



The Lisa Libraries

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Donate Online

You can now donate online to the Lisa Libraries.

Please visit our website, and with just a few clicks you can make a secure financial contribution.

www.LisaLibraries.org

WISH LIST

Books

New hardcover and paperback books for ages 6 months to 18 years. Areas of special need are Spanish language and bilingual books, reference books, classics, picture books and board books.

Computer equipment

Please call or email for specifications.

Volunteers

working either in our Kingston, NY, office or remotely. Please contact us for more information.

Financial contributions

Donations are tax deductible as allowed by law.

LisaLibraries@gmail.com
www.LisaLibraries.org



Dear Friends,

Recently a volunteer at the Lisa Libraries sent us a quote from an article in the June 2010 edition of *Research in Social Stratification and Mobility*:

Children growing up in homes with many books get three years more schooling than children from bookless homes, independent of their parents' education, occupation, and class. This is as great an advantage as having university educated rather than unschooled parents . . .

(Evans, Kelley, Sikora & Treiman, 2010)*

When the Lisa Libraries was established in 1990, our mission was to get books into the hands of underprivileged children, and children living in under-served areas. Since donating our first library to an organization on the Lower East Side of New York City we've given away over 400,000 books. We've had plenty of help along the way. Our donor base and volunteer base have grown, often in ways we hadn't expected.

In 2013 we received a donation of 20,000 books from Scholastic Inc.'s ClassroomsCare program. Every year students in over 250,000 classrooms

across the US pledge to read 100 books per classroom. When they do, they trigger a donation of new books by ClassroomsCare to children in need. The Lisa Libraries was lucky enough to be selected for a donation, and to be invited to specify our areas of greatest need: books in Spanish, board books, and reference books.

Some of the ClassroomsCare titles will be donated to Highbridge Voices in the South Bronx. Highbridge was founded in 1998 to address two problems: the lack of music programs for children in public and parochial schools in the area, and the lack of tuition-free after-school programs. Highbridge students are currently participating in the Million Word Challenge, a literacy initiative designed to encourage students to read outside the classroom.

From books donated to re-establish libraries destroyed by storms, to books given to children in the foster-care system, to books sent to prison visiting areas for children of incarcerated parents, the Lisa Libraries, along with its many partners and friends, continues its mission of spreading the joy of reading to our most vulnerable children.

Thank you, and (as always) happy reading!

The Lisa Libraries

*Evans, M., Kelley, J., Sikora, J., & Treiman, D. (2010). Family scholarly culture and educational success: Books and schooling in 27. *Research in Social Stratification and Mobility*, 28(2), 171-197. doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.rssm.2010.01.002>

Pay It Forward

As part of **SUNY Ulster's** 50th anniversary celebration last fall, students, faculty, and staff participated in a book drive to benefit under-served and at-risk children in New York's Ulster County.

Donors brought in gently used children's books from home or bought brand-new books at a Scholastic book fair held on campus. Hundreds of books were then donated to the Lisa Libraries, and in turn we added 1,000 more, all to be distributed to several local organizations.

The Children's Home of Kingston, a residential school for troubled

boys, received 300 books, many of which were given as gifts during the holidays for the students to take home.

The Ulster County Community Action Committee, which helps families struggling to meet basic needs, received books for their community room and for their Head Start program.

And the Ulster County Department of Social Services Prevention Services Program, which works to keep families together, received books to be distributed by social workers to children during home visits.



Elisa Geliebter (right), executive director of the Lisa Libraries, helps Brenton Krause and Gwen McCann of the Children's Home of Kingston choose books for their students.



Scholastic book fair at SUNY Ulster to benefit the Lisa Libraries and three other Ulster County nonprofit organizations.



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Community Spirit

Last August, Bradford Quosig, a health advisor at **United Healthcare** (UHC) of Kingston, New York, reached out to the Lisa Libraries, inquiring about volunteer opportunities.

UHC encourages employees to volunteer in the community, and before we knew it, a book drive had been arranged to benefit the Lisa Libraries.

Donation boxes were set out in the UHC offices, with the aim of collecting 400 books. In a scant two weeks, 800

books had been collected. But the community spirit didn't end there.

On September 24th, 14 UHC employees arrived at the Lisa Libraries to help pack up over two thousand books for a donation in West Philadelphia, and for distribution to children living in foster care in Massachusetts.

Thank you, UHC, for your very generous donation of books, time, heart, and spirit!

Photo at right.

Afton's Legacy



Afton Lisette Newton

Afton Lisette Newton was a remarkable young woman. She lived only 26 years, and in that short span of time immersed herself in many activities and indulged many passions, including spreading her love of learning and literacy to children.

One of Afton's interests was the Baby-sitters Club series, and she was an active online member of The Baby-sitters Club Boards, a fan forum where "BSC fans gather to discuss all things related to our favorite books," said Afton's friend, Mona Levin.

When Afton lost her long battle with autoimmune diseases, Mona spearheaded an effort to honor Afton by organizing an ongoing Lisa Libraries book drive in her memory.

So far, the Lisa Libraries, established by Ann Martin, the author of the BSC series, has received hundreds of books, and more are on the way. Afton's friends and family miss her enthusiastic presence, but are grateful for her generous spirit and her legacy of hope.

All the Way to the Lisa Libraries

It isn't every day that someone with new books to donate to the Lisa Libraries makes a personal delivery, or that the someone is a renowned writer and illustrator of children's books.

But **Sheila Greenwald**, author of the popular Rosy Cole series and many other titles, including *All the Way to Wit's End* and *Stucksville*, recently hand-delivered over 800 of her books to our offices in Kingston, New York.

Extra copies of Sheila's books had been piling up at the home she shares with her husband George. First they filled up the drawers of an old "youth

bed" (a bed her sons assured her was very uncomfortable), then they filled up shelves and finally a bin in the basement. When the youth bed began to fall apart, Sheila knew it was time to do something with the books.

She'd been receiving mailings from the Lisa Libraries for years and didn't consider donating her work anywhere else.

Thank you, Sheila. Young readers without books of their own and without easy access to books will now have the pleasure of being introduced to Rosy and to all of your memorable characters.



The author and her husband George delivering books.



*Pictured at left:
United Healthcare Volunteer Day
at the Lisa Libraries, Sept. 24, 2013.*



Thank You...

*“Thank you, Lisa Libraries!
Reading helps me learn how
to help the world.”*

- Ehab, first grade



A Hearty Round of Applause to . . .

Henry Holt and Company, Books for Young Readers, for a generous financial donation as well as a copy of each book on their Fall 2013 list.

Jeff and Marjory Bauml who helped procure a large donation from City Santa in New York City. The Lisa Libraries received many beautifully wrapped gifts, including hardcover books, dolls, and stuffed dinosaurs to be distributed to children during the holidays. Our offices also received a gift

from the Baumls - a brand-new laptop computer.

Boris Kleyman at Infotek Solutions and Support (www.isstek.com) for keeping our computers healthy and doing their jobs. Boris traveled to Kingston from NYC to set up our inventory system, and has spent countless hours trouble-shooting over the phone, finding solutions to problems that are too mysterious for us to deal with.

Gaela Pearson and the folks at the **Golden Notebook** in Woodstock, New York, for a box of new wooden cars and trucks, and for their ongoing donations of lovely books, some autographed by the authors.

Our friends at **Publishers Weekly**, who just keep giving and giving. In 2013 we received over 5,000 books from them, valued at over \$68,000.

Thank you to some of our largest book donors



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