We gave away our millionth book this year.

If books were miles, we would have traveled to the moon and back. Twice.
Dear Friends of the Book Bank,

You’d have to travel around the world 40 times to go a million miles. Knowing that, can you believe that at the Book Bank we have delivered a million smiles?

In 2019, we reached an incredible milestone: distributing our one-millionth book to children in the community. That’s one million unforgettable stories. One million treasured keepsakes. The truly remarkable thing is that we distributed 450,000 books in 2019 alone.

Last year, I wrote to you about all of the possibilities we saw on the horizon with our new, bigger warehouse space. This year, I write about possibilities realized. With the incredible support of our community, donors and volunteers, we’ve grown in a big way.

We are excited to share with you our favorite stories and experiences from 2019. They include unveiling a second Bookmobile and increasing the number of children served by our Home Library Project nearly three-fold. Most importantly, we share the voices of the parents, teachers, children and community partners at the heart of our work.

Of course, we still have so much to do. There are still thousands of children in Baltimore City and surrounding communities without books to call their own. So, I ask you to keep giving of your time, your resources and your books. The true beauty of the Book Bank is in our power to turn the little extra we have into truly life-changing moments for others.

With deep appreciation,

Mark Feiring

“The Maryland Book Bank cultivates literacy in underserved neighborhoods. We do so by partnering with publishers and community members to turn donated books into handpicked home, classroom and community libraries.”

“Sometimes I’ve believed as many as six impossible things before breakfast.”

—Through the Looking Glass and What Alice Found There—Lewis Carol
“When I first started as a school librarian, I wasn’t sure how I was going to meet the needs of my students. Over four years, I’m very proud to say I’ve been able to add more than 4,000 books to my students’ home libraries through the Bookmobile. My students live in under-served communities and in homes that don’t have books for enjoyment—books that are colorful, new and bright. They may never be able to walk into a bookstore and buy five new books like other kids, and that experience matters. The Bookmobile boosts their confidence and makes them feel like they matter because they get to ‘shop’ for their own books. On the Bookmobile, no one is going to tell them to put it back because they can’t afford it. It’s theirs to keep forever, and they treasure that.”

– Erin Hauser, school librarian, Glenmount Elementary/Middle

“Stories We Love

“I really love the Bookmobile because it looks like a lab full of books. Labs are cool because you get to make potions and robots.”

– Daius, second grader at Glenmount

“I like when the Bookmobile comes because I get to see a lot of books that I’ve never seen before and try out new books.”

– Eden, second grader at Glenmount

“Before the Bookmobile came, I was using the nutrition label on the cereal box to read with my daughter. Now, we have real books to read, and it makes all the difference in the world.”

– Parent, Marre G. Farring Elementary/Middle

Never Miss Another Story!
Follow us on Instagram: @MDBookBank
Like us on Facebook:
facebook.com/TheMarylandBookBank/
2019 By the Numbers

75,000
Children served across Maryland through Book Bank community memberships

58,000
Number of books sorted by volunteers on Books for Kids Day (up from 20,000 last year)

1,800
Visitors to Book Bank in 2019

2016: 150,000 Books
2017: 262,000 Books
2018: 360,000 Books
2019: 450,000 Books

2018: 28,000
2019: 33,000
Served by the Bookmobile
The Bookmobile is our community’s mobile, no-cost bookstore. Every time a child boards the Bookmobile, they can peruse hundreds of titles to select five books to take home and keep, forever.

One of the highlights of 2019 was unveiling and deploying our much-anticipated second Bookmobile, generously donated by the Baltimore Ravens. Our partnership with the Ravens is critical to our efforts to reach every home and classroom.

“It was a shot of energy that came at the perfect time,” said Program Manager Kimberly Crout. “It led us into 2020 on track.”

In addition to visiting nearly 100 schools and recreation centers, our Bookmobiles also visited events like the Pigtown Festival, the Great Blacks in Wax Black History Community Fair, Medfield’s Back to School Night, and the Edmondson Village Back to School Rally.
Home Library Project

The Home Library Project is the Book Bank’s concentrated book distribution program in partnership with Baltimore City’s Literacy Intensive schools. The program allows students in grades K-2 to select 20 new books over the course of the school year through two annual visits, one in the fall and one in the spring. At the end of three years, second graders will have a home library of at least 60 books that rivals that of a middle- or higher-income child. This program costs less than $15 per child to implement.

The Home Library Project grew from serving 11 schools and 1,800 students in 2018-2019 to 27 schools and 5,000 students in 2019-2020. In 2019, The Book Bank signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Baltimore City Public Schools to become an official vendor, formalizing our partnership with a goal of expanding to serve all students over time.

"The Home Library Project is an important complement to the district’s Literacy Blueprint strategy. The books that children receive through the Home Library Project help to build content knowledge that inspires their own writing, storytelling and performances. Moreover, parents and caregivers are their children’s first and best teachers, and The Maryland Book Bank is an important part of our efforts to equip parents with resources to read with their children at home.”

- Christopher Knighting, Educational Specialist Elementary Literacy, Baltimore City Public Schools

Community Memberships

The Community Membership program allows individuals, teachers, organizations and families to browse our warehouse and select books for their home, program and classroom libraries. We have both fee-based ($45 per year for individuals and $200 per year for organizations) and no-cost memberships, to obtain more books based on individual or program need. Many teachers use the membership to build classroom libraries they otherwise couldn’t afford. Our organizational members include Baltimore City’s Judy Centers, which are early learning centers for disadvantaged children.

Did you know?

The Book Bank has:

- 2,000 no-cost memberships
  Adult members take 25 books per month and children take as many books as they can carry.
- 400 paid memberships
  Individuals select 250 books per month and organizations choose 1,000 books per month.
Millionth Book Giveaway!

According to the book “How Much is a Million?” by David M. Schwartz and Steven Kellogg, it would take you about 23 days to count to one million. We engaged the whole community to celebrate our one millionth book. Members of the community voted online to select the two books (one for grades K-2 and one for grades 3-5) that would be declared The Millionth Book. Then, schools entered a drawing to receive the Millionth Book by submitting student-created posters depicting the importance of reading. All students at KIPP Harmony (K-2 winner) and Glenmount Elementary (3-5 winner) received a brand-new copy of the Millionth Book as well one other book of their choice from the Bookmobile. The author of “Donavan’s Word Jar” Monalisa DeGross attended the giveaway of her book and spoke to students about the importance and power of words.

“We in our classroom safe and sound. Fears are lost and hope is found. Raise your hand, we’ll go around. All are welcome here.”

– All Are Welcome, Alexandra Penfold and Suzanne Kaufman

A Little Help from Our Friends

Special Project: University of Maryland

The Book Bank was thrilled to be the subject of a case study completed by five students in the University of Maryland’s Executive MBA program. As part of the pro bono management consulting project, students examined Book Bank operations and safety, Bookmobile utilization and costs, and human capital to assess areas for improvement. The result: We upgraded our book sorting process by purchasing a hydraulic lift for emptying gaylords of thousands of books, and we are currently fundraising for collapsible gaylords and a new forklift to further increase safety and efficiency. We also clarified job roles, identified where we need more staff capacity and launched a new Bookmobile schedule to optimize our reach. We can’t thank UMD Team Book Bank enough for their ongoing support and dedication.

Baltimore Warehouse Collaborative

In 2018, we founded the Baltimore Warehouse Collaborative with our friends at Leveling the Playing Field, Bedtime in a Box, School Colors, Break a Difference and Teacher Supply Swap to share resources and support each other’s missions. This year, we made good on our goal by hosting more than 15 warehouse-wide volunteer events with corporate, school and university volunteer groups. We also hosted over 150 volunteers with Volunteering Untapped, an organization that hosts large-scale volunteer projects for young professionals in Baltimore.

“All kinds of words went into Donavan’s collection. He had big words like PROFOUNDED that made him feel smart. Little words like CUDDLE warmed his heart. Donavan found that soft words like HUSH soothed his fears. Silly words like SQUABBLE slipped off his tongue and tickled his ears.”

– Donavan’s Word Jar, Monalisa DeGross
Some people care too much. I think it’s called love.”
-A.A. Milne, Winnie-the-Pooh

Volunteer Groups
Thank you to the hundreds of volunteers who gave thousands of hours to the Book Bank this year, sorting and packing books for delivery to young people all over the city.

Adegis
Baltimore Collegetown Network
The Baltimore Ravens
Bouz Allen Hamilton
Business Volunteers
CareFirst
Central MD Volunteers
Collegebound Foundation
Constellation
Exelon
Girl Scouts of Central MD
Green Acres
Howard Bank
Illinois
Johns Hopkins Medical Center
Johns Hopkins University
Kennedy Krieger Institute
Literacy Lab
Loyola University

Monarch Academy
Mosaic
NAOY Maryland
Oldfields School
Reading Partners
Repair the World
Rock City Church
St. Peter’s Adult Program
St. Timothy’s School
Stevenson University
SquashWise
T. Rowe Price
TekSystems
Towson University
The Park School
Under Armour
United Way
Urban Teachers Alliance
Volunteering Unplugged

Financial Donors
Foundations
$10,000 and above
The Abell Foundation
The Harry and Jeannette Weinberg Foundation
The Baltimore Ravens Foundation
The Baltimore Children’s and Youth Fund
The Hirshhorn Foundation
Clayton Baker Trust
T. Rowe Price Foundation
Exelon Foundation

$5,000 to $9,999
M&T Bank Foundation
TD Charitable

$1,000-$4,999
Besserer Trust

Corporations
$1,000+
CareFirst
Cruser Mitchell LLP
Gold Hill Insulation LLC
KIG Sheet Metal Services
Witch & Rushe Inc.
Womble Bond Dickinson

Up to $1,000
Blue Ridge Sports Cars
Law Library Association

Individual Donors
$1,000+
Dean Ford
Robert Geer
Sarah Hackney
Ryan Hapgood
Starr & Lynn Jannay
Brian Kasabula
Don Killgallon
Adriana Roane
David Welch
Vernon & Lucy Wright
Julian Nocchin

$100-$999
Laura Abral
Tom Adolph
Deborah Armstrong
James Belfor
Heather Binder
Leslie Bishop
Robert Brady
Elizabeth Back
Christina Chambreau
Susan Cohen
Richard Comer
Kristie Corns
Kim Cron
Donna Dannals
Jennifer Davis
Kim Dodson
Craig Dutcher
Robert Elrich
Christian & Christopher Sperl-Erickert
Mark & Kate Feiring
Juliette Feury
Alex Franks
Brian Gauck
Jennifer Hale
Elizabeth Handy
David Harris
Kevin Hart
Jeh Heinechts
Cornelia Ives
Becky Jacob
Katharine King
Alexander Klieg
Geothe Krol
Aliza Lileman
Karen & John Long
James Marotta
Merry Martin
Dennis Mather
Cheryl & Jeff Matheu
Katharine Merrell
William Meyer
Aaron Milstone
Eliot Nickerson
Nancy & Darl Packard
Kathleen Pitt
James Powers
Stephen Prest
Leslie Rogers
Meghana Sankerar
Helen Schacht
Anne Schwartz
Celeste Solled
Megan Sparks
Trent Stroup
Mary Tunas
Joseph Valentino
Tay Wagner
Robyn Walker
Doug Workd
Elizabeth Wrightson
Lisa Young

Up to $100
Chrysalis Adams
Sandy Alexander
Lynda & Chris Allen
Kristen Argento
Kristina Berdan
Jennifer Blumenthal
Liz Boyce
Melanie Brinker
Susan Burke Harrison
Melissa Capello
Mitchel Cohen
Chera Danetell
Laurel Davis
Debra Donahoe
Sintham Drumpolec
Ben Falk
Mallie Fein
Leslie Ferrara
Elizabeth Fields
Carrie Flora
Alyson Fowler
Carrie Fox
Eric Gasior
Paul Gladowski
Karen Gordon
Roxanne Grossman
Dolores Haddad
Rachel Harvey
Reid Henderson

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Casey Herfeldt
Sheryl Hiken
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Gina Le
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Selena Phillips
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Maryann Plotz
Jayme Provencher
Raham & Ashley Ratat
Jessica Reed
Kelly Rhodes
Greta Richard
Tia Richardson
Gregory Robinson
Mark Sadlitch
Amanda Sapp
Kimberly Schmitz
Kathleen Schneider
Rosanne Shet
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Philip Trivato
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Book Donors
10,000 or More Books:
Billion World Books
Planet Aid
1,000 or More Books:
Rolland Park Country School
Drumiri Family
The Park School
Sarah Satterthwaite
Friends School
Martin Kush
Stephanie Hellinger
Olney Community Theater
Boy’s Latin

500 or More Books:
American Booksellers Association
EBI Inc.
John Hopkins Physics Lab
Carol Mullan
David Ray
Friends of Light Street
Shadows at the Rolinda
Seth Coops
James Toyer
John Dziak
Carrie Girard
Kathleen Moyer
Shirley Shet
Darlene Smith
Scott Salway
Jennifer Shatman
Lindsay Sullivan

Mathew Talo
Nicole Tedesco
Sidney Thomas
Diane Threat
Daniel Tracey
Philip Trivato
Matthew Unfried
Robin Vaughan
Mira Wendel
Lara Westwood
Ilene Wilson
Marissa Woods
We've AlreadyReached Nearly 800 Schools and Community Organizations in Maryland. Are your favorites on the list?
We are grateful to our team of staff and Board of Directors for another year of growth and learning.

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Tracey Hipp, Inventory Manager
Lakia Lewis, Shipping Manager
Ian Nagoski, Inventory Specialist
Greg DeloSantos, Driver

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