Dear (customize your audience here: family, friends, coworkers, neighbors, etc)

We’re running a book drive, and need your new or gently used children’s books!

The books we collect will go to Bright Star Books, a nonprofit organization founded by a local family that works to put new and gently used books in the hands and homes of limited-resource children in the Greater Akron area, concentrating on reaching those ages 0 to 5.

Like many of you, (I/we/our family has/have) books our children have outgrown. Through Bright Star Books, we can make a difference in the lives of local children just by cleaning out our shelves and closets!

Studies consistently show that having access to books in the home is one of the greatest predictors of a child’s academic success, yet research also tells us that more than 60% of low-income children have no books in their homes. These children are more likely to enter kindergarten unprepared to begin learning, and few are ever able to catch up with their better prepared peers.

Starting in early 2015, Bright Star Books will work social service agencies (like the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) of Summit County) to give books directly to local children most in need of them. They especially need books appropriate young kids, from board books for babies and toddlers to story books for five year olds on the verge of reading on their own - and everything in between!

(Tell them the dates, times and details of your book drive here, including where to drop off their books or when they will be collected.)

To learn more about the work Bright Star Books is doing in the Greater Akron area, visit them at [www.brightstarbooks.org](http://www.brightstarbooks.org), search for them on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/BrightStarBooksOhio>), or email their Executive Director Keith Seher at Keith@brightstarbooks.org.

I hope you’ll consider joining us as we try to make a difference in the lives of local children!

(Close your email here by signing your name).