



FAQ: 2019 CHILDREN'S BOOK DRIVE

2019 Children's Book Drive

April and May

- Children who are not proficient in reading by the end of third grade are four times less likely to graduate from high school than proficient readers, profoundly affecting their future earnings.
- Only 40% of RI's third graders meet expectations in reading skills (2017, RIDE). For students from low-income households, only 25% of third graders meet expectations.
- Children in low-income families have fewer reading materials; for many there are zero books in the home. Early access to books is critical to successful reading development.

What is the 2019 Children's Book Drive?

The 8th annual Children's Book Drive is a collaborative effort between United Way of Rhode Island, Women United, and Books Are Wings to engage local businesses, community organizations, individuals and families to help foster a love of reading while encouraging children to build their own libraries at home.

When is the 2019 Children's Book Drive?

This year's book collection will start in April and end in May, just in time for summer learning. Individual collections can run for any period of time between those dates: a few weeks, a full month or the entire time.

What types of books are needed?

All new and gently used books for children from babies to middle school are welcome. Often the book you are donating will be the only book this child owns. We are NOT able to accept adult, reference, textbooks, cookbooks, discarded library books, workbooks, mildewed or damaged books.

What should I collect books in?

Please use copy paper boxes. They are eco-friendly, free and stackable for easy storage.

What do I do with the books after they've been collected?

Books may be dropped off on Fridays, May 3 through May 24, between 8:30 am and 4 pm at United Way of Rhode Island. Please send an email to bookdrive@uwri.org to arrange a drop-off. The last day to drop off books is Friday, May 24.

For companies that cannot drop off book donations, a pick-up event is planned for Wednesday, May 22. Volunteers will pick up books at host locations. To arrange a pick-up, please send an email to bookdrive@uwri.org.

How can I promote my drive?

We have created a customizable communications tool kit including posters, flyers and social media content. Once you have registered to host a drive, contact bookdrive@uwri.org and we'll email the materials to you.

How will you gather a book total?

All books will be counted at the final sorting event, United Way of Rhode Island's Day of Action. If you would like to know the total number of books from your individual collection site, please count them.

What is United Way of Rhode Island's Day of Action?

Day of Action is a worldwide United Way volunteer event, offering volunteer opportunities focused on the work of local United Way organizations. In Rhode Island, the Day of Action will be held on June 1 to sort, label and prepare the books for distribution to children in summer learning programs and afterschool programs in the fall.

Can I volunteer?

Yes! Contact volunteer@uwri.org to volunteer on Saturday, June 1. To volunteer with Books Are Wings during the summer programs, contact Jocelynn White at jwhite@booksarewings.org.

Where are the books going?

Books will be distributed to children across the state in learning programs as well as at Books Are Wings summer partner sites. To learn more about United Way of Rhode Island's education priorities, including the Hasbro Summer Learning Initiative, please visit www.uwri.org.

Children's Book Drive Background

The annual Children's Book Drive is an initiative started by United Way of Rhode Island's Women United and Books Are Wings. Over the past seven years, we have collected and distributed nearly 186,600 books to children throughout Rhode Island. This collection could not have happened without the support of local businesses, organizations, groups, and individuals.

COLLECTION SITES

United Way of Rhode Island, 50 Valley St., Providence
Books Are Wings, Hope Artiste Village, 1005 Main St., Ste. 8116, Pawtucket
Check www.uwri.org for additional collection sites.



Help put the light of reading in every child.