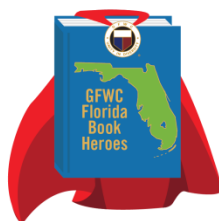


## 2018-2020 GFWC Florida Director's Project: GFWC Florida Book Heroes



**Focus:** Strong literacy skills and a love of reading help prepare children for further education and make them lifelong learners. Children who have access to books at home and who are read to at home consistently test better in all academic areas, and children from low income homes are at a distinct disadvantage that only increases with age. Our focus will be to donate books to children who might not otherwise have them at home. We will be Book Heroes to these children!

**Goal:** Donate 10,000 books to children in Florida each year, for a total of 20,000 books by May 2020. GFWC Florida clubs are already doing many creative projects which donate books. Book Heroes will expand these efforts by giving clubs new project ideas and quantify donations through the use of preprinted labels that can be put in every book that is donated.

### Suggested donation projects:

- New partnership with [Habitat for Humanity of Florida](#) to provide books for client families at new home dedications and who are in the process of earning their homes. Habitat affiliates have been informed of GFWC Florida's interest in a partnership and are looking forward to hearing from clubs. This project has had great success in Pinellas County! Click [here](#) to find your local Habitat affiliate and contact them to assess their needs and get started.
- Book baskets at laundromats, police stations, health centers, food pantries, domestic violence shelters, low income daycares and preschools, and more
- Fulfillment of wish lists for adopted classrooms and children's departments of local libraries
- Celebrate [Read Across America](#) on March 2<sup>nd</sup> and [D.E.A.R. \(Drop Everything and Read\)](#) day on April 12<sup>th</sup> with reading and donation events
- Create and stock [Little Free Libraries](#)
- Clubs wishing to donate funds can give to Book Heroes through the GFWC Florida remittance form. Initially the funds will go to the Scholastic Possible Fund, which in turns supports numerous statewide literacy programs.

### How clubs can get books:

- Partnership with Scholastic for club ordering accounts, [access to warehouse sales](#) and grants from the Scholastic Possible Fund. Clubs can apply to be Scholastic Literary Partners for significantly discounted books by clicking [here](#), calling 800-387-1437 x6333 or emailing [lp-specialist@scholastic.com](mailto:lp-specialist@scholastic.com) to speak with a literary partnership specialist. Submit the club tax exempt certificate too, if applicable. Clubs can apply [here](#) (type in clifford as password) for outright grants of large quantities of books from the Scholastic Possible Fund that will be reviewed starting in August 2018.

- Scholastic Book Fairs at Fall Board September 2018 and 2019: members can shop for themselves and gifts, and buy and leave books to donate, and GFWC Florida will earn free books
- GFWC [Focus on Literacy grants](#) of up to \$200 are available annually
- Clubs can apply for [First Book accounts](#) for access to free and low cost books. Email them your tax exempt certificate once your account is created.

**Implementation:**

- Members of ESO, GFWC's honorary educational society, can play a key role in their club's Book Heroes project efforts. Each club is encouraged to have an ESO chair to promote membership and coordinate a club reading group. Members who love to read are a natural fit to coordinate book donation projects! ESO materials will be available online for any Clubwoman to download and use, and membership and tracking materials can be submitted electronically.
- The Book Heroes labels are available from Junior Fundraising in rolls of 100 for \$10 during state meetings and will be available on the GFWC Florida Marketplace between meetings. Clubs can write their name on the labels or print tiny labels to customize them. By putting a label in each book donated, clubs can easily track the number of books donated and spread the word about GFWC Florida's efforts.
- A template is available on the Director's Project page on the GFWC Florida website for printable cards that can be attached to book baskets or bulk donations, or left on the kitchen counter at Habitat dedications. It can easily be customized: simply open the PDF, fill in your club name and website, a phone number or email on the top left, and it will fill in all 4 cards. SAVE AS a new document and send that to the printer or print yourself.
- A PowerPoint presentation explaining Book Heroes is available to JDDs, DDs and clubs to show at meetings.
- Book Heroes projects will be reported in Education. There will be a specific place on the Woman's Clubs and Juniors Education reports to list Book Heroes projects.

Please contact me if you have any questions, and thank you for your club's support of Book Heroes!

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