

Literacy Across the Country

Creating Community Impact with International Paper

International Paper is committed to making a difference in the communities they serve. During the 2018-2019 school year, Reading Is Fundamental and International Paper partnered to bring Books for Ownership to 135 schools in Buffalo, NY; Clayton County, GA; Selma, AL; Columbia, SC; Vickburg, MS; Columbus County, NC; and Pensacola, FL. Thanks to the generous support of International Paper, 38,609 books and literacy resources were distributed to almost 11,000 children - reaching every first grade student across participating school districts. The books that children received included many with environmental themes, inspired by International Paper's commitment to recycling and sustainability.



INTERNATIONAL  PAPER

Just in time for summer break, the Escambia School District in Pensacola, Fla., held themed book celebrations at eleven elementary schools across the district. More than 1,100 first graders received three books of their choice to take home and own. Schools celebrated the children and reading with engaging and inspiring events such as Big Book Breakfast, Teddy Bear Picnic, Pop Into a Good Book, and Super Powered Party. By providing children with choice and access to books and literacy resources, International Paper is creating a culture of literacy one child at a time.

Creating Meaningful Change

RIF is grateful for the generosity of RJ and Heidi Narang and their commitment to inspiring a passion for reading among all children. RJ and Heidi are creating impact where they live and work by sponsoring Books for Ownership celebrations for more than 1,100 children at sites throughout Northern Virginia: Randolph Elementary, Groveton Elementary, Mt. Eagle Elementary, and the ACCA Child Development Center. With celebrations and themes ranging from campfires to beach parties, each event engaged kids and helped to inspire them with the life-changing power of reading. Every child had the opportunity to choose 3 books of their own, along with bookplates to personalize their books, a tote, and a bookmark.



Helping a Community Rebuild with Macy's

If it takes a village to raise a child, it certainly takes one to rebuild a school library in Puerto Rico that was devastated by a hurricane. With the goal of ensuring every child has the resources and literacy skills needed to develop a lifelong love of reading and to thrive in a rapidly-changing world, RIF was honored to partner with Macy's to make over the library at Escuela De La Comunidad Llanos del Sur in Ponce, Puerto Rico.

After Hurricane Maria caused extensive damage in Puerto Rico, the school's recovery needs were significant. RIF provided more than 4,600 new Spanish and dual language books, 28 new computers, and a digital library subscription. In addition to a new library, Macy's provided air conditioning units, wall paint, tables, chairs, and bookshelves. The library rebuild supports 500 students at the school and also impacts the community as a whole. Rebuilding this library was a celebration of literacy that inspires a community still recovering from disaster and is a testament to how RIF and Macy's are dedicated to creating meaningful change in communities everywhere.



Panda Express Celebrates Family Literacy

Panda Express knows that literacy is essential to a child's success. Thanks to the generous support of Panda Cares, the philanthropic arm of Panda Express, RIF provided more than 65,000 books and literacy resources to more than 19,000 children in 271 schools in Atlanta, GA; Las Vegas, NV; Fort Worth, TX; Houston, TX; Honolulu, HI; Stockton, CA; Los Angeles, CA; San Diego, CA; Visalia, CA; Salt Lake City, UT; Oakland, CA; Prescott, AZ; and Chicago Heights, IL over the 2018-19 school year.

To show their commitment to creating a culture of literacy for the children in the community in which their headquarters is based, Panda Express partnered with RIF to bring "Books and a Bite: A Family Literacy Night" to Rosemead, California, this Spring. More than 130 students enjoyed an evening of reading, activities, games, prizes, and food. Focusing on the theme of heroes, Rosemead Chief of Police Lieutenant Chris Kusayanagi read the book *Brave*, and kids created bookmarks, designed superhero masks, posed in a photo booth, and selected books to take home.



IN THIS REPORT

112,000+
books distributed

31,200+
students impacted

412
sites

25
cities