



## From Our Shelves to Yours Impact Report 2023-2024



***“The day we received the books, we filled our kid's library out in the lobby of our pediatrics department. The children that were waiting for their appointment, came over and immediately started looking through the books. We really appreciate your donation, as you have helped make a lot of kids happy and eager to learn!”***

**- Zach Zeller, Patient Education and Health Promotion Manager, Shasta Community Health Center, Redding, CA**

# How a box of books makes a big difference.



**Students who otherwise wouldn't read were picking out 3 to 5 books to take home, and so many promised to come back and talk about what they liked/didn't like about the books they choose...**

*By Jessica Payne, Executive Director*

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.

However 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 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

Kids Need to Read is working towards providing books at as many levels as possible, classroom libraries, school libraries, public libraries, service organizations and community events. The support of donors and volunteers is vital to our mission to give the opportunity to discover the joy of reading and the power of a literate mind to every child.



*Note that this map represents the whole of Kids Need to Read's impact upon the US through all three programs.*

### Major Funding Contributors

Kathy and Jerry Wood Foundation  
Arizona Alpha Chapter of Pi Beta Phi

Pi Beta Phi Foundation  
Pi Beta Phi Phoenix Alumnae Club

### Major In-kind Contributors

Author Nancy Donovan  
Author Judy E. Laufer  
Author Lauren Tarshis  
Arizona Renaissance Festival  
Barnes & Noble Book Sellers Phoenix area  
Bookman's Entertainment Exchange Mesa

Candlewick Press  
Digital Radar  
Highlights for Children  
Lizard Pools  
One Monkey Books  
PetSmart Charities/PetSmart Phoenix area



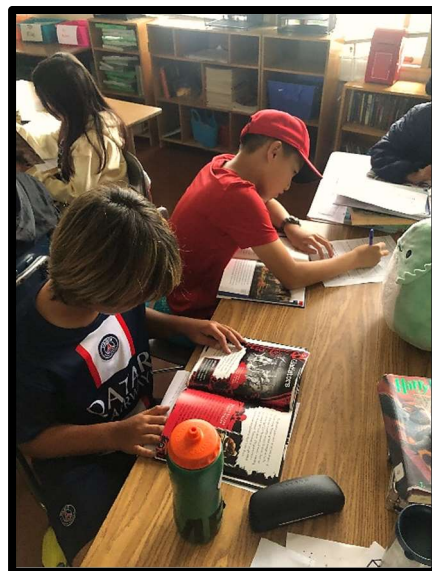
***“Having high-interest texts at their fingertips motivates students to read every time. Thank you for making this possible for students in Fresno! What a gift for students – and their teachers alike!”***

Michaela Morris, Teacher, Bullard High School, Fresno, California

## 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. That support comes from sending books and other reading resources to assist children with access to urgently needed books.

The program distributed reading resources to 6,381 children during the 2023-2024 fiscal year (*April 1, 2023–March 31, 2024*). The number of reading resources provided across the country was 6,431 books valued at \$48,951.84. The average poverty rate of clients served was 89%. According to surveyed recipients participating in the nationwide “From Our Shelves to Yours” program, reading interest increased by an average of 86% among participating children.



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

### **California**

Yoonessi's Holistic Health for All  
Lu Sutton Elementary School  
Mojave River Academy  
Latitude 37.8 High School  
Pacific Boulevard School

### **Colorado**

Conscious Alliance

### **Florida**

Blountstown Public Library  
Hankins Johnson Educational Foundation  
Christmas Come True

### **Louisiana**

United Way of Central Louisiana

### **Mississippi**

Noxubee County High School  
Noxubee County Public Library

### **New Jersey**

Passaic County Sheriff's office

### **Ohio**

Paulding County Opportunity Center

### **Tennessee**

Knoxville Police Department

# Selected Testimonials

Flor Sanchez, Medical Assistant, Yoonessi's Holistic Health for All, Long Beach, CA

*"The happy faces on our pediatric patients where so bright and full of excitement. Unfortunately, many of our patients do not have access to many different types of books but your company has made this a lot easier for our patients."*

Vanessa Zamorano, Translator and Family Engagement Specialist, Mojave River Academy, Colton, CA

*"Students who otherwise wouldn't read were picking out 3 to 5 books to take home, and so many promised to come back and talk about what they liked/didn't like about the books they choose. We're a charter school with a very low-income population, and the excitement of not only choosing books, but getting to keep them if they liked, or bring them back and choose something else was wonderful. Thank you!"*

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

*"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!"*

Nadine King, Executive Director, Christmas Come True, Bunnell, FL

*"Thank you for your amazing donation for the past few years. Most of the children have never had anything new just for them and are so excited to have a book of their own!"*



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

*"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."*