



The Lisa Libraries

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*We Need
Books*

Wish List

We would appreciate donations of new hardcover and paperback books for children ages 6 months to 18 years.

Areas of special need are Spanish language and bilingual books, classics, picture books, leveled readers, and board books.

**Graduation?
Wedding?
Birthday?**

Please consider a donation to the Lisa Libraries. An acknowledgement card will be mailed to the gift recipient.

Are you following us on Facebook?

www.facebook.com/lisalibraries

Have you visited our website?

www.LisaLibraries.org



Dear Friends,

If you ever need a dose of optimism, appreciation, or just plain old happiness, feel free to drop by the Lisa Libraries. Our space in Kingston is one of my two happy places. (The other is my sewing room.) We spend our days there surrounded by books - unpacking them, sorting them, and filling boxes with them to send to children in need. Imagine a single book turning a child into a lifelong reader.

We receive heartfelt notes of gratitude from recipients of Lisa Libraries donations (see pages 2 and 3), and we are equally grateful for the books that are donated to us by publishers, authors, agents, and fellow book-lovers. We never know what will be in a box - multiple copies of a single title, or single copies of picture books, graphic novels, series titles, books in Spanish, biographies, young

adult titles. . . . Having such a variety at hand enables us to fulfill requests both general and specific. Books in Spanish for preschoolers? Got it. Science titles by Gail Gibbons? We're on it. Young adult titles about immigrant experiences? Yup. Twenty copies of a middle-grade novel for a classroom activity? On the way. And recipients are asked only to pay the cost of shipping. As a grants coordinator wrote to us: "167 books worth almost \$2500 for our children to read and get lost in and to learn and grow from - for just over \$100. You are angels!"

Because I can't say it often enough, I'll say it once more here: Thank you, thank you to our donors for your generosity and thoughtfulness.

Ann Martin and the Lisa Libraries team,

Ann Martin

Meet Deb, one of the Lisa Libraries' behind-the-scenes volunteers:

Debrah Malater has been webmaster for the Lisa Libraries since 2000, when she was invited by her friend Elisa Geliebter (Ellen Luksberg's predecessor) to join the team. She's currently a private tutor, teaching creative and academic writing, and her students have won many prestigious Scholastic Writing Awards. Her background includes visiting artist in a NYC peer counseling program making social issues videos with at-risk teens; TV graphics and video news journalism for broadcast, cable, and internet news (she was one of the first national news internet video journalists at the



turn of the century); adjunct professor at Hofstra University's Radio, TV,

Film department; and Upper School English teacher at Portledge School in Locust Valley, NY. A published writer, exhibited artist, and award-winning educator, she has an MFA in Interactive Computer Arts from the School of Visual Arts. Debrah also reads audio books (yes, she

studied theater, too) and invites you to contact her at Debrah@malater.net (<https://malater.net>).

Thank you, Deb, for your continued commitment to the Lisa Libraries!

Every day, Ellen Luksberg, our director, is contacted by organizations in need of books for children in under-served populations. She never knows what request she might receive, but she and our volunteers do their best to fill all of them. It makes our day when we find out that the arrival of the books led to some very satisfied customers.

In June, Lisa Cole at Turning Pages SC, an adult literacy nonprofit in South Carolina, asked for a donation of kids' books for their adult learners with young children. We were able to provide them with 212 assorted books to be given to the participants in the program. When the books arrived, Lisa wrote: *"Ellen, we are so excited!! I wish I could jump through the screen and give you a hug."*



THE FAMILY PAGES

a new initiative by Turning Pages SC, gives free books to the kids and grandkids of our adult learners.

Made possible by:



Jackson Central Merry is a Title 1 school in Tennessee, where all the students in the system receive free breakfast and lunch. Mary Prewitt, the new library media specialist, wrote, "When I was first shown my library space last week, I was saddened and shocked to see a space mostly full of empty, dusty shelves." The Lisa Libraries sent off 212 hardcover books and then received the following from Ms. Prewitt: *"The books came in and to say I am overjoyed would be an understatement! My eyes filled with tears as I opened the boxes and I imagined the joy on our students' faces when they get to see them on the shelves! You have helped us update our tiny library with these beautiful brand new, popular books, and will make our students feel they have not been overlooked after all. Imagine how many students will become new readers because of your generous donation!"*

Ruby Baskerville from the Union Chapel AME Church in Union, NJ, had received Lisa Libraries books in 2017, and reached out to us again this past summer, wondering if another donation might be possible for their summer book give-away. When she received the new donation she wrote: *"I wanted to extend my heartfelt thanks for the incredible opportunity you've provided. . . . The children were truly amazed and thrilled when they learned they could select any book they wanted at no cost to them. As someone who has always championed the joy of reading, I deeply appreciate how this program allows children to choose books that spark their individual interests. It's been a wonderful experience watching them explore their passions and expand their horizons."*



Springer Elementary, a Title 1 school in north Texas, is lucky to have Jacqueline Montmayor as a third-grade language arts teacher. She purchases supplies for her classes from her personal funds, and was seeking books for a variety of activities, from group read-alouds to the Journaling Station. The day her donation arrived, she wrote: *"Lisa Libraries is a G-d-send! Thank you so much! I opened the boxes and was amazed! The quality and quantity of books that arrived immediately made me think how of how I want G-d to bless you all for doing such wonderful work! I am going to grow a love of reading in [my students'] hearts that will forever change them and I couldn't have done it without you."*



It's always nice to open an email that starts with: *"Wow! It was like Christmas morning opening up 7 boxes of books. I didn't know what to expect - but you surpassed my wildest dreams.* That was what Donna Sanches, a third grade teacher in Dudley, MA, wrote to Ellen after receiving 256 assorted books for her Title 1 school. The books will be used to update their library, which has a tiny budget and serves 343 students, and also to stock the "book vending machine" where children can choose titles to take home and keep.

This heartwarming note came from Irina at Empowering Communities Globally, a non-profit organization in Colorado that works with refugee and immigrant families: *"I would like to let you know that we have received the first shipment of books, and we are so thrilled with them!! The selection of books is incredibly thoughtful, with stories and illustrations that are culturally responsive, diverse and beautiful."*

And finally, when Mimi Cooper reached out for books for the Sebastian Segui Backpack Project, which gives birthday backpacks containing gifts and books to children served by the St. Johns County (FL) Homeless Coalition, received her Lisa Libraries donation, she wrote simply: *"You are perfect."*



A note from Ann Martin

As an avid (okay, obsessed) needleworker and sewist, I was thrilled when Ellen Luksberg showed me a request from the Schoolhouse Quilters Guild (SQG). Rachel Shattuck of the SQG reached out to the Lisa Libraries to tell us about a creative and much-needed organization serving schools in rural Michigan. The majority of the children attending these schools come from families with a median income of \$30,000 and qualify for free or reduced lunch; the English Language Arts proficiency for third-graders is under 40%. Enter the members of the SQG, who make Book



Pillows - fun handmade pillows, each with a pocket containing a book - for the students to choose from at school and take home to keep. As Rachel's letter says, "Our goal is to make reading fun . . . and to encourage reading now

so it will become an enjoyable habit."

The Lisa Libraries sent an assortment of fiction and nonfiction titles in varying shapes and sizes. While selecting a pillow, one very excited child exclaimed, "This is the best day ever!"

Thank you to some of our largest book donors



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