Mesa: Laundro Lab: Community Event
- ◇ Mesa: Mesa Arts Center: Teacher appreciation night
- ◇ Mesa: Mesa Chamber of Commerce : Multiple Events
- ◇ Mesa: Mesa Public Libraries: Multiple Events
- ◇ Mesa: Military Support Foundation: Multiple Events
- ◇ Mesa: Native American Fatherhood and Families Association: Community Event
- ◇ Mesa: Shepherd Junior High School: Literacy Night
- ◇ Mesa: Kids Need to Read: Teacher Book Days
- ◇ Mesa: Porter Elementary: STEM Night
- ◇ Mesa: Artist Assemble: Horror Fest Con: Community Event
- ◇ Mesa: Brinton Elementary: Family Night
- ◇ Mesa: Ida Redbird Elementary: Family Night
- ◇ Mesa: Irving Elementary: STEM night
- ◇ Mesa: Laundro Lab: Community Event
- ◇ Mesa: Mesa Arts Center: Teacher appreciation night
- ◇ Mesa: Mesa Chamber of Commerce : Multiple Events
- ◇ Mesa: Mesa Public Libraries: Multiple Events
- ◇ Mesa: Military Support Foundation: Multiple Events
- ◇ Mesa: Native American Fatherhood and Families Association: Community Event
- ◇ Mesa: Shepherd Junior High School: Literacy Night
- ◇ Mesa: Kids Need to Read: Teacher Book Days
- ◇ Mesa: Porter Elementary: STEM Night
- ◇ Mesa: Artist Assemble: Horror Fest Con: Community Event
- ◇ Peoria: Ira A Murphy Elementary : Family Night
- ◇ Phoenix: Childhood Apraxia of Speech Association: Community Walk
- ◇ Phoenix: Palomino Primary School: Family Night
- ◇ Phoenix: Phoenix Fan Fusion: Community event
- ◇ Phoenix: Joseph Zito School : Family Night
- ◇ Phoenix: Native Health: Community Open House
- ◇ Phoenix: Run Your Race: Multiple Events
- ◇ Phoenix: Whittier Elementary School: Family Reading Night
- ◇ Scottsdale: Hohokam Elementary School : Literacy Carnival
- ◇ Tempe: Tempe Public Library: Library Con
- ◇ Tucson: Tucson Comic Con

*“So grateful for staff from Kids Need to Read! This is the second year of attending our literacy event and they have become a popular station! Smiles on faces as they walk away with new reading material is priceless!”*

Linda Tardie, Reading Specialist, Hohokam Elementary, Scottsdale, Arizona

# Storybook Adventures 2023-2024

Immersing children into the world of stories is the magic of Kids Need to Read's "Storybook Adventures". With fun characters or special speakers Storybook Adventures throws open the door for each child to begin the process of dreaming for their bright future.

Some highlights from Storybook Adventures in 2023-2024 include:

## Book'em:



The Native American Fatherhood and families association teamed up with Kids Need to Read and Arizona LEOS to present Book'em. Mesa Police officers from various departments volunteered each month to read stories to the neighborhood toddlers and Pre-K children. Each child received a book of choice and a High Five magazine.

## A Renaissance Past Time

The Arizona Renaissance Festival participated in a number of Storybook Adventures. Various guests included characters from all walks of Renaissance life. From the glamorous royalty of Lord Charles, to the not so famous Yorick's Brother Jim children loved hearing stories from these larger than life characters



## A Real Live Author!

Kids Need to Read loves the support received by local children's book authors. The wonder of meeting someone who actually writes for a living widens the horizons of all the children who meet our storytelling authors.

# Storybook Adventures 2023-2024

A special thank you to our reading volunteers among whom participants of the Miss America Pageant, Mesa Police officers, Arizona Renaissance Festival actors, and cosplay groups who give their time to bring magic to Storybook Adventures. Thank you as well to authors Ebonie Fields, John Janezic, William Hart, Judy Laufer and Tiffany Ellington who always make time to come to events and read their books.

## Schools and libraries served with onsite or virtual Storybook Adventures events included:

- ◆ Abraham Lincoln Traditional
- ◆ Acacia Elementary School
- ◆ Adams Elementary
- ◆ Alta Vista Elementary
- ◆ Apache Junction Public Library
- ◆ Arizona Children's Association
- ◆ Arroyo Elementary
- ◆ AZcends- Chandler
- ◆ AZcends- Gilbert
- ◆ Blue Ridge Elementary
- ◆ Cactus Wren Elementary
- ◆ Catholic Charity Services: Desert Willow Apt
- ◆ Chaparral Elementary School
- ◆ Coolidge Public Library
- ◆ Desert view Elementary School
- ◆ Hale Elementary
- ◆ Indian Oasis Primary
- ◆ Ironwood Elementary School
- ◆ John Jacobs Elementary School
- ◆ Keller Elementary
- ◆ Lakeview Elementary
- ◆ Livewell Health Services
- ◆ Lookout Mountain Elementary
- ◆ Manzanita Elementary
- ◆ Maryland Elementary
- ◆ Mental Heart Play Lab
- ◆ Mesa K Ready
- ◆ Mesa Public Library-Dobson Ranch Branch
- ◆ Mesa Public Library- Main Branch
- ◆ Mesa Public Library- Red Mountain Branch
- ◆ Mesa Public Schools: Education Fair
- ◆ Moon Mountain Elementary
- ◆ Mountain View School
- ◆ Native American Fatherhood and Families Association
- ◆ Nevitt Elementary School
- ◆ Ocotillo Elementary School
- ◆ Orangewood Elementary
- ◆ Richard E Miller Elementary
- ◆ Roadrunner Elementary
- ◆ Sahuaro Elementary
- ◆ San Gabriel Education Foundation
- ◆ San Tan Valley Public Library
- ◆ Sanborn Elementary School
- ◆ Shaw Butte Elementary School
- ◆ Sunnyslope Elementary School
- ◆ Sunset Elementary
- ◆ Sweetwater Elementary
- ◆ Valley of the Sun YMCA- Ahwatukee
- ◆ Washington Elementary School
- ◆ Whitter Elementary



*“It is always a pleasure to work with you, especially having the Mermaid and Captain Ruby Red Lips read to our families!”*

-Dirk Olmstead, Principal, Whitter Elementary, Phoenix AZ

# Who Needs a Wig Anyway?

By Jessica Payne

One of my Storybook Adventure characters is named Cactus Rose. She is a spirited cowgirl who brings a splash of Western adventure to story time! Decked out in a cactus shirt, a wig reminiscent of a country music star, and a trusty (not quite 10-gallon) pink cowgirl hat, she's a lively presence, throwing herself into the tales with gusto, often leading to some unforgettable moments.



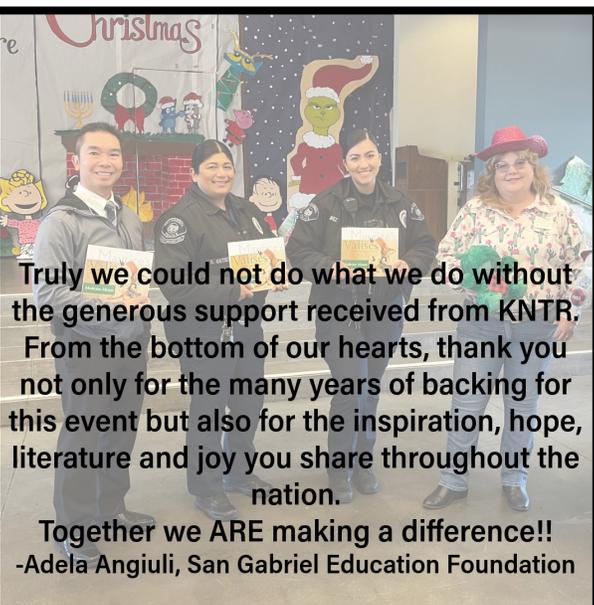
During a recent visit to the San Gabriel schools, as Cactus Rose I was engrossed in reading: "THERE WAS AN OLD LADY WHO SWALLOWED A CACTUS" by Lucille Collandro. As the story reached its peak—a giant sneeze—excitement and drama won. In my fervor my wig went one way while my hat went another.

Now, normally, as Cactus Rose I keep my hair slicked back in a tight bun to ensure that the wig stays in place. However, on this particular day, with a much-needed haircut pending, my wig didn't quite fit as snugly as usual. So, when the hat went flying, so did the wig, much to everyone's surprise.

To the children, it seemed as though Cactus Rose had lost her hair! It wasn't until I scooped up my hat and a teacher returned the wig that I even realized what had happened. Cactus Rose continued on with story time and afterwards distributed books and buddies to each child.



In the end, several children told me with a lot of concern that I had, "lost my hair". A quick peek under my hat reassured each and I got big smiles and a "thank you" as each child received their book and buddy. Their smiles and gratitude filled the room, making it clear that even unexpected mishaps couldn't dampen the joy of story time with Cactus Rose.



Truly we could not do what we do without the generous support received from KNTR. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you not only for the many years of backing for this event but also for the inspiration, hope, literature and joy you share throughout the nation.

Together we ARE making a difference!!

-Adela Angiuli, San Gabriel Education Foundation

# Our Volunteers

Kids Need to Read is resilient and is able to help so much because of our volunteers. Volunteers not only come to events, they also come to the warehouse to work on special projects, create beautiful handmade reading buddies, and even run book drives.

At Kids Need to Read, we accept volunteers of all ages and stages but for the year 2023-2024, we were supported more than ever by youth philanthropists. These enterprising young people gave books and time even when some of them were very far away. Thank you to all who support Kids Need to Read's mission to build literacy in our communities by placing books into the hands of children.



## Adventures in Reading Buddy Creations.

A reading buddy is a small stuffed doll given to children with the idea that they will have a buddy that they can practice reading with. This is a highly successful tool that has led parents to observe a newfound interest in reading on the part of their children. Kids Need to Read has two types of buddies. Ones that have been donated by PetSmart Charities and ones that are donated by individuals. The latter buddies are often hand made.

This year Kids Need to Read was invited to lead a few different workshops in reading buddy creation. These workshops were usually made up of people who are starting to learn how to sew or are just interested in making new things. In response a sock dinosaur doll was created.



The results from these projects are cherished by kids of all ages. Thank you to all who have made buddies to share with our readers.



# Phoenix Fan Fusion

Phoenix Fan Fusion is the biggest event on Kids Need to Read's calendar. This three-day extravaganza is packed with activities designed to support and connect Kids Need to Read with the community. In 2023-2024, Kids Need to Read collected over \$14,000, thanks to the dedication, care, and attention to detail from everyone involved.

We extend our deepest gratitude to Square Egg Entertainment for designating Kids Need to Read as the chosen charity for Phoenix Fan Fusion. Your unwavering support makes it possible for us to host beloved events like Drinks With Authors.

A heartfelt thank you to Randall L. DeVault, owner of Lupin Entertainment, for organizing the successful Charity Poker Tournament, which raised \$5,600 for Kids Need to Read. We are immensely grateful to all participants, dealers, and organizers who made this possible.

Our special thanks go to the cosplay groups Arizona Justice League, Star Wars Clubs, Arizona Ghostbusters, and the Arizona Renaissance Festival for bringing the magic of reading to life during our nine Storybook Adventures sessions. Your contributions created joyful memories for countless children.

We are profoundly grateful to groups like the 501st Dune Sea Garrison, who independently fundraised for Kids Need to Read during the event. The Blast a Trooper booth raised over \$2,000, and we deeply appreciate everyone who allowed themselves to be shot with Nerf darts and all those who put in the effort to create such a unique experience.

Finally, an enormous thank you to all the volunteers who participated in Phoenix Fan Fusion. Your dedication and hard work made this event a remarkable success for Kids Need to Read. We couldn't have done it without you.





## Impossible to Choose Just One

In a year full of adventures, new friends, and new ideas, it is impossible to pick just one story to highlight. Whether it is meeting the literary needs of a rural community, or providing books to support and encourage teachers and their students, or celebrating family literacy with a fun story time and book giveaway, the Page Coach will continue its appealing approach to helping children discover the JOY of reading and the POWER of a literate mind!



### Bring a Book- Take a Book ... Trading for new books

This year Kids Need to Read created a new Page Coach initiative, Bring a Book -Take a Book. Run through public libraries, this program is designed to bring the community together and encourage book trading as a way to freshen up home collections and help empower children in exploring new literary genres as well as stretching reading habits.

### Supporting those that teach literacy!

It has been well documented that teachers on average spend \$500 or more of their own money on classroom resources each year. Kids Need to Read opened our warehouse this year to support teachers at Mesa Public Schools by providing them the opportunity to choose an unlimited number of books for each of their classrooms at the start of the school year. This event was well attended with teachers lining up almost 30 minutes before we opened! 3,678 Books and reading resources were given to teachers for their classrooms!



### Literacy Night Special!

Its not often we have dinosaurs come through our book line but here they are at the Irving Elementary family event. Kids Need to Read was excited to attend 15 different school Family Literacy and STEM nights this year. These events serve to strengthen school communities, deliver important information and materials to families and to bring a bit of fun to the school year.



## Children do Read... when they have books

When people lament that children don't read anymore, do they stop to consider whether those children have access to the books they need? Kids Need to Read understands that access is key. We're on a mission to bridge gaps in literacy access and support. We aid libraries whose funding has been slashed to bare operational standards. We provide relief to teachers who are struggling to provide their students with the best opportunities. Additionally, we empower families who, despite lacking financial means, possess the unyielding will to guide their children towards success.

The Page Coach, Kids Need to Read's mobile outreach unit, providing literary treasure to disadvantaged children, proudly served 111,770 unique children during the 2023-2024 fiscal year (April 1, 2023–March 31, 2024), distributing inspiring books and literacy programming at a diverse array of schools, libraries, and literacy events in low socioeconomic communities throughout the states of Arizona, and California. The number of reading resources provided by the program was 138,775 books and reading resources which are valued at \$1,181,363.32. The average poverty rate of clients served was 83%.



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 58 Page Coach survey respondents, 72% of participants reported observing an increased desire to read after the program. Many respondents provided positive feedback, such as this:

***The students and teachers were so happy with the book sets delivered to our school!! The book sets were just big enough for primary students' hands and there were so many books in each set! The students couldn't wait to unwrap them and read them!! As always, Kids Need to Read helped us to motivate our students to read with beautiful books. Thank you, thank you, thank you for your generous donation!!*** -Karen O'Keefe, ELL Testing Specialist, Mountain View School, Phoenix, AZ

***My summer school students really love receiving books that they get to take home and keep. Sometimes these books are the only access they have to books outside of school. I love seeing their big smiles.*** - Audrey Arvizu, Adams Elementary, Mesa, Arizona



# GROW YOUR LIBRARY

Readers Bloom When You  
Grow Your Library

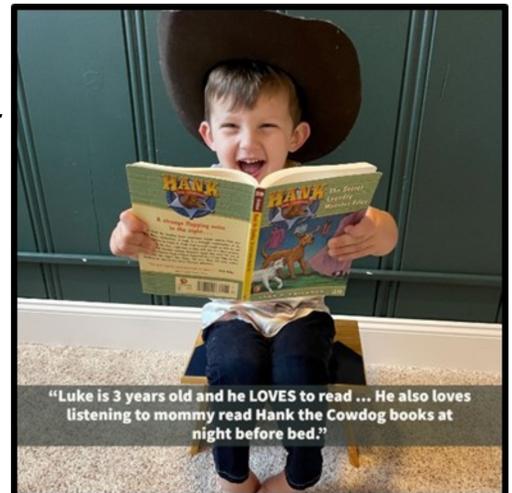
2023-2024 Grow Your Library



Developed and maintained by Advisory Council members Gary and Tina Mlodzik in 2015, Kids Need to Read's Grow Your Library program started by providing a collection of new books to each selected library; but this is only the beginning. After a personal visit to share story time with the children, Gary and Tina then issued a challenge to everyone in attendance, encouraging them to lead by example by turning their own love of reading into even more gifts for their community. For every child who responds within a set period, another book is donated on that child's behalf, with a bookplate inside the cover to commemorate their contribution. The response has been as positive as it is heartwarming;

*"When we have these moments, we're able to put a face from the community in direct contact with Kids Need to Read. We want to put Kids need to Read in a position of visibility within the community, so the community can see exactly what we do and how we make a difference"* Gary Mlodzik

The effects of the Mlodziks' Grow You Library program lingered long after their visit. The program provided participating kids with much more than free books. It gave them an opportunity to make a difference, further reinforcing the ties between a strong reading foundation and a sense of meaningful involvement and belonging. Just as the stories they read to complete the challenge will leave a lasting impression on them, each understands that the book donated through their effort means the donation of a new dream, waiting to be discovered by countless other children just like them. And not just for their generation but for many more to come.



Kids Need to Read's Grow Your Library program celebrated 50 libraries served in 2023-2024! The 50th library chosen was Page Public Library in Page, Arizona. The event featured multiple story times and a book giveaway for all attendees. Each child left with a book of choice, a Highlights magazine, and a PetSmart Charities reading buddy.

# GROW YOUR LIBRARY

## Reconnecting the Library to the Heart of the Community



Kids Need to Read's Grow Your Library program goals consistently include a substantial donation of reading resources for each library served, with the purpose of increasing their catalog with updated and high-quality books. Due to relationships developed and maintained over the years, a key source of these materials is provided by publishers who share their latest releases right off their office shelves. Additionally, individual writers generously donate their most recently published titles. Many authors have donated repeatedly over the years, and new creators are invited to join the family of Kids Need to Read supporters every year. It is because of these generous authors and publishers who enthusiastically support the Grow Your Library Program with book donations, that between 500-700 titles per library are provided to each program participant.

When libraries close where will children go for books? It is this concern that drives board members and program leaders, Gary and Tina Mlodzik to reach out to as many rural libraries as possible and help them reconnect to their communities both in the present and through the next generations. Collectively the Grow Your Library team completed twelve story time events in eleven states over nine months. As part of those twelve events, Grow Your library fulfilled promised story time events for libraries in Bisbee, Arizona and Calexico, California that were planned in 2019 but were postponed due to COVID-19 restrictions.

For the fiscal year of 2022-2023, over 7,000 books were provided to 12 rural libraries to increase their catalog of books for community access. These donations are a godsend to people like Wendy Eubanks, the director for the Blountstown Public Library in Blountstown, Florida who noted in her application that inflation and other economic concerns have significantly decreased her book budget.

Librarians like Suzy Bomgardner the Director at Unicoi County Public Library in Erwin Tennessee give enthusiastic feedback. ***"We were given 600 books to beef up our little library's collection and this helped us in a big way. [Grow Your library is] a wonderful program! Tina and Gary were so kind, and our community was so excited to get free books! We are so thankful for this wonderful program!"*** A visit from the Grow Your Library team not only supports the library but reinforces its connection to the communities that it serves.

The longevity of Kids Need to Read's Grow Your Library program is due to the passion and hard work of the directors and staff that go into every donation made through this program. The program's success also comes from the support of kind and generous authors, publishers, and friends. As a team, Kids Need to Read's Grow Your Library program will be serving children and community libraries across the United States for years to come.



# GROW YOUR LIBRARY

2023-2024 Grow Your Library

## Thank You Authors



Grow Your Library program leads Gary and Tina Mlodzik love the relationships they've built with authors over the past 10 years. Many authors that donate to Kids Need to Read donate every year. These authors help to make sure that rural libraries that are often last on the list for new books, receive some of the newest publications on the market. Colorado authors Tom and Lindy Schneider joined the Grow Your Library team at Page Public Library for the 50th Grow Your Library Donation in Page, Arizona. Their book *Starfish on the Beach* had been read at every Grow Your Library event since program inception in 2015. The Schneider's have participated at GYL library events in Utah and North Carolina as well as their home state of Colorado. Having an author share their own book at a library event is very special for all in attendance.

## Growing Libraries Across the Country



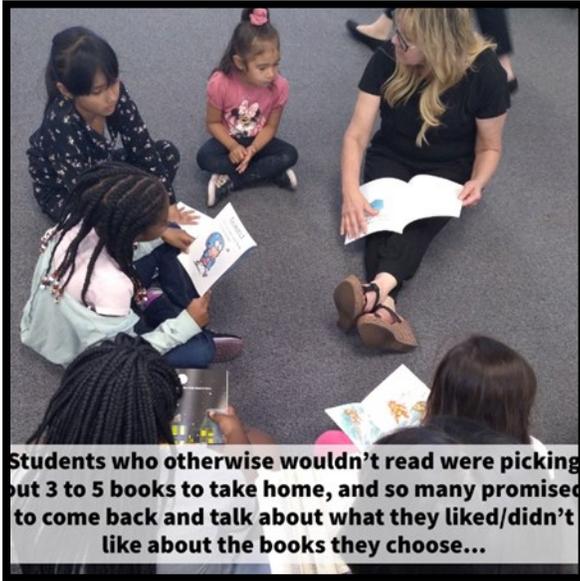
By the end of October 2023, the Grow Your Library program had served 50 libraries in 26 states throughout its program's lifespan. Surveys were sent to agencies that received visits from The Grow Your Library Program. The surveys are structured to gauge an increased desire to read after the program. This included interactive presentations, as well as book giveaway events. Of the all of the Grow Your Library survey respondents, approximately 65% reported over 60% increased desire to read after participating in the program.

Many of the librarians provided positive feedback, such as this: *“It was a wonderful experience to have Kids Need to Read/Grow Your Library come to our library and receive so many high-quality books. The children who participated were very excited to choose books and a reading buddy from your program. This is a great asset to our library and our community. We have experienced an average of 5 children weekly obtaining a public library card for the first time and an increase of children's books checked out has increased by 20%.”* (2023- Sally Parker, Branch Manager Librarian, Stone County Library, Wiggins, Mississippi)



## How a box of books makes a big difference.

By Jessica Payne



A few years ago, Kids Need to Read delivered books to a true book desert. Something I had only read about but had never seen. This little town in Eastern Arizona had nothing that was recognizable to my city eyes. There were no grocery stores, malls, Big Box chains or even, at least in the part that we drove through recognizable parking lots. The nearest place to buy even a newspaper was more than an hour away.

But the community there was desperately hungry for books. So much so that they were taking an abandoned church school and turning it into the town's first library. It is an indelible memory that will power my purpose for years to come. Unfortunately, this situation is not all that uncommon; across America there are communities that have little to no access to books. There are abandoned libraries, crumbling school resources and empty shelves.

Fortunately for every cobwebbed shelf there are those who seek ways to get books. For every disintegrating class library

there are teachers reaching out to support the needs of their kids and there are service organizations coming together to put literacy back into their communities.

That is where Kids Need to Read's "From Our Shelves to Yours" program comes in. Our books fly off our shelves to the places where they are needed. In the past year we have supported teachers, librarians, program directors, and even governmental agencies to get books into the hands of children. Our books travel to the children and the communities that need them the most.

In 2023-2024 Kids Need to Read's "From Our Shelves to Yours" served 8 states: California, Colorado, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Jersey, Tennessee and Ohio. A total of 6,381 children received books worth \$48,951.84. The average poverty rate was 89%.

Kids Need to Read's From Our Shelves to Yours program sent books to low income and free doctors' offices, schools, tutoring programs, community libraries, food banks and even a sheriff's office in 2023-2024. Each of the recipients had one main goal, to make sure that children had access to books.

One box of books can hold an entire classroom library, a tutoring giveaway, Summer reading support, rewards for a doctor visit well done and even comfort in the aftermath of a traumatic event. One box of books can make a huge difference in the lives of children which is why Kids Need to Read will continue to send them everywhere we can; from our shelves to yours





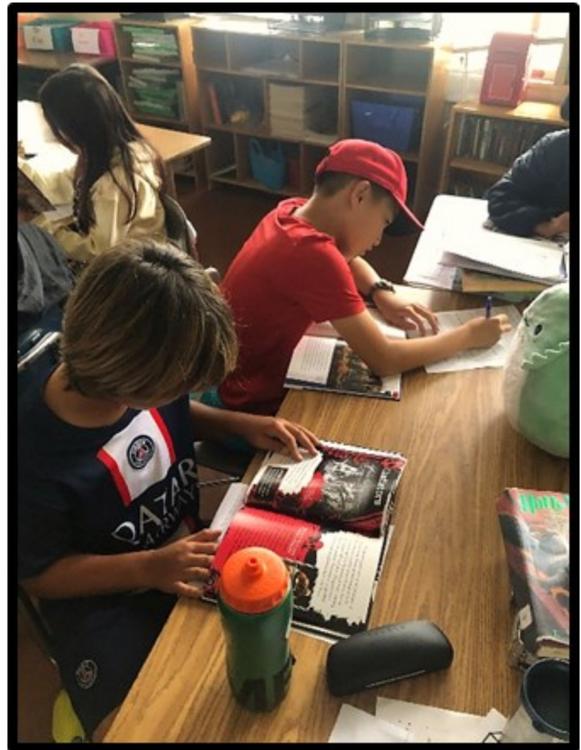
2022-2023 From Our Shelves  
to Yours

## From Our Shelves to Yours Recipients

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

In 2023-2024 Kids Need to Read supported Summer Reading programs through Public Libraries in Mississippi and Florida. We provided for a new program to support positive interactions for children with law enforcement in New Jersey and Tennessee. We brought books to medical offices in California to promote reading habits as part of a healthy lifestyle. In Ohio, books were sent to reward reading at a tutoring center. The opportunities to promote literacy are endless and the Kids Need to Read team is excited to be a part of those opportunities.

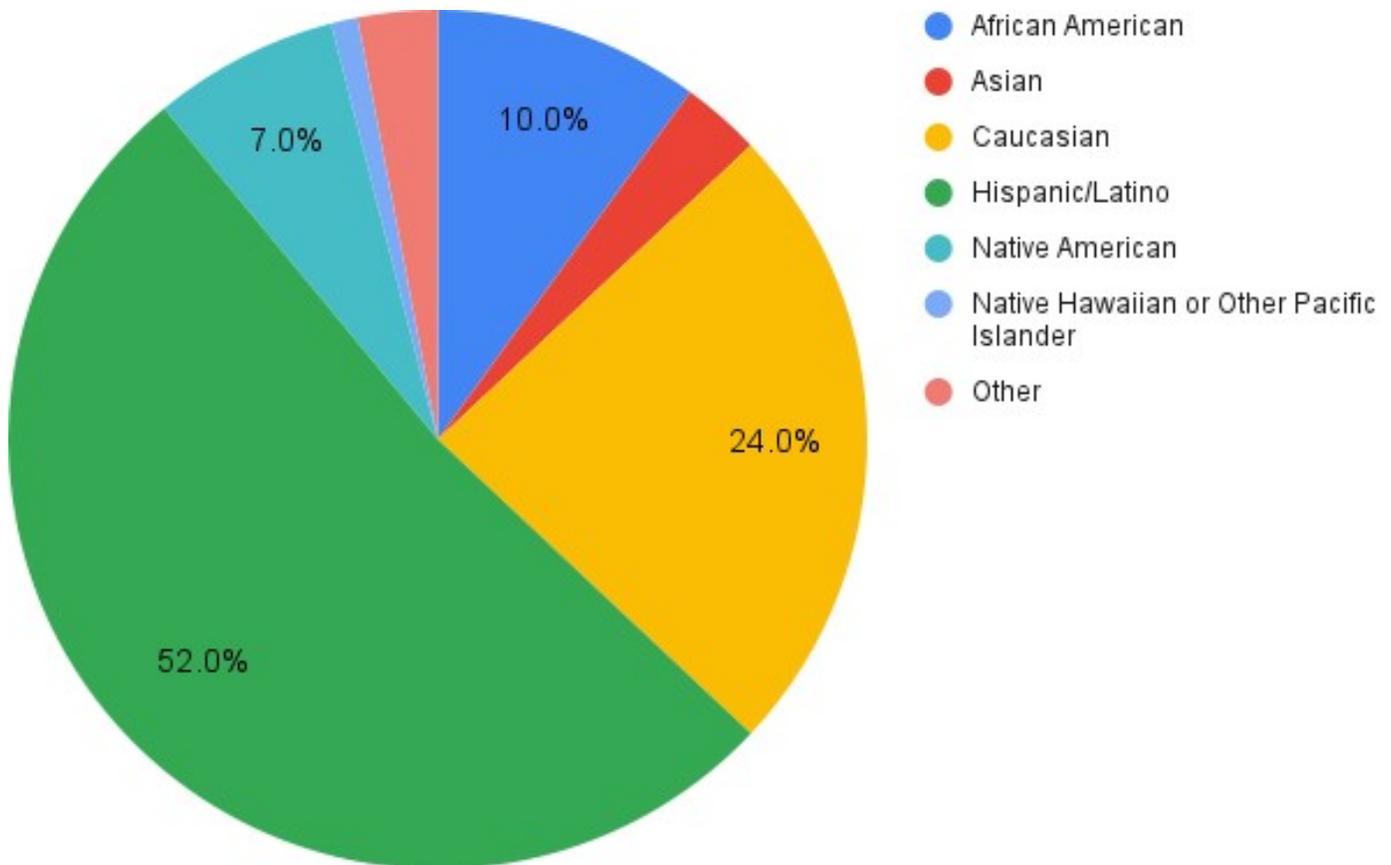
By teaming up with schools, libraries, and other agencies to provide thousands of books to children lacking adequate access to reading resources, Kids Need to Read encourages kids to discover the joy of reading and the power of a literate mind



**Fun Fact:** Kids Need to Read sent out 65 boxes of books to 10 states in 2023-2024. No recipient is ever charged to receive books or reading resources from Kids Need to Read

## Literacy Programs served in 2022-2023

Kids Need to Read provided reading resources to 265 literacy programs in 10 states during 2023-2024. Together, these programs received a total of 144,830 books and other reading resources valued at \$1,225,582.56. Approximately 87% of the 119,946 unique children served lived at or below the poverty level. The chart below represents the average breakdown of racial demographics of children served.



### ALABAMA

McGregor- McKinney Public Library

### ARIZONA

A mighty Change of Heart  
 Abraham Lincoln Traditional School  
 Acacia Elementary School  
 Adams Elementary  
 Alta Vista Elementary School

Altrusa of the West Valley  
 Apache Junction Public Library  
 Arizona Children's Association  
 Arizona Museum of Natural History  
 Arizona Renaissance Festival  
 Arizona State Fair  
 Arroyo Elementary School  
 Artist Assemble: Horror Fest Con  
 Assistance League of Phoenix Arizona INC  
 AZcend

Basis Phoenix South  
 Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central AZ  
 Bisbee Rotary Club  
 Blue Ridge Elementary  
 Boys and Girls Club of the Valley  
 Grant Woods  
 Brinton Elementary School  
 Brunson Lee Elementary  
 Burk Elementary  
 Cactus Wren Elementary

**ARIZONA continued**

Caesar Chavez High School  
 Catholic Charities Community Services  
 Catholic Charities: Flagstaff  
 Catholic Community Service of Southern Arizona  
 Chandler Parks and Rec  
 Chaparral Elementary School  
 Child and Family Resources  
 Coconino Health and Human Services  
 Comicare  
 Coolidge Public Library  
 Coronado High School  
 Crossroads  
 Desert View Elementary School  
 Dig It Kingman Community Garden  
 Dos Rios Elementary  
 Eagle Pathway  
 Echo Mountain Elementary  
 Eisenhower Center for Innovation  
 Estes Elementary School  
 Faith Christian Church  
 Field Elementary  
 Foot Hills Food Bank  
 Franklin West Elementary  
 Gathering Humanity  
 Gilbert Elementary School  
 Hohokam Elementary School  
 Holmes Elementary  
 I Love Mesa Day  
 Ida Redbird Elementary  
 Indian Oasis Primary  
 Ira A Murphy Elementary School  
 Ironwood Elementary School  
 Irving Elementary  
 Jefferson Elementary School  
 Jewish Family and Children Services  
 John Jacobs Elementary School  
 Joseph Zito Elementary School  
 Keller Elementary  
 Kingman High School  
 La Paloma Academy  
 Lakeview Elementary School  
 Laundro Lab  
 Lehi Elementary  
 Lindberg Elementary School  
 Literacy Connects  
 Longfellow Elementary  
 Lookout Mountain Elementary  
 Lutheran Social Services  
 Madison Elementary School

Manzanita Elementary School  
 Mary's Mission and Development Center  
 Maryland Elementary  
 Mendoza Elementary School  
 Mesa Arts Center: Teacher appreciation night  
 Mesa Chamber of Commerce  
 Mesa K Ready  
 Mesa Public Library  
 Mesa Public School district  
 Mesa United Way: 12 Books  
 Military Support Foundation  
 Moon Mountain Elementary  
 Mountain View School  
 Native Health [ Native American community Health Center INC]  
 Native American Connections  
 Nevitt Elementary  
 Ocotillo Elementary School  
 Office of Pinal County Attorney  
 Kent Volkmer- Community Event  
 Orangewood Elementary School  
 Page Public Library  
 Palomino Primary School  
 Pan American Charter School  
 Pascua Yaqui Tribe  
 Phoenix Fan Fusion 2023  
 Pi Beta Phi Arizona Alpha  
 Porter Elementary  
 Prescott Valley Charter School  
 Project Sleep Tight  
 Richard E Miller Elementary School  
 Roadrunner Elementary School  
 Roosevelt Elementary school  
 Run Your Race: community event  
 Saguaro Elementary School  
 San Tan Valley Public Library  
 Sanborn Elementary  
 Scott Libby Elementary  
 Shabbos Project  
 Shaw Butte Elementary School  
 Shepherd Junior High School  
 Show Low Public Library  
 Sistine Elementary School  
 St. Vincent De Paul  
 Streets of Joy  
 Sun Valley Academy  
 Sundance Elementary School  
 Sunnyslope Elementary School  
 Sunset Elementary School  
 Superstition Food Bank  
 Sweetwater Elementary  
 Tempe Public Library

The Literacy Center  
 The Literacy Lab  
 Toys for Tots  
 Tucson Comic Con  
 United Way of Pinal County  
 United Way Tucson  
 Valley of the Sun YMCA  
 Vista College Preparatory  
 Washington Elementary School  
 Whitman Elementary  
 Whittier Elementary School  
 Wigwam Creek Middle School  
 Wood Elementary School  
 Workplace Education and Literacy Coalition of Mohave County  
 Yeshiva High School  
 Yuma High School  
 Yuma School District #1

**CALIFORNIA**

Assistance League of Greater San Diego  
 Braddock Drive Elementary School  
 Calexico School District  
 Camarena Memorial Library  
 Elimu Is Power INC  
 Equity Through Literacy  
 Latitude 37.8 High School  
 Lu Sutton Elementary School  
 Luther Burbank School  
 Mojave River Academy  
 Pacific Boulevard School  
 Pajero Valley Loaves and Fishes  
 Shasta Community Health Center  
 Woodbine Elementary School  
 Yoonessi's Holistic Health for All  
 Assumption of the Blessed Virgin K-8  
 Oliphant Elementary School  
 Amelia Earhart Elementary school  
 Shadow Hills High School  
 San Gabriel Education Foundation

**COLORADO**

Conscious Alliance

**FLORIDA**

Blountstown Public Library  
 Christmas Come True  
 Hankins Johnson Education Foundation

LOUISIANA  
United Way of Central Louisiana

MISSISSIPPI  
Noxubee County Library

New Jersey  
Passaic County Sheriff's Office

OHIO  
Paulding County Opportunity Center

TENNESSEE  
Knoxville Police Department  
Parrot-Wood Memorial Library

VIRGINIA  
Buchanan Public Library



## Selected Testimonials

- \* ***“I’d like to take a moment to thank your organization for your donation of middle school-aged books. I don’t think you understand just how big of an impact you’ve made. We serve a community that is made up of predominantly low-income households. Many of these students have no access to prints. They were beyond thrilled to receive a book and just about all expressed an interest in receiving another book in the future. Please keep us in mind if you are able to spare another shipment of books. We are ever so grateful for what you did for our community’s children, the future!”*** Katherine Bonilla, Lieutenant, Passaic County Sheriff’s Office, Wayne, NJ
- \* ***I am very grateful for this resource. My little classroom has some books available for the students. I had a good experience. [Kids Need to Read] was very helpful and responsive. I thank you all so much!*** Kristy Apeshlakai, Native American Education Program Liaison, Mesa Public Schools, Mesa, Arizona
- \* ***This was AMAZING and I couldn't be happier! The variety and grade appropriate books that were donated are in great condition. The planning and care that went into the whole process was perfect. Thank you Kids Need to Read and the entire team!*** -Jesse Reese, Teacher, Sundance Elementary School, Peoria, Arizona
- \* ***“Children who attended the Noche Mexicana event were so grateful for everything that was made available to them. They don't usually go to the library, get a free book and a stuffed animal.”***- Lizeth Legaspi, Library Manager, Camarena Memorial Library
- \* ***“We are so thankful for the Kids Need to Read organization and the generosity shown to our library. They helped us in our goal of keeping kids reading and having fun with it. Based the above answer on the number of new library cards. We also saw a 33% increase in the number of books checked out in March 2023 over March 2022”***- Stephanie Riley, Director, McGregor-McKinney Public Library
- \* ***“Again, we wanted to express our gratitude for your generous donation. We recently received an email from a family who greatly appreciated your contribution. The mother shared that she was overjoyed to be able to read Dr. Seuss's books with her two boys, who love them. All of the children were very excited to receive the books and we even provided backpacks. Once again, thank you for your kindness and support.”***-Christina Hill, CEO, Elimu Is Power, San Diego, CA

A young child with red glasses is sitting on the floor, surrounded by stacks of colorful children's books. The child is holding a book titled 'Highlights What do you want to learn All About?'. In the background, other children and adults are visible, along with signs for 'Eiffel Tower' and 'Big Ben Clock Tower'.

# KIDS NEED TO READ

Inspiring Imagination

## Kids Need to Read

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Email: [info@kidsneedtoread.org](mailto:info@kidsneedtoread.org)

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## 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.