



## SUGGESTED BOOK DONATIONS & TIPS

Book Donors should consider the following:

- Spanish Bibles are in great demand. Men and women want faith-based literature. It is a touchstone of hope to people who are in dire circumstances, but still resilient and strong.
- Spanish/English or Portuguese/English dictionaries/grammar books and language learning workbooks which help readers of all ages to learn English are desirable. The dictionaries should not be too big or bulky as the readers have limited space in their backpacks.

We are seeing need for more books in Portuguese, French and Indigenous languages. Ask us for suggestions.

- All books with a spiritual, life-affirming, and uplifting content are valued, including books by contemporary popular figures like The Pope, Pelé, Jorge Ramos, Paulo Coelho, human rights activists, visionaries, musicians/artists/dancers, etc. The Little Prince has been popular.
- Bilingual Spanish/English and Portuguese/English books for adults, young adults and children are good as they offer those learning English a chance to work on their skills. Readers can learn and compare texts. These books are very popular.
- Books by Latin American authors for adults, young adults, and children. To see a book by someone who is from your own country is empowering. A good title is *El Lustrador*, by René Corado, a former shoeshine boy from Guatemala, who is now the Director of the Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology in California, the Museum with the largest collection of eggs and nests of birds in the world.
- Books by Contemporary Chicano/a and Latino/a authors—I introduce our American Canon like Sandra Cisneros, Rudolfo Anaya. Cristina García, etc
- Classics in Spanish: all genres for all ages.
- Books about childcare, baby massage, family concerns, nutrition, self-help, and well-being. Cookbooks have been popular.
- Board books for children. I have given books to mothers and families for babies. The youngest child I have met was three weeks old. Children are being born in detention centers across the U.S.
- We would like to have more Flash card sets in English and Spanish as these are very helpful to the children and families learning English.
- YA (Young Adult) books in Spanish, classic and contemporary.

- Popular books include Isabel Allende, Gabriel García Márquez, etc.
- It's empowering for readers to be introduced to American writers like Maya Angelou and Toni Morrison, etc. A young man loved his copy of Walt Whitman in Spanish.
- Classics are always popular, whether they are Latin American classics, or world classics. H.G. Wells in Spanish? Yes! Our readers have loved Animal Farm, Oedipus Rex, To Kill a Mockingbird.
- Poetry books of all types, as well as non-fiction books in all genres. Bilingual poetry books are popular.
- Contemporary fiction is appreciated, especially by young people. Harry Potter, Peppa the Pig, etc. Young people have asked me for Steven King and I occasionally receive books in this genre.
- Don't think that the reading level is low. I recall on young mother hugging several Isabel Allende novels. She took them all.
- Attractive blank journals of all types for all ages. Stories to tell, always! Pencils, colored pencils, and pens are always needed as well. We sometimes give out "bolsitas"—little bags with a notebook, a pen or Crayola's. They are loved by the children.
- The books should, in general, be just good books. We do not distribute books that reflect a darkness, i.e. The Femicides in Juárez or the diary of a serial killer. We will not distribute books about gangs, drugs, Narco-traficantes, violence in Latin America, or any books that might affect or traumatize our readers further who have come from difficult circumstances already and need books that heal.
- I don't want to specify to booksellers or donors which books they may select to donate.
  - Get creative and see what you like and have. Our bookstore had a large back stock of Cristina García and Sandra Cisneros and have donated many books from contemporary Latino authors including Junot Díaz, Luis Urrea, etc.
- We can send you a list of suggested books if you wish, but we prefer that you choose.
- Books should be new preferably or gently used. We want to donate the best we can to readers who have nothing, arrive with nothing to the centers, and leave with a backpack of clothing, toiletries and yes, books!
- Used books are fine if they are clean and tight. I have taken many used books from Latin America and they are appreciated.

All books are loved and appreciated. Thank you so much!