

102 Projects to Support Literacy



Partner with local schools: Talk to principals, teachers, and media specialists to see what they need.

1. Purchase Read Aloud picture books for teachers
2. Contribute books and pillows for a reading corner in a classroom.
3. Create a “Caught Reading” Campaign: Print stickers for teachers to pass out to students.
4. Volunteer to be guest readers in a classroom.
5. Make reading posters for schools with community members reading.
6. Create Bingo Boards for classrooms or schools with different genres of reading. Offer prizes or certificates for completing.
7. Host a Book Club or discussion group for children and parents.
8. Financially support school libraries.
9. Volunteer to listen to students read.
10. Volunteer to read to students.
11. Organize or sponsor a monthly summer reading night at a school playground, pavilion or park.
12. Sponsor an author visit.
13. Provide a class set of novels for a class or grade level.
14. Purchase chapter books for teachers to read aloud to their classes.
15. Sponsor a reading lock-in on an afternoon, evening, or weekend.
16. Share books through book talks. Arrange for club and community members to share a book.
17. Create a “Readbox” (spin off of “Redbox”) display to donate new books to a school library
18. Host or help with a Scholastic Book fair. (Scholastic has a partnership with Kiwanis)
19. Shop at a local school’s “Buy One Get One Free” Scholastic Book Fair, for books to be donated.
20. Set a quarterly reading goal and host an event to celebrate and honor those who meet the goal.
21. Help create read along books by orally reading and taping books for students with visual or learning differences.
22. Host a book exchange for students to trade in or trade up (increased grade level) their used books.
23. Donate books about local history to 3rd grade classes.
24. Sponsor an afterschool book club, with snacks.
25. Donate books about Ohio to 4th grade classes.
26. Secure a list of required summer reading books for a school. Provide the books to students in need.
27. Award a book to every kindergarten graduate.
28. Award a book to every elementary school graduate.
29. Sponsor a Read-a-Thon.
30. Support field trips to libraries.
31. Join in the fun in celebrating Dr. Seuss’s birthday, visiting classrooms in a red and white striped hat, donating a book to each class.
32. Donate audio books.
33. Award grants to teachers for literacy projects.
34. Donate books for lunchtime reading.

35. Contribute books to give to summer school reading students.
36. Wrap and donate books for a mystery book give-a-way. (or "Blind Date with a Book" for older students)
37. Donate reading kits for children to take home and read with their parents.
38. Donate multi-cultural books or books about other countries for a school's "International Festival."
39. Donate biographies for a school's "Wax Museum" event.
40. Donate books to guidance counselors about social and emotional developmental topics (bullying, moving, divorce, friendships, etc.)
41. Donate blank books for children to write, create, and read their own books.

Partner with local public libraries:

42. Help organize a library card campaign.
43. Help provide rewards for summer reading programs.
44. Volunteer to work at book sales.
45. Ask about the library wish list. Purchase books from the list to donate in honor of special guests.
46. Donate a book to the public library in honor of every guest speaker who attends your meetings.
47. Volunteer to read to children in the children's room.
48. Donate to support the Bookmobile.
49. Contribute books to give as prizes for summer reading programs.
50. Provide birthday books for students. Work with other clubs in your division to each provide for a Month.
51. Sponsor a Readers' Theater night.
52. Donate a book and stuffed animal pair to the library so children can read to a buddy.
53. Volunteer to help with Story Hour at the library.
54. Host a "Reading Throwback" event where you read your personal favorite childhood book to children.
55. Proceed a movie debut by donating one or several copies of the corresponding book.

Partner with your community:

56. Host a reading scavenger hunt. (Not only will children need to read clues, but prizes can be books!)
57. Coordinate donations or matching donations with local and big box bookstores.
58. Purchase books and organize a community read along. Host a night to celebrate and discuss the book.
59. Provide books to participants attending other Kiwanis events, festivals, pancake breakfasts, etc. related to those events. (Ex. If You Give a Pig a Pancake)
60. Partner with an animal shelter for a "read to a dog" event.
61. Donate books to a doctor, midwife or hospital to send home with newborns and their siblings.
62. Donate books about firefighters to local firefighters for children whom they help.
63. Encourage young families to read together by ordering books through Third Week Books www.ThirdWeekBooks.com. (These books can be personalized with your Kiwanis club information.)
64. Donate books to the Ronald McDonald House in your area
65. Donate books to hospitals for patients and children in waiting rooms.
66. Donate books to a prisons' family room for children to read with family members.
67. Volunteer to read to children in a hospital.
68. Partner with or support a Raising a Reader Program www.raisingareader.org
69. Make financial donations to local literacy initiatives.
70. Purchase books from a local children's author. Donate to a project.
71. Celebrate an author(s) from your city or state.

72. Create and distribute a brochure about the importance of reading to your child.
73. Partner with your community's "Safety Town" to distribute books to graduates about traffic or fire safety.

Reach out to underserved areas:

74. Build, educate, and help maintain a "Little Free Library." <https://littlefreelibrary.org>
75. Collect and donate books or partner with Scholastic to set up a library at a community center.
76. Donate books to a food pantry for children to read while their parents select food, or to take home.
77. Give each resident of a children's home a book for Christmas.
78. Donate books to schools or libraries destroyed by natural disasters.
79. Donate books to city buses for student to read while traveling.
80. Donate books to a homeless shelter.
81. Donate books to a crisis center.
82. Donate books to a Boys and Girls Club.
83. Donate books to nursing homes for children who are visiting so that they may read to or with a loved one.
84. Donate a birthday book for children in a community center.
85. Participate in an international book shipping project.
86. Donate books to be included in food baskets at the holidays.
87. Donate through Reading is Fundamental (another partner of Kiwanis) www.rif.org
88. Donate books to a camp for quiet time.
89. Partner with Dolly Parton's "Imagination Library" through your local United Way. www.imaginationlibrary.org
90. Donate books written in other languages so that non-English speaking parents can read to their children.
91. Donate books written in Braille.
92. Donate books to Military Families in your area or overseas. (the US Dept. of Defense Military Family Learning Network has a list of titles useful to military families.)

Start with your club:

93. Bring a book on your birthday to donate to a project.
94. Donate the same number of books as years you have been in Kiwanis.
95. Have a brown bag meal at your Kiwanis meeting and donate the money you would have spent on your meal to a literacy project.
96. Donate a book for every year your club has been in existence.
97. When asked to provide a basket for a raffle, make it a children's book basket!
98. Challenge another club with a project.
99. Partner with your SLP's to work on a project.
100. Order through AmazonSmile when purchasing books to benefit the Ohio Kiwanis Foundation.
101. Require (or give the option) to donate a book in place of the admission fee for a Kiwanis event.
102. Invite a guest speaker to speak at a club meeting about literacy.

#kidsneedkiwanis

