

"Yesterday my kids received free books from Bernie's Book Bank and they were very thrilled. They began reading on the way home. I simply would like to express my sincere gratitude for your great deed. Sometimes as parents we have money issues and can't purchase from places like 'book fairs' and it was great to see them so happy with their books."
- Parent, Greenbriar School in Chicago Heights

THE CHALLENGE

61% of low income families have no books at home for their children which prevents students from starting school 'reading-ready.' Equally challenging, children who cannot read proficiently by 3rd grade are 4x likelier to drop out of school. Early access to books is critical for lifetime success.

OUR SOLUTION

Bernie's Book Bank sources, processes and distributes quality children's books to increase book ownership among children throughout Chicagoland.

- 21 MILLION free quality books distributed since 2009
- 2.4 MILLION books will be distributed in 2022 despite pandemic obstacles
- 300,000 local children served annually
- Age-appropriate books are received by children ages birth through sixth grade
- Children receive free quality books through their Title I schools and 'Under 6' programs in under-served communities across 6 counties
- Books are sourced from publishers, re-sellers, book drives and individuals based on our 'culturally relevant, high-interest, age-appropriate' book philosophy
- Supporters can drop book donations at 140+ book drop locations throughout Chicagoland including most Wintrust Banks
- We host volunteers to sort, sticker and pack books 5 days a week
- Our volunteer force is comprised of corporate, civic & social groups and individuals of all backgrounds, ages & abilities

OUR APPROACH

Using sound business and logistics principals in every facet of our operation, Bernie's Book Bank is uniquely positioned as the expert of book banking. We think like a business and act like a brand.

- INNOVATIVE approach to empower children through book ownership
- SUSTAINABLE distribution continuum from birth through sixth grade
- EFFICIENTLY source, process and distribute each book
- SCALABLE model to be replicated in every major city
- EFFECTIVE path to building personal libraries of 96 books for local children
- URGENT solution to a national crisis that impacts us all

