



The Lisa Libraries

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You can now donate online to the Lisa Libraries.

Please visit our website, and with just a few clicks you can make a secure financial contribution.

www.LisaLibraries.org

WISH LIST

Books

New hardcover and paperback books for ages 6 months to 18 years. Areas of special need are Spanish language and bilingual books, reference books, classics, picture books and board books.

Computer equipment

Please call or email for specifications.

Volunteers

working either in our Kingston, NY, office or remotely. Please contact us for more information.

Financial contributions

Donations are tax deductible as allowed by law.

LisaLibraries@gmail.com
www.LisaLibraries.org



Dear Friends,

In 1990, The Lisa Libraries was established to honor Lisa Novak, a children's book editor and an avid reader.

Saddened by her unexpected death, her friends sought to honor her memory with joy and hope by bringing new books to under-served children around the country.

When Lisa's mother, Ruth Novak, passed away earlier this year, donations in her name poured into The Lisa Libraries. Lisa's sister Bethany wrote that her mother "would be very pleased that friends chose to remember her by contributing to The Lisa Libraries" and noted that "Lisa inherited my mom's 'reading genes.' The books they read covered a broad range of topics and it was not often that you would see either one of them without a book in hand.

"They enjoyed sharing what they read with each other and couldn't wait to recommend the latest good book.

...My mom collected and read books quicker than my dad could build her shelves. They were married for 58 years and were a true team. Wednesday and Friday were their library days."

Ruth Novak was also an avid knitter and, in Bethany's words, "had a natural love for all animals." Moreover, "like Lisa, she loved meeting people and hearing their stories. She had a sincere way of making everyone she met feel valued and special."

Thank you, Bethany, for sharing these memories of your mother, and for all the support you and your family have lent The Lisa Libraries over the years.

The Lisa Libraries

The Gift of Reading

The holiday season is almost here again. This is the busiest time of the year for the Lisa Libraries. We get requests from all over the country for books to be given as gifts to children in need – children living in homeless shelters, children in the foster care system, children with a parent in jail or whose family receives help from the local food bank.

Would you please make the holidays brighter for a needy child by making a donation to the Lisa Libraries? All contributions are fully deductible.

Please join the community of caring people who make sure that every child's imagination is sparked by the joy of a brand new book. Thank you!

A Story of Determination

The 5,000 people living on the Ramah Navajo Indian Reservation in western New Mexico have a history of independence and incredible determination.

In the 1970s when the public high school their children attended in a nearby town was closed, tribal members decided to start their own school. Receiving no help from the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the public schools, they turned to Congress, and after many meetings received seed money for a school.

The school, serving students in grades 7-12, was operated out of tents during the summer school

session while a permanent structure was built. The resiliency and determination didn't stop there, though. Tribal members decided that their children also deserved their own health clinic. At the time, they were being serviced by a small clinic on the reservation and another in a tiny building in Ramah, 20 miles away.

In 1978, the Pine Hill Health Center was established. Tribally run, it was the first community-controlled health care system in the U.S. to function under the Indian Self-Determination Act of 1976. What began as a small clinic has grown into a 15,000-square-foot facility with over 40 employees, including three medical providers, a 24-hour ambulance service, a pharmacy, a dental clinic, and many other services.

Vicki Winter, a pharmacist at PHHC, writes that "the Health Center has made a commitment to provide books in order to ensure that every child that walks through its doors has at least one book in their possession." The Lisa Libraries' donation of 1,000 books over the summer "will allow



Kenlie with her new book

the PHHC to continue to promote child literacy and a love of learning early on in the community children's lives," something very important in this community in which over 60% of the adults are unemployed, and of the 36% who are employed, 90% fall below the poverty line (Bureau of the Indian Affairs Labor Report).

The Lisa Libraries plans to make an annual donation of PHHC so that children like Kenlie – pictured above wearing traditional Navajo attire – can fall in love with reading.





PICTURED LEFT TO RIGHT:

**Judy Matthews and
Christine Hein selecting books
for People's Place**

Feed the Body, Feed the Mind

It's estimated that over 50 million Americans live in households considered "food insecure" – lacking resources capable of providing adequate nutritious food on a daily basis to every family member.

16 million of those affected are children under the age of 18. Many facing this problem turn to food pantries for supplies, and now the Lisa Libraries is starting to partner with food pantries in a push to "feed the body, feed the mind."

One of our first partnerships was with the People's Place food pantry in our hometown of Kingston, New York. Thousands are fed each month through the pantry, and many of them are children. This summer the Lisa Libraries donated 500 books to People's Place to establish a program in which new books are given to each parent or guardian who passes through the food pantry.

After participants select food for their families they're offered a choice of age-appropriate books for the children in their households.

In June, Christine Hein, Executive Director of People's Place, and Judy Matthews, a retired teacher who now volunteers there, came to the Lisa Libraries to select the books. By the end of August, Christine reported that "The program was a gigantic success and we only have eight books left."

The Lisa Libraries will continue to replenish the food pantry's book stock so that our community's most vulnerable children can have adventures with Clifford the Big Red Dog, Paddington Bear, Frog and Toad, Madeline, and all the characters who should be a part of every childhood.

Thank You...

for
supporting
**The
Lisa
Libraries**





Meet Joyce

Joyce Nicol, originally from Western New York, has lived in Massachusetts and, for much of her life, in Ulster County, NY. Joyce has been volunteering at The Lisa Libraries for two and a half years, and for the last year has been working at our offices two afternoons a week.

She's a steady presence and brings along her sense of humor as she works on all aspects of our operation: unpacking and sorting books, entering data into our inventory system, and corresponding with book donors and applicants for library donations. Everyone loves Joyce, but her biggest fan is Reggie the Ratshi, our mascot. Joyce never fails to arrive at 77 Cornell Street without home-baked biscuits for Reggie, who can barely contain her excitement when Joyce comes to the door – and sulks mightily when she leaves.

Elisa Geliebter, Executive Director of The Lisa Libraries, interviewed Joyce to find out why she's such a dedicated volunteer.

ELISA: How did you find The Lisa Libraries?

JOYCE: I went to the UlsterCorps web site. I loved the idea of what you do – that you're a clearinghouse for new books, and that you get books into the hands of children who need them. I used to teach art in the public schools, I like children, and I like reading, so all of that came together. I like not only the work I do here, but the people. They're a nice bunch!

ELISA: Aside from The Lisa Libraries, do you volunteer anywhere else?

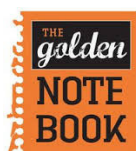
JOYCE: I've been volunteering at Ulster Literacy since 1997, as a tutor for people learning English.

ELISA: We appreciate your work very much – truly, we couldn't accomplish our mission without your help and the help of all our terrific and talented volunteers.

JOYCE: That's something else I like. You're a very lean organization. The books you donate have been donated to you, and you depend on good help, which is given free by volunteers. It makes a very efficient, low-cost way of doing a lot a lot of good.

Thank you, Joyce! Thank you, volunteers!

Thank you to some of our largest book donors



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