

Laundromat Library League

What is it?



The Laundromat Library League is a collection of diverse organizations and individuals that are **making children's books available** to homes in which there may be few or none. We do this by placing small "**Library Boxes**" of children's books **in Laundromats** with signs affixed that invite children and adults to choose a book, borrow it for awhile to read there or take home, and pass it on or return it for someone else to enjoy. The 50-60 books in each decorated box are an assortment that includes board books for toddlers, picture books, early reader and chapter books, and books for youth.

How does it work?

Owners of participating laundromats that allow placement of "Library Boxes" know that at least **twice a month the contents will be refreshed**, and that only children's books will be placed in the box. They know that it is OK if books aren't returned – the LLL simply wants the books to be used.



Participant organizations have at least one liaison that receives electronic updates on the LLL's progress and needs and shares them with others in the organization that have interest. At least one member of the organization assists in LLL needs, usually by delivering fresh books to a specific Laundromat on a regular basis. Some organizations might have a periodic book drive or otherwise contribute books, but that is not a prerequisite to be a participant organization. Many individuals without organizational affiliation also participate.

Where do the books come from?



Most books come from **used book sale leftovers and from libraries or schools** that have duplicates and discards. Others come from specific "drives," especially for board books (for toddlers) and books in Spanish that are less likely to come from other sources. Donated funds and modest grant writing are used to purchase additional books in Spanish. The inventory is maintained at West Chester Friends School, which also is the drop-off/pick-up site for Library Boxes and replacement books. Initially Library Boxes are decorated cardboard "banker's boxes"; wooden boxes replace the initial boxes when available.

Where are the Laundromats?

The LLL began in 2014 in the **West Chester Pennsylvania** area, and has expanded to include sites in **Philadelphia, Coatesville, Oxford, Lancaster** – any locality to which we have a willing Laundromat owner and a participant that can deliver. By summer of 2017 we had started branches in **seven other states**.

How can I get involved?

Email LaundromatLibrary@gmail.com or leave a message at 610-696-2282.

