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## United Way asks Lake County residents to 'Page it Forward' by donating used children's books



By Megan Craig TribLocal reporter Thursday at 12:30 p.m.

Less than 40 percent of 6-year-olds in Waukegan have had any contact with books before starting a United Way of Lake County kindergarten readiness survey.

And according to the U.S. Department of Education, 61 percent of low-income homes have no children.

That's why United Way of Lake County and Bernie's Book Bank are banding together to create the "Page it Forward," the campaign will strive to collect 100,000 books during the summer for low-income children, according to Jennifer Yonan, vice president of marketing and donor relations for UWLC.

UWLC programs focus on literacy, especially in early readers, Yonan said.

"We're really critically looking at making sure kids have access to books," she said.

Third-grade reading scores have been used to predict everything from high school graduation rates to college enrollment, Yonan said.

“We really want to impact the reading levels of kids around Lake County, and we thought this be over the summer where we could collect books ... and distribute them back to low-income families a good way to engage the entire community.”

Kids could gather wagons full of books from neighbors, buy books at rummage sales or clean off

Each low-income child will get a bag of six age-appropriate books, distributed by Bernie's Book

“This summer-long celebration of reading will help to unite children needing books with books : founder and director of Bernie's Book Bank. “Children grow out of books as quickly as they grow used children's books is nearly limitless.”

“It's a great way to get kids more interested in reading,” Yonan said.

Books will be collected at six sites during events held throughout the summer:

- Tuesday, June 21, 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. – at Trustmark, 400 Field Drive in Lake Forest
- Tuesday, July 12, noon to 9 p.m. – at Independence Grove, 16400 W. Buckley Road in Lil (Tuesday night concert series)
- Wednesday, July 20, 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. – at United Conveyor, 2100 Norman Drive V
- Sunday, Aug. 14, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. – at Gurnee Days, 4398 Old Grand Ave. in Gurnee
- Wednesday, Aug. 24, 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. – at EH Wachs, 600 Knightsbridge Parkway
- Sunday, Sept. 11, 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. – at the Farmers Market, 951 McHenry Road in Bu

And adding a contemporary twist to the traditional book drive, United Way is asking community Facebook page. For every “like,” Harris Bank will donate a dollar for new books to donate.

Visit [www.uwlakeco.org/pageitforward](http://www.uwlakeco.org/pageitforward) or [www.facebook.com/pageitforward](http://www.facebook.com/pageitforward) for more information page. Follow UWLC on Twitter, @Unitedwaylakeco, and use hashtag #pageitforward when twe