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Book drive seeks 100,000 books for kids

Last Modified: Jun 18, 2011 02:10AM

United Way of Lake County and Bernie's Book Bank are sponsoring the county's largest book drive this summer called Page it Forward.

The goal is to collect 100,000 books for low-income children in Lake County through a summer-long book drive with a contemporary twist.

The Page it Forward book drive will kick-off Tuesday in conjunction with United Way Worldwide's National Day of Action. The launch includes the first book collection event, which will be held at Trustmark, 400 Field Drive, in Conway Park, Lake Forest, 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

There will be five other sites throughout the summer that will be utilized for book collection.

"We are very excited to kick off the largest book drive in Lake County," said Kristi Long, president and CEO of the United Way of Lake County. "United Way of Lake County and Bernie's Book Bank are confident that we can meet our goal of collecting 100,000 books with the help of residents and businesses."

Brian Floriani, founder and executive director of Bernie's Book Bank, stressed the importance of partnering with United Way of Lake County.

"This summer-long celebration of reading will help to unite children needing books with books needing children," he said. "Children grow out of books as quickly as they grow out of shoes, so the supply of quality used children's books is nearly limitless. The Page it Forward book drive is a great reason to dust off the bookshelves and get those books into the hands of children who desperately need them."

Harris Bank is also supporting Page it Forward through social media advertising efforts. Harris Bank will donate one book to the drive for every "Like" that the Page it Forward Facebook page receives.

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