



Group Service Projects

We are thrilled that your group would like to volunteer with [Book Harvest](#)! While opportunities to sort books in our office are limited, there are lots of ways your group can join us in our work to close the income-based book gap in the Triangle.

- **Run a book drive!** Our biggest need is always for more books, enabling us to grow our programs and reach more children who need books of their own. Reach out to the communities you are part of—your neighborhood, school, congregation, workplace, youth organization, or civic group—and invite members to bring their new and gently used children’s books to you. It’s simple and fun! You’ll find everything you need to run your book drive in our [online toolkit](#).
How to get started: Send an email to your neighborhood listserv notifying your neighbors to leave books on their porches on a certain date, and then go through the neighborhood picking them up with wagons; challenge members of your congregation to eliminate clutter and give unused books new life by bringing donations to your weekly service; meet parents in the carpool line at school to collect their donations as they drop off their children; or have a contest to see which grade in your school can collect the most books.
- **Build bookshelves!** Each of our [Community Book Bank](#) sites has a bookshelf filled with books for children to take home and keep forever. Bookshelves are inexpensive and easy to construct, and the sky’s the limit when it comes to decorating them!
How to get started: This [basic shelf](#) is the right size and is simple to put together. Or use [this online plan](#) or one like it to build your own. Decorate your shelf with images from your favorite children’s book, or invite everyone in your group to put a handprint on the shelf.
- **Raise money to buy the books we need most!** We keep an [Amazon wishlist](#) updated with the books we need most: board books for our youngest readers, books in Spanish and bilingual books, and books with diverse characters and written by diverse authors. Get creative about ways to raise money as a group, and then go shopping on Amazon and have brand new books shipped directly to us! Or print out the list and take it to a local bookstore to see which titles you can find.
How to get started: Raise money for your shopping spree by hosting a bake sale, a lemonade stand, an ice cream social, or a yard sale; asking families to pool their spare change; or organizing a raffle or other special event to generate financial donations.
- **Staff a table at the Durham Farmers’ Market!** Every Saturday morning from 8 a.m. to noon, we have the opportunity to reach people who are shopping at the [Durham Farmers’ Market](#). If your group is excited about sharing our mission with passersby, we’ll provide everything you need to staff an information table for the morning. Hand out pamphlets and stickers, and spread the word about why Book Harvest’s work is important. Invite people to sign up as volunteers or to join our listserv to stay up to date with our work. Contact Operations Manager [Daniele Berman](#) at daniele@bookharvestnc.org to get started.

- **Make Dear Reader cards!** We love to include encouraging notes from volunteers in our children’s backpacks and books. This is a great project for groups including children in particular.
How to get started: Cut 8.5x11” cardstock (any color works!) into quarters, and then your creativity is the limit! Write notes about reading, draw pictures from your favorite books, include stickers and other craft supplies—use any materials you like to create engaging notes for our children.
- **Make new mom kits!** When we enroll new families in our [Book Babies](#) program, we like to bring “new mom kits” to our enrollment visit along with the books. Suggestions to include in these kits are a baby blanket, 1-2 packages of baby wipes, hand cream and lip balm for mom, and diaper ointment for baby (such as this one). We are particularly eager to carry on the tradition of providing a [no-sew fleece blanket](#) for each baby, a tradition started by our beloved [Viola Grace](#), “the blanket lady,” who passed away in 2016.
How to get started: Shop for materials in advance—you can even order them online. Pick a time for your group to gather. Make blankets in advance or during your gathering; then assemble the kits while you’re together. If you’d like to purchase containers for the kits (not necessary), [cloth bins](#) work well.
- **Serve with us in our office!** Opportunities to sort books in our office are limited and depend on the amount of work that is available. If you are interested in inquiring about whether there is a need for groups to serve in this capacity, contact Operations Manager Daniele Berman at daniele@bookharvestnc.org.
- **Serve with us at Books on Break!** We have opportunities for groups to serve with us in local elementary schools in May and June of each year. For more information about this opportunity please contact Book Harvest Partnerships Manager Rachel Stine at rachel@bookharvestnc.org.

Information about Book Harvest: <http://www.bookharvestnc.org>

Book drive toolkit: <http://bookharvestnc.org/support/run-a-book-drive/>

Community Book Bank program (for building bookshelves): <http://bookharvestnc.org/programs/community-book-bank/>

Basic bookshelf to purchase and decorate: <http://bit.ly/2bZTmZj>

Plan to build a basic bookshelf from scratch: <http://bit.ly/1KAQT3j>

Amazon wishlist: <http://amzn.to/2cppcwD>

Durham Farmers’ Market: <http://www.durhamfarmersmarket.com>

Book Babies program (for making new mom kits): <http://bookharvestnc.org/programs/book-babies>

No-sew fleece baby blankets: <http://www.wikihow.com/Make-a-Fleece-Tie-Blanket>

Blog post about Viola Grace, “the blanket lady”: <http://bookharvestnc.org/blog/love-knots/>

Optional cloth bins for new mom kits: <http://amzn.to/2cXiDU8>

Books on Break program (for opportunities in May and June): <http://bookharvestnc.org/programs/books-on-break>

Thank you for your interest! To learn more about Book Harvest, please visit www.bookharvestnc.org. And don’t forget to share your project with us! Send pictures and information about your project to Operations Manager [Daniele Berman](#) at daniele@bookharvestnc.org.