

Everybody Wins DC Service Opportunity: Giving Back by Giving Books

[Everybody Wins DC \(EWDC\)](#) believes that shared reading has the power to change lives. When students are given the chance to connect with someone over a book, they are put on a path to success – both in the classroom and beyond.

EWDC's **Book Project** brings the power of shared reading to students, schools, and communities by giving away thousands of free books each year. The Book Project hosts monthly book distributions at its 12 partner schools, allowing students to select **free books** to take home for their personal libraries. Not only does this foster a joy of reading for the students, but the experience is often shared with parents, siblings and friends – multiplying the book's benefit. Building personal libraries also allows students to explore new literary genres and themes, supports academic growth, and is tied to greater success in higher education.

In addition to student book distributions, the Book Project works with schools and community partners to augment and diversify their available titles to best meet the needs of their readers.

You can help EWDC bring the power of shared reading to more students, schools, and communities by hosting your own Everybody Wins DC Book Drive.

Hosting a book drive is an easy way to make a real impact in your community and support students in need by giving them something they want – new books for their home libraries. EWDC provides all necessary logistical support and supplemental materials. All you need is a group of people who want to give back by giving books.

Have questions about hosting an EWDC Book Drive? We have answers!

- **How many books do I need to collect?** There is no required minimum! We ask people to try and collect at least 50 new books, but are happy to accept any amount.
- **What are the books used for?** The majority of books collected during EWDC Book drives are used for the Book Project. Select titles may also be used to augment the reading libraries for Power Lunch, EWDC's one-on-one mentoring program that connects caring adults with students to read together for one hour a week.
- **Which books should we donate?** EWDC can provide you with a curated wish list of books based on recommendations from students, teachers, and librarians. You can also simply tell people to bring in new copies of their favorite children's books/popular children's books. Either works for us!
- **How do we spread the word?** EWDC can create promotional materials/email templates for distribution to help spread the word about a Book Drive.
- **Can we donate used books?** We only accept new books for the Book Project.
- **How long should the drive be?** Our most successful book drives are often between 2 weeks and one month.
- **Can we help distribute the books?** Absolutely! Many of our EWDC Book Drive hosts follow the books onsite to one of our partner schools and help distribute them directly to students. It's a great way to make the impact of the drive more tangible and build connections between the community and our partner schools.



Contact Sarah Aldridge, EWDC's Volunteer and Partnership Manager at (202) 836-4926 or at saldrige@everybodywinsdc.org and start your EWDC Book Drive today!