



YOUTH CHARITY LEAGUE

YOUTH CHARITY LEAGUE  
**BOOK IT FORWARD**  
3RD ANNUAL CHILDREN'S BOOK DRIVE

YCL's 'Book It Forward' initiative began in the middle of a global pandemic in 2020. The idea was developed by two STM's moms YCL Co-founder Arlene Unverzagt & YCL member Lizzy Risch. Due to state orders, each county was ordered to go into lock down. With schools and libraries shut down, there was no question that children's literacy would be severely impacted especially in underserved communities. The pandemic shined a light on the educational disparities for families living in poverty and especially people of color who already lacked access to the internet, general technology, and e-books.

Today, the state is exiting COVID restrictions, children's literacy remains important to YCL. Summer reading is critical for students to retain the knowledge and skills learned in the previous school year. Students who don't have access to books and learning materials are at risk of falling behind their classmates academically. Summer reading loss contributes to the achievement gap between more and less economically advantaged students. Children from low-income families have more restrictive access to books, both in home and at school, than their more advantaged peers.

In 2020 and 2021, 'Book It Forward' served more than 300 children with book packs containing as many as 10 books. This year YCL hopes to surpass the past deliveries with a goal of collecting 4,000 books! The recipients of the book drive have a high composition of Latin X families. Less than 3% of children's books donated are Spanish language.

YCL's has created a fundraiser for Spanish language books, and community partnerships, YCL is bringing awareness to the needs of our community's children. By showing up for children through literacy support, delivery of books, and fun book accessories from Powell's, YCL is demonstrating the worth and value that is held for the children they serve.

#### YCL DISTRIBUTION PARTNER

YCL is once again partnering with Meals 4 Kids, a program by Meals for Wheels People. The Meals 4 Kids program serves qualified children and families within the City of Portland and Gresham experiencing food insecurity. The Meals 4 Kids home delivery program delivers nutritious meals, milk, bread, and fresh fruit directly to the homes of families in need each week on weekdays between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. MOWP/M4K serves families who live within the City of Portland whose income level is 185% or lower of the federal poverty level.

The Meals 4 Kids program serves qualified children and families within the City of Portland experiencing food insecurity who are also experiencing any of the following: Chronic condition or illness of caregiver or child; lack of facility to prepare meals; lack of ability and/or transportation to access food resources such as food pantries; other barriers impacting access to food resources and/or ability to prepare meals.

---

About Youth Charity League: In 2017, some Portland moms got together with the idea of creating a family-friendly volunteer organization to connect parents, caregivers, and kids to local charities. The goal was to instill a sense of community service and civic responsibility in young children in the most inclusive and easy way possible – by modeling that behavior and engaging in volunteer activities together. Learn more about YCL, visit: [youthcharityleague.org](http://youthcharityleague.org). For more information, contact Arlene Unverzagt at [aunverzagt@youthcharityleague.org](mailto:aunverzagt@youthcharityleague.org) or call 415.531.4155.

About Meals 4 Kids: The Meals 4 Kids program serves qualified children and families within the city of Portland experiencing food insecurity who are also experiencing any of the following: Chronic condition or illness of caregiver or child; lack of facility to prepare meals; lack of ability and/or transportation to access food resources such as food pantries; other barriers impacting access to food resources and/or ability to prepare meals. Meals 4 Kids is funded by the Portland Children's Levy.

About Meals on Wheels People: Meals on Wheels People has been changing lives, one meal at a time, since 1970. We provide more than a meal to thousands of older adults in the greater Portland metro area. Our service not only alleviates hunger and social isolation but allows seniors to live independently with dignity in their own homes. Aging in place reduces depression, falls and hospitalization as well as the high cost of institutional care. For more information, visit: [mowp.org](http://mowp.org).