

'Books For Children' annual drive promotes literacy

Books For Children believes that every child deserves a chance to turn the crisp, clean pages of a new book of his or her very own that can be kept, treasured and read again and again.

The group's ninth annual drive to collect new books for kids runs Nov. 1 through Dec. 8. The goal is to promote literacy and a love of reading through book ownership and to get books into the hands of all children.

Every year, Books For Children gets requests for 3,000 to 4,000 books. Among the many organizations that distribute books to the kids they serve are The Nest, Nathaniel Mission, Family Resource Centers, Head Start, High Street Neighborhood Center, Early Learning Village, and Step by Step. Volunteers will collect, sort and deliver the books.

To date, more than 30,000 books have been given to kids in Fayette and surrounding counties.

Drop-off locations include all branches of the Lexington Public Library, Jessamine County Public Library, Southern Hills United Methodist Church and UK's College of Education. When books are purchased at Joseph-Beth Booksellers and left for pick-up, the contributors receive a 20 percent discount.

Books For Children also accepts monetary donations. Make checks payable to: BOOKS FOR CHILDREN and mail them c/o SHUMC; 2356 Harrodsburg Road; Lexington, KY 40503. All donations are tax-deductible.