Summer of 2022: A Book Report

SEPTEMBER 2022
Introduction

The summer of 2022 was filled with the joy of books! In this Summer Book Report, you will find a summary of our book access work from May through August 2022, during which kids harvested 132,699 books!

In May, our team was busy ensuring students at 32 elementary schools went home with books for the summer; in July we held our Summer Block Party at the Durham Bulls Athletic Park; over the course of several weeks we expanded our laundromat initiative by adding a new location; our team worked hard to install Book Boxes around the city; and we opened our brand new Family Space to the public!

The work we did this summer wouldn't have been possible without the support of our partners and donors -- this Book Report also serves as a public message of gratitude to the individuals, organizations, and businesses who helped us reach our goal.

We hope you enjoy this Book Report!

With joy,

Tabitha Blackwell
Executive Director, Book Harvest Durham
# Books on Break

Returning to in-person book selection after two years of pandemic modifications, Books on Break ran in May and June 2022, reaching every elementary student in 30 Durham Public Schools, along with two schools in Columbus and Bladen Counties.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Students</th>
<th>Books</th>
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<td>14,360</td>
<td>70,315</td>
<td>32</td>
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**Books on Break survey results among school staff:**

- **100%** believe the books provided were culturally relevant for their student populations
- **100%** believe the books provided were high quality and high interest for their students
- **100%** would recommend Books on Break to other teachers and schools
- **100%** agree that Books on Break supports their school’s literacy goals for their students
- **82%** report that students expressed excitement about reading the books selected
- **82%** report that students are better equipped to maintain their reading skills over the summer as a result of participating in Books on Break

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**The students were excited about the books, and really enjoyed the chapter books. There are quite few that aren’t proficient in reading and these books will engage them in moving forward in their learning during the summer break.**

- Teacher

**I am blown away by the books you all provided! Such beautiful, joyful, and important stories!**

- Media Coordinator

**Books are amazing and a part of my life. That’s why I’m so grateful for these books. I love them. And even if I finish reading all the books I will reread over and over again.**

- DPS Student

**Thank you for being so kind and letting SO many kids get books for free and making time for us.**

- DPS Student

**Most of our students do not have access to a variety of books at home. This was a great opportunity to have books that they can keep and enjoy.**

- Teacher

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Partnerships make it HAPPEN!

We provided books to summer programs in partnership with Durham Parks and Recreation, Durham Children’s Initiative, YMCA of the Triangle, Durham County Library, and DPS Hub Farm!

In June, we began a partnership with West End Community Foundation in Lyon Park, and they now host a bookshelf in their lobby for children and families to access free books to take and keep.

In July, we installed a Book Box at Leathers Meachem Head Start. This is our first Book Box installation in partnership with Families and Communities Rising Inc., and we look forward to seeing this partnership grow. In the short period of having a Book Box, children and families at Leathers Meachem have harvested 1,217 books!

In August, we brought on our seventh laundromat partner location at Regency Laundromat on Ninth Street.

Parents working at Duke University selected bags of age-appropriate books for the children in their lives. Four departments at Duke received books: Dining Services, Facilities Management, The Little School at Duke, and Duke Children’s Campus. In total, Book Harvest provided 450 bags (2,181 books)!
What our partners say:

100% would recommend Book Harvest programs to other organizations.

100% agree the books provided were of high-interest for the children in their programs.

100% agree the books provided were high quality.

75% agree that the books provided were culturally relevant for the children in their programs.

88% reported that children expressed excitement about reading the books selected.

75% reported that children were better equipped to maintain their reading skills over the summer.

88% reported that children were more motivated to read books over the summer.

At North Regional Library, our team created a summer-themed magazine and reading log... Every child who picked up a reading log was also able to select three books to keep courtesy of Book Harvest. We’re so grateful to have had Book Harvest’s support to encourage summer reading!

Out of all my partnerships over the years within our community the one I have shared with Book Harvest is the one that pulls at my heart.

Just love the partnership we (DCoL) has with Book Harvest. Match made in heaven!

The students were excited about getting new books and adding to their home libraries.

Our campers were so excited to have such great books/titles to choose from. The books kept them reading multiple titles all summer.
Summer Block Party

Book Harvest’s annual Summer Block Party filled the concourse of the Durham Bulls Athletic Park on Saturday, July 16, 2022. The free, outdoor, community-wide event was a joyful celebration of books and National Summer Learning Week. The afternoon was action-packed, featuring fun-filled family activities and entertainment, and an abundance of free, culturally inclusive children’s books for every child – from infants to high schoolers – who chose their very own books to take home and keep forever!

2,500+ Attendees filled the concourse of the Durham Bulls Athletic Park!

3,601 Children's Books were chosen by kids to take home and keep forever!

26 Community Partners offered entertainment, resources, and fun!

75 Volunteers donated their time, talent, and energy!

It was a typical hot, humid summer day so I appreciate all the hard work from the BH team, staff of DPS & volunteers who made the event a success! And we read three of the six new books we got today at tonight at bedtime.- Local Parent

Thanks for an amazing block party today! We’ve been home for half an hour and my children have been absolutely silent looking at the books they got. We are so thankful for Book Harvest!! - Durham Mom

My son had a great time, choosing a few new books, and taking in all of the activities. There was lots of helpful information for parents from a diverse group of community organizations. Thanks so much for hosting this great event! - Durham Parent
Introducing: The Family Space

The Family Space opened to the public on July 19th and is a brand-new colorful area full of free books, wall toys, a magnet wall, reading nooks, puppets, and more – all designed to make it easy for children and families to play, learn, and read together.

Since we opened, over **450 children** and caregivers have visited the space and selected over **1,000 books!**

The Family Space is open Tuesday-Saturday from 9 AM - 5 PM at no cost to families.
Better Together

We are grateful for the generosity of those who helped ensure that children throughout our community had easy access to books to keep their learning alive over the summer months.


The Family Space was made possible thanks to a generous grant made by the PNC Foundation. PNC Grow Up Great® has been helping children from birth through age five develop a passion for learning that lasts a lifetime.

Thank you to those who supported our Block Party, including Durham's Campaign for Grade Level Reading, TROSA Moving, Wegmans, and DPR Construction. As well as Batalá Durham, Books 'N Bops, Bouncing Bulldogs, Bull City Woodshop, Child Care Referral Central at CCSA, City of Durham Fire Department, DPR Construction, DPS Foundation, Durham Children's Initiative, Durham County Library, South Regional Branch, Durham Parks and Recreation, Durham Public Schools, Durham's Partnership for Children, Gift of Knowledge Academy, Meals4Families, Museum of Life and Science, PBS NC, Pierce Freelon, Poetry Fox, Total Koality, Triple P: Durham Public Health, Village of Wisdom, Welcome Baby, and WUNC - Saddle Up and Read.