



2021 CHILDREN'S BOOK DRIVE

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the 2021 Children's Book Drive?

The 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 in fostering a love of reading, while encouraging children to build their own libraries at home.

This will be our ninth year collecting books. Over the past eight years, we've put 216,675 books into the hands of children throughout Rhode Island.

When is the 2021 Children's Book Drive?

This year's Book Drive will take place in May, ending just in time for summer learning. Individual collections can run for any length of time during May: a few days, a few weeks, or the entire month.

Why is the Children's Book Drive important?

- 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.
- In 2019, only 48% of Rhode Island third graders met or exceeded expectations in reading skills (2019 Rhode Island Kids Count Factbook). Among students from low-income households, only 19% met expectations. Among Black and Hispanic students, only 18% met 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 types of books are needed?

All new and gently used books for children – from babies to middle school – are welcome. We are NOT able to accept adult books, reference books, textbooks, workbooks, cookbooks, discarded library books, or mildewed/damaged books.

What's different this year?

To make it easy for companies to participate, this year's Book Drive offers four options to engage employees:

- **Workplace book drive** – Companies with staff working onsite can invite employees to drop off books in a designated bin. Companies can email bookdrive@unitedwayri.org to schedule a pickup in late May or early June.
- **Drive-through book drive** – Companies with remote employees can host a contactless drop-off event in an outdoor location onsite. United Way and/or Books Are Wings will staff the event.
- **Community book drive drop-offs** – Companies can encourage employees to drop off books at one of our public drop-off sites. United Way will provide a list and employees can choose the site most convenient for them.
- **Buy and ship** – Companies can give employees the option to order books through Amazon. Employees can choose one of their favorite books or order from [Books Are Wings' Wish List](#) and have them shipped directly to us.

Given current and anticipated COVID-19 protocols, we will not hold a large volunteer event in June to sort the books.

What should I collect books in?

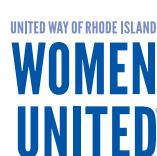
Please use copy paper boxes. They are eco-friendly, free and stackable for easy storage.

Where are the books going?

Books will be distributed to children in learning programs throughout the state and at Books Are Wings' summer partner sites. To learn more about United Way's education priorities, please visit www.unitedwayri.org.

Collection sites:

Books Are Wings (donatebooks@booksarewings.org), Cardi's Furniture, and more. For a list of collection sites and addresses, please email bookdrive@unitedwayri.org.



United Way of Rhode Island

For more information about running a book drive, contact bookdrive@unitedwayri.org.