

Washington County's Largest Volunteer Effort!

## 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).

- 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 you can do to help prepare a child for learning.

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 children all over Washington County by way of more than 35 schools and organizations. Yet even with 14,000 books we did not have enough.



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