



book harvest



For immediate release
February 7, 2017

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**BOOK HARVEST SHATTERS RECORDS WITH
48,334 BOOKS COLLECTED FOR SIXTH ANNUAL
DREAM BIG BOOK DRIVE**

Book Harvest, a Durham-based nonprofit which provides books to Triangle children and families who need them, announced today that the 2017 **Dream Big Book Drive** collected 48,334 books that will help local children to grow up in book-rich homes in the year ahead.

Book Harvest held its annual Dream Big celebration on MLK Day at Durham Central Park, at which 300 volunteers and three dozen NC LiteracyCorps members joined forces to receive thousands of book donations and to sort and box the books. Several hundred others came to celebrate kids and literacy, enjoy live music, and participate in a variety of family activities. The festivities included remarks by emcee Tisha Powell of ABC-11 and a performance by the Bouncing Bulldogs.

"This outpouring of books will be transformative for thousands of young readers," said Ann Leininger, Dream Big Chair. "These books will stock bookshelves throughout our community for months, helping more than 4,000 kids build home libraries."

Added Book Harvest's Executive Director Ginger Young, "Every book donor who came out for Dream Big is making a powerful statement: that homes without books are not homes at all – and that we, working together, can help ensure that every child in our community is going to sleep each night with a stack of books at their bedside."

This year's Dream Big book tally surpassed the biggest Dream Big book count to date by more than 10,000 books, and it brings the total number of books raised in six years of Dream Big celebrations to more than 160,000. A total of 65 book drive captains signed up to run Dream Big book drives in their schools, workplaces, congregations, civic organizations, and neighborhoods.

Dream Big is led by a committee of more than a dozen volunteers, who also raised \$62,261 in event sponsorship funds from 72 sponsors. This too broke records, bringing in more than double the amount of sponsorship dollars raised in 2016. Presenting sponsors included Duke University Libraries (for the third year in a row) and Johnson Lexus (which also ran a Dream Big book drive).

"We are blown away by our community's commitment to every child's success," added Young. "This year's results surpassed our wildest expectations – and our work to equip children with books continues all year long." Anyone wishing to donate books or run a book drive will find a **book drive toolkit** of collection bin signs, posters, and template language for emails and listservs on the Book Harvest website, www.bookharvestnc.org. Groups planning to run book drives are encouraged to sign up at bookharvestnc.org/support/run-a-book-drive/.

About Book Harvest: A nonprofit organization, **Book Harvest** provides books to Triangle children and families who need them. Growing up in homes that are rich with books helps children start kindergarten ready to learn, combat summer learning loss once they are in school, and fall in love with reading. Book Harvest believes in the power of books to transform children's lives. Since 2011, children have harvested more than 530,000 books to take home and keep for their very own, forever.

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