



Sending Books to Stop the Revolving Door to Prison

Getting books directly into the hands of inmates is an important way of acting as their allies. Whether it fills an immediate need for comfort or diversion or inspires self-study or peer mentoring that prepares an inmate for reentry into society, a book can make a difference in an inmate's life.

Although our incarcerated population has a lower average literacy rate than the general population, only 9% of inmates with low literacy skills receive literacy training while incarcerated. Providing books to prisoners can fill a void where help is needed. It can also abate the challenges of life after prison. Adults with low literacy skills are more likely to be unemployed or live below the poverty line and also more likely to lack the social skills they need in life. For inmates who are rejoining society, this can increase their odds of reincarceration.

Your donation can have a positive impact on someone's life. Because of you an incarcerated individual could have a book to read to his or her child on visitation day, begin self-study to prepare for a career, or even become inspired to write his or her own book. Although costs depend on the weight of the books we send, the table below outlines the estimated number of inmates your donation can help.

Donation	Number of inmates who receive books
\$25	10
\$50	20
\$100	40
\$200	80
\$400	160

Read Between the Bars is a volunteer-based, non-profit program. All donations go directly to postage for books and related operational costs.

Sources

Greenberg, E., et al. (2007), *Literacy Behind Bars: Results from the 2003 National Assessment of Adult Literacy Prison Survey* (available at <http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2007/2007473.pdf>) and ProLiteracy America (2003), *U.S. Adult Literacy Programs: Making a Difference* (available at <http://www.proliteracy.org/NetCommunity/Document.Doc?id=18>).