



Marion County OREGON

For immediate release: November 23, 2009

Contact: Marion County Children and Families Commission (503) 588-7975

“Twelve Thousand Books in Twelve Days” is the Theme of Holiday Book Drive

The Marion County Children and Families Commission, with the support of local community organizations such as the Salem-Keizer School District, Roth’s Markets, the Statesman Journal, Starbucks, Salem Leadership Foundation, The Oregon Community Foundation and more is launching a holiday community book drive. The goal: to generate donations of new or gently used books to distribute to children, youth and families in need in Marion County.

“Students all across Marion County are facing unprecedented challenges that create barriers to success,” explained Sam Brentano, Marion County Commissioner. “By donating books and supporting reading we will help them to succeed in school and in life,” he said. “Literacy is the key to interrupting intergenerational cycles of poverty. Getting our communities involved is part of the answer,” added Alison Kelley, Marion County Children and Families Department Director.

The community is asked to donate new or gently used picture books, storybooks for infants/toddlers; primary easy-reader books (grades k-3), books for children/youth grades 4-12. Books in English, Spanish (and both languages), and Russian are highly requested. Books of good quality are greatly appreciated (intact spines, no marks on pages, all pages intact, clean).

The holiday book drive runs from December 1 through December 12. Collection sites will be located throughout Marion County. Barrels will be at such sites as the Statesman Journal lobby, all six Roth’s supermarkets, the two Starbucks locations downtown (Court Street and Liberty Street), Border’s Express in the Salem Center, Chemeketa Community College, United Way, Willamette Educational Service District, Marion-Polk Food Share, Ike Box, and more. In addition, on Friday, December 11 a staffed collection tent will be set up in front of Courthouse Square, 555 Court Street from 9:00 am to 5:30 pm for people to drive thru and donate books.

“Our goal is to collect twelve thousand books in twelve days,” Kelley said. “What better gift to give to a youngster this holiday season than a book to promote literacy,” she added. For more information on the holiday book drive and the locations of the collection

barrels, you may visit Reading for All's website at: www.Reading4All.com or call (503) 588-7975.

#

#

#