

# GOT BOOKS? GIVE BOOKS!

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**BACKGROUND:** Family Reading Partnership is a non-profit community organization that promotes early literacy. They are a broad-based, locally grown coalition of individuals, businesses, schools, libraries and other organizations. Their main objective is to “create a culture of literacy” by promoting family reading practices throughout the community. The organization is aware that literacy – the ability to read, write and communicate clearly – will define a child’s future success in school and in life. Hence, they are devoted in sharing that literacy development is a process that begins in the first years of life at home. Family Reading Partnership continues to strive to incorporate family reading awareness, encouragement and books into networks and services that already touch the lives of families.

## **PROJECT OBJECTIVE:**

Our team’s objective was to assist Family Reading Partnership (FRP) with increasing the number of books they receive through their Bright Red Bookshelf Program. On a yearly basis FRP average receiving 10,000 book donations. We wanted to connect the FRP with new community partners to increase the number of donated books and expand the collection sites. In doing so we had to ensure this was sustainable and it would not put undue pressure on the limited staff at FRP.

## **COMMUNITY PARTNERS:**

Family Reading Partnership, Tompkins Trust Company, DeWitt Middle School’s library, The State Theatre

## **PROJECT OUTCOMES:** Example: See below.

1. The group’s passion of literacy and youth led them to meet with Brigid Hubberman, Executive Director of Family Reading Partnership (FRP). A multitude of ideas were discussed at the first meeting. The effervescent personality of the Executive Director immediately drew the group’s attention to listen to the organization’s immediate desire of increasing the number of books donated through their Bright Red Bookshelf Program and expand the collection sites. A decision was made before the conclusion of our first meeting to support this organization as our CAP.
2. Tompkins Trust Company will host an annual book drive and house collection sites in seven of its branches. The drive has been branded “Banking on Books”. The first book drive was held April 26<sup>th</sup> to May 7<sup>th</sup> resulting in over 700 donated books. Future annual book drives will be held for two weeks each April.
3. DeWitt Middle School houses a Bright Red Bookshelf and has allowed the FRP to expand its book offerings to young adult readers. DeWitt will have an annual book drive every May. Visiting 5<sup>th</sup> graders are encouraged to bring books to contribute and current 6<sup>th</sup> grade homerooms will compete to collect the most books.
4. The State Theatre has offered to house collection sites at each of their children’s literature-based performances.