



SPREADING JOY ... ONE BOOK AT A TIME

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PHOTOS PROVIDED BY ADOPT A BOOK

“Every child should have access to books.”

That belief is at the heart of the efforts of twins Hannah and Alexander (Alex) Laman of Loveland (OH) who have been spreading the joy of books to other kids across Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky. They have done so thru Adopt a Book, a non-profit they formed at the age of 8. Yes, age 8!

“It has made me happier to have started Adopt a Book ...” Hannah, co-founder of Adopt a Book and now 12 years of age, shares in an email with AboutGreaterCincinnati.com. “... People need help and it's important to help the community anyway you can.”

Many of the kids that receive books from Adopt a Book have never been to a library, don't have access to a library, or have ever owned a book of their own. Since 2011, Adopt a Book, a family run operation fueled on the twins' and their parents' avid love of books and reading as well as volunteer and community support, has been dedicated to providing at-risk kids with free books that the kids get to keep. The venture has evolved to also help schools build their libraries.

“We recycle and repurpose children's books and find new homes for them with kids that need them.” shares Angela Laman, the twins' mom and Adopt a Book's Executive



At age 8, Hannah and Alex Laman co-founded Adopt a Book, a nonprofit that collects and distributes donated books to kids in need. Since 2011, the twins, now 12, have distributed 62,012 books across Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky.

(Photo | Adopt a Book)

Director. “We believe all children should have access to books. We have been doing this since 11/11 out of our home.”

What started out with the twins being inspired to organize a book drive for kids who didn't have access to books, resulted in 195 books collected and given to kids at ProKids and Lighthouse Youth Services.

Once the word got out about their good deed, book donations have taken off. Most recently, a book drive held by the United Way of Greater Cincinnati Emerging Leaders Group, resulted in 5,580 books (Adopt a Book's largest book collection to

date) donated to the cause!

The requests for books have taken off too. The effort has since grown to date to a gift of over 62,012 new and gently used books collected and distributed to 56 organizations, programs, events, and schools serving children in need.

“These books are absolutely beautiful!” said Nancy in a post on the Adopt a Book website. The books received from Adopt a Book were used to restock her school's library whose funding had been cut. “Nearly all of them look brand new.”

Age appropriate books – preschool thru high school – have been donated

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and distributed to kids for personal home use as well as rebuild and restock school libraries.

Recipients of Adopt a Book distributions include Bond Hill Elementary School, Boys and Girls Club of Greater Cincinnati, Fall Feast on Thanksgiving Day, Florence Elementary (Northern KY), Juvenile Court Adopt A Family Program, Literacy Network of Greater Cincinnati, Loveland Initiative, and YWCA Transitional Living Women's Shelter.

The Adopt a Book cause, primarily spread by word of mouth and social media, has resonated within the community. With drop-off sites at 26 Mattress Firm locations across Cincinnati, Dayton, and Northern Kentucky as well as Cincinnati Museum Center in addition to book collection drives, the generosity of those in the community donating books – individuals, youth groups, community organizations, businesses – have enabled Adopt a Book to foster literacy and a love of reading.

“It is great that we are helping people get books.” shared Alex, who co-founded Adopt a Book with his twin sister.

For their remarkable work to promote literacy and plant seeds of inspiration and motivation, Hannah and Alex have been recognized on numerous occasions including this past year as Amazing Kids! of the Month (August 2014) by Amazing Kids Magazine, a Dayton Dragons

Adopt a Book has distributed new and gently used books to 56 organizations, programs, events, and schools.

(Photo | Adopt a Book)



2014 Community All-Stars, and recipient of the Youth Leadership Award 2014 from the United Way of Greater Cincinnati.

Among recognitions in 2015, Adopt a Book was the recipient of the Giveunity Award for most profile views during the second annual Fast Pitch presented by Social Venture Partners (SVP) Cincinnati. Adopt a Book has also been chosen as the 2015 philanthropic project of Multiples of America (The National Organization of Mothers of Twins Clubs, Inc. (NOMOTC)) for their 2015 Convention to be held in Cincinnati this Summer.

“We are so honored!” posts Adopt a Book on Facebook.

What's next on the Adopt a Book inspirational journey?

To further the organization's mission, Hannah and Alex have set a goal to collect 1 million books by age 16. Because the book venture continues to exceed their expectations, they would also like to secure office space for Adopt a Book operations including space for volunteers and storage for books collected as well as acquire an Adopt a Book vehicle for book pickups, drop-offs, and other related business. There is even hope to expand efforts beyond the tri-state area.

Volunteers can support Adopt a Book and the cause by organizing and coordinating book drives, volunteering time to assist with sorting books, counting books, helping at book drives, and other functions including grant writing to secure funding for Adopt a Book's efforts.

In addition, donors can help by providing new and gently used books at the noted drop-off sites or make financial contributions at <http://adoptabookohio.org/> or via the Giveunity mobile app (www.giveunity.org).

“I can't give enough thanks to the thoughtful children who created this truly amazing program.” said Nancy in her post on the Adopt a Book website. “May God bless all who have donated to this cause.”

Visit <http://adoptabookohio.org/> to learn more.

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