



WHY READING IS IMPORTANT

- 61% of low-income families have no books at all in their homes for their children.
- 37% of children arrive at kindergarten without the skills necessary for lifetime learning and half of children from low-income communities start first grade up to two years behind their peers.
- Reading aloud to young children is not only one of the best activities to stimulate language and cognitive skills; it also builds motivation, curiosity, and memory.
- Having books in the home is twice as important as the parents' level of education.
- Children who aren't reading at grade level by the end of third grade are four times as likely to drop out of high school. Recent studies share that 78% of juvenile crime is committed by high school dropouts.

Providing books to children in low-income homes can help break the link between poverty and poor academic outcomes.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

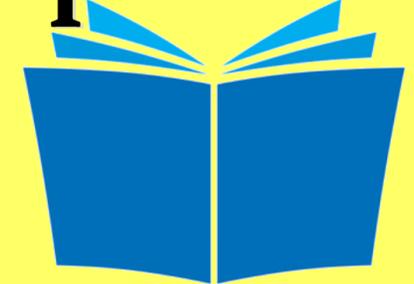
In-kind donations of new and gently-used books, especially for children under the age of five. (However, books for children and adolescents of all ages are welcome!) Books can be dropped off at Newport-Mt. Olivet United Methodist Church (311 Blue Grass Trail, Newport, VA, 24128) or call for pick-up.

Make a tax-deductible donation to our online fundraiser through *First Book*, a nonprofit organization that sells new, deeply discounted children's books to programs and organizations that serve children in need. A \$20 tax-deductible donation to our fundraiser on this site will buy a set of five new hardcover Dr. Seuss books: <https://support.firstbook.org/fundraiser/2262407>.



The Open Book of the NRV
Literacy Library at
Newport-Mt. Olivet United
Methodist Church

Open Book



for the New River Valley

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READING OPENS UP NEW WORLDS

MISSION

Open Book for the New River Valley is a community book-sharing project that collects and distributes new and gently used children's books to needy children and youth in our area. Having books of their own in the home is a crucial factor in childhood literacy and is an important indicator of successful outcomes.

We believe all children deserve an equal chance to love and enjoy books of their own. We are currently on track to exceed our goal of donating 10,000 books this year as well as expanding our work to Wythe, Smyth, and Bland Counties.

WHAT WE DO

Open Book regularly provides books to Giles and Pulaski County children in need through these programs which distribute books during home visits:

- **Head Start**
- **New River Valley Community Services**
Special Deliveries program
- **Children's Health Improvement Partnership (CHIP)**
- **Giles Youth-Adult Partnership (GYAP)**
- **Giles Early Education Project (GEEP)**
- **Community Foundation of the NRV**
First Steps program
- **VA Dept. of Health**
Baby Care visiting nurse program
Resource Mothers mentoring program for teen mothers.

- **Literacy Volunteers of the NRV**
In & Out program
- **Alliance for Better Childcare Strategies**

Open Book has developed a network of community bookcases where children in need are able to access free books including:

- **Community Health Center of the NRV (Pearisburg)**
- **VA Dept. of Health (Giles & Pulaski)**
- **Free Clinic (Pulaski)**
- **New River Valley Community Services (Giles, Pulaski, & Radford)**
- **The Narrows Laundromat**
- **Virginia Cares (Christiansburg)**
- **VA Dept. of Social Services (Narrows)**
- **New River Regional Jail (Dublin)**
- **Montgomery County Jail (Christiansburg)**

This summer, Open Book gave away books at the Giles County Kids' Fishing Day, through the summer free lunch programs in Pearisburg and Narrows, and at the Giles Youth-Adult Partnership's Summer Youthfest.

Additionally, books have been distributed through the Public Library in Narrows, at the Community Center Library in the Meadowview apartment complex in Pulaski, and to classrooms at Critzer and Pulaski Elementary Schools where over 80% of students qualify for free or reduced lunch.

**There is more treasure
in books
than all the pirate's loot
on Treasure Island.**

—Walt Disney