

My Very Own Library



Give Kansas City children the most important gift they can receive: The gift of reading. It's the key to helping them succeed throughout their life!

United Way of Greater Kansas City launched My Very Own Library in the 2016-17 school year. A partnership with Scholastic Books, Kansas City Public Schools, Turn the Page KC and Lead to Read, the program provides free books for children in high-poverty areas. We need your help to continue to meet the challenge!

Every dollar that you donate to this cause will leverage an additional \$1.50 through match funding from The Family & Friends of Anne Feeley and Scholastic Books.

How does My Very Own Library work?

Home libraries are built for students in high-poverty areas where the typical book-to-child ratio is one age-appropriate book for every 300 children. With My Very Own Library:

- » Schools are provided three completely free Scholastic Book Fairs per year
- » Students visit the books fairs and are able to select any of the more than 400 titles available
- » The goal is for each student to build his or her own library of at least nine self-selected books during the school year. At the end of the school year, students are given one additional book to kick off the Scholastic Summer Reading Challenge to address the importance of reducing summer learning loss.
- » Parent engagement activities help parents put literacy activities into practice at home
- » Each school receives an author visit so children get excited about writing and reading
- » Scholastic provides schools with a Scholastic Dollars contribution at 50 percent of the value of the books selected. High-poverty schools then use those dollars to purchase much-needed books, technology and educational supplies for their classrooms and media centers.

Why is reading important for kids?

- » One in six students who don't read at grade level by third grade will not graduate from high school. (That's four times higher than the rate of students who are proficient readers). And in 10 high-risk Kansas City, Mo., schools today, only one in five third-graders currently read at grade level. They need your help!
- » Students who have access to books, choice in their reading selections and family engagement around reading are 97 percent more likely to read and to be exposed to more than a million words annually.
- » Other cities with My Very Own Library saw students' grade-level reading improve 7 percent to 17 percent year over year.



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How you can help:

- » United Way's goal is to help more than 2,400 children in kindergarten through sixth grade in seven high-risk Kansas City, Mo., public schools by giving them access to My Very Own Library.
- » My Very Own Library came to Kansas City thanks to a gift from the national Feeley Family and Friends funding, which provided a launch gift of \$75,000.
- » United Way is partnering with Turn the Page KC, Lead to Read, volunteer readers, and the Local Investment Commission to make this opportunity available to Kansas City kids who need this support.
- » When you make your pledge to this year's United Way campaign, designate it for My Very Own Library (if you're pledging electronically). If you're using a paper pledge form, also get a Donor Directed form and fill in the number for My Very Own Library.

Year One results:

A total of 23,460 books were distributed to 2,346 children at seven high poverty elementary schools. This calculates into 4,222,800 minutes of reading!