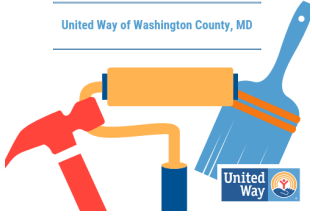


28th Annual  
Day of Caring

United Way of Washington County, MD



# COMMUNITY BOOK DRIVE

Now through September 12

Collecting books for children ages 0 - 11  
Books can be new or gently used

## Drop off books HERE!!!

### Why Donate?

Collected books will be used for a community effort to improve early childhood literacy in Washington County.

Books will be distributed throughout the community where they will have the greatest impact on at-risk children. **Your book will help a child learn to read. Your book could be the first book a child has ever owned!**

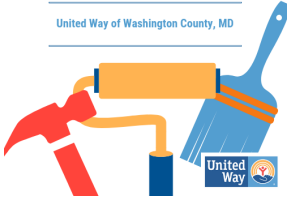
### Need Ideas?

For a list of recommended books, full list of collection sites with addresses and public hours, and for more info go to [www.harcoalition.org](http://www.harcoalition.org)  
or [www.unitedwaywashcounty.org](http://www.unitedwaywashcounty.org)

The Community Book Drive is a partnership of the United Way of Washington County, MD, Hagerstown Rotary Club and Hagerstown Area Religious Council (HARC).

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## Top 10 Reasons to Collect Books for the Community Book Drive

1. Collecting books is FUN and easy!
2. Only 43% of children in Washington County entered school “fully ready to learn” last fall according to the new Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA). We’ve made improvement, but still have a long way to go!
3. Owning books is a critical feature of every child’s intellectual development.
4. Providing books to children is a simple, effective, and inexpensive way to promote language and literacy growth.
5. Research shows that reading aloud to kids is THE single most important act that you can do to help a child prepare for learning and reading.
6. The number of words that a child knows upon entering Kindergarten is a key predictor of his/her future success.
7. A child not reading on grade level by third grade is at high risk of not graduating and creating a productive life in the future.
8. Lack of basic literacy skills is linked with academic failure, substance abuse, teen pregnancy, delinquency, unemployment, low productivity, and welfare dependence.
9. Your books will go into the hands of vulnerable children in Washington County.
10. Books from last year’s book drive were distributed to vulnerable children all over Washington County. Yet with 14,000 books we did not have enough.

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