



book harvest

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Book Harvest Wraps Up Dream Big Month with 43,172 Books Donated

DURHAM, NC – Local nonprofit organization [Book Harvest](http://www.bookharvestnc.org) ended its seventh annual Dream Big Book Drive yesterday with a final total of 43,172 books donated during the month of January. Earlier in the month, on MLK Day, more than 800 people attended the Dream Big Celebration in Durham Central Park – the biggest turnout in the history of Dream Big – where they volunteered, donated books, enjoyed mascots and live music, and commemorated the legacy of Dr. King.

Each January, Dream Big helps fuel Book Harvest’s year-round dream: that all children will grow up surrounded by books, and that all families will have the resources and support they need to help their children achieve their literacy goals.

This year’s celebration was supported by 66 sponsors contributing more than \$60,000 in support of the work of Book Harvest all year long. Scholastic and Duke University Libraries were Presenting Sponsors for this year’s event. The books collected and funds raised will support Book Harvest’s four core programs, which provide books to children from birth through high school. “With the books we collected at Dream Big this year, we can help over 4,000 children build home libraries,” explains Book Harvest’s Community Partnerships Manager Daniele Berman. “Books can fuel children’s imaginations and propel them to academic success, and we couldn’t accomplish what we do all year long without the tremendous infusion of resources from Dream Big each year.”

But Dream Big is much more than just a month-long book drive. This year’s MLK Day Celebration was the organization’s biggest event in its history, with musical performances by NCCU’s Vocal Jazz Ensemble, Batala Durham, and Tiny House; family activities with the Scrap Exchange and Lakewood Elementary PTA; and food trucks and mascots, including Durham’s own hometown favorite, Wool E. Bull. Explains Book Harvest board member and Dream Big planning committee chair Ann Leininger, “Changing the literacy landscape in our community has never been so much fun! Our Dream Big celebration gave community members so many ways to participate – from running book drives and bringing books to donate to volunteering to sort books or simply dancing to the music and hanging out at Central Park!”

Dream Big is also a great opportunity every year to honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s legacy through volunteering. Hundreds of volunteers from the community, including North Carolina LiteracyCorps, spent the afternoon receiving book donations and boxing them before TWO MEN AND A TRUCK moved them to Book Harvest’s office and warehouse.

About Book Harvest: A nonprofit organization, Book Harvest provides books to children from birth through high school and supports parents as they help their children achieve their literacy goals. 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 780,000 books to take home and keep for their very own, forever. To learn more, visit www.bookharvestnc.org.

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