



Book Fairies, Inc  
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**Mission Statement:** Book Fairies source and redistributes books to under-resourced communities on Long Island and NYC to provide equitable opportunities for children to learn, grow, and thrive.

**Vision Statement:** All children have equitable access to books so they can LEARN, GROW, and THRIVE.

### **Background**

Founded in 2012 – Celebrating 10 years in May of 2022

3.5 million books distributed since inception

Average 550,000 books per year distributed

Distributes to title I schools and nonprofit organizations

Over 1,200 volunteers yearly

Provides over 180 volunteer opportunities a week to individuals with developmental disabilities

Books are collected through drives organized with schools, businesses, and organizations.

Through upcycling, resources that already exist are shifted from those who no longer need them to those who need them most.

Book Fairies has four program areas: Children's Programs, Community Programs, Global Literacy, and Special Needs Partnerships.

Book Fairies is committed to creating partnerships that enable us all to serve more powerfully, working together to break the cycle of poverty that stems from illiteracy. Because every child deserves equitable access to books so they can Learn, Grow, and Thrive.

### **Why Books Fairies Exists:**

**Book Desert:** a geographic area (country, state, county, city, neighborhood, home) where printed books and other reading material are relatively hard to obtain, particularly without access to an automobile or other form of transportation.

Lack of access to and the cost of books are key contributors to illiteracy, which feeds the cycle of poverty.

Many studies have shown that having access to books, and especially books in the home, helps ensure that kids have the tools they need to succeed – not just in school, but in life

It's a well-established fact that the inequities in schools—lower tax base to support schools in impoverished areas, shortages of qualified teachers, lack of books and materials—hurt children in high-poverty communities. The data from the National Household and Education Survey (NHES) also demonstrates that children from households with limited resources enter school at a disadvantage.

94% of teachers use their own money to provide books & resources for their students

**Literacy stats for use:**

**1 in 4** New Yorkers are functionally illiterate

In middle-income neighborhoods the ration of books per child is **13-1**, in low-income neighborhoods, the ratio is **1-age-appropriate book for every 300 children**

\$232 billion a year in health care costs is lost to low adult literacy skills

75% of prison inmates are functionally illiterate

**80% of pre-schools** and after school programs serving children in need **have no age-appropriate books** for the children they serve

64% of all 4th graders in NYS read below grade level; data shows 2/3 of those students will likely end up in jail or on welfare

1/2 of children from low-income communities start first grade up to 2 years behind their peers.

Children growing up in homes with at least twenty (20) books get three years more schooling than children from bookless homes, independent of their parents' education, occupation, and class.

There is almost a 90% probability that a child will remain a poor reader at the end of the fourth grade if the child is a poor reader at the end of first grade.

According to the National Commission on Adult Literacy: The US could save \$1.4 Billion per year in reduced costs from crime if the High School completion rate increased by just 1% for all men aged 20-60.

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**LEARN. GROW. THRIVE !**

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