

Organize a Book Drive for Rx for Reading Detroit!



Rx for Reading Detroit is a non-profit literacy initiative sponsored by University of Detroit Mercy. We work to **expand access** to high-quality children's books and **support families** in reading with their children. We distribute over 1,500 children's books a month with the help of our community partners, including low-income health, dental, and WIC clinics, Head Start programs, local schools, churches and community organizations, and homeless shelters.

BUT WE CAN'T DO IT ALONE! We rely exclusively on donations of new and gently used books and financial donations we use to purchase books. We have had Book Drives organized by businesses, preschools, elementary, middle, and high schools, Scout troops, churches, libraries, even a yoga studio! With the help of these generous and civic-minded groups, we have been able to collect the books we need to sustain our work for children's literacy.

The stakes could not be higher. Reading is one of the most important foundations for children's health and educational outcomes. Research shows that having access to books improves reading performance and children's attitudes towards reading. In fact, the number of books in a child's home is one of the most important predictors of her educational attainment.

Access to books is particularly critical for children living in poverty and low-income families. Research has shown that over 60% of low-income families have no children's books in the home. Only 19% of low-income and poor children in Michigan are reading proficiently by the third grade, which is the single highest predictor of high-school graduation and a successful career.

What is Involved in Running a Book Drive for Rx for Reading?

- **A Book Drive can be as big or as little as you want.** We are grateful for all donations of new gently used children's books, from infant board books to chapter books for teens.
- **Rx for Reading can help provide the materials you need.** We have developed materials that can easily be personalized for your organization—posters and flyers announcing the book drive, emails that can be sent to your members or students, and labels for collection bins. We can even provide plastic bins for the Book Drive.
- **What if a child's name is in the book?** No problem—we have bookplates ready to cover up any writing and prepare the book for its new owner.
- **Delivery is easy.** Books can be dropped off at convenient locations in Detroit or Ann Arbor or we can make arrangements to pick up the books.

Learn more about Rx for Reading Detroit at our website:

www.rxreading.org

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DETROIT**