

PRESS RELEASE & MEDIA AVAILABILITY

Cleveland Kids' Book Bank to Host Drive Through Book Collection in Conjunction With Celebration in Honor of Apollo Bohanon on July 12, 2025

Community Can Donate Books and Stay for Free Family-Friendly Activities

Events are Part of Annual East Side vs. West Side Book Drive Challenge

Cleveland, OH (July 1, 2025) — The Cleveland Kids' Book Bank, a leading nonprofit dedicated to fostering literacy and a love of reading by providing free books to children, is hosting a city-wide book drive in July. The East Side vs. West Side Book Drive Challenge pits the two sides of town against each other to see which

can donate the most children's books.

This is the third year of this annual community book drive, and both the east side and the west side have won the contest once. The total goal for the book drive is 50,000 children's books donated from July 1 - August 1.

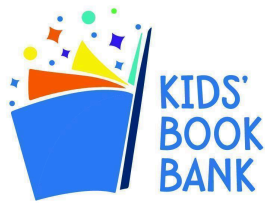
"About 70% of our books come from community donations, so this book drive is really important for us. It's also a fun way for the community to get involved in a little friendly rivalry for bragging rights and the book drive challenge trophy," said Cleveland Kids' Book Bank Operations Director, Colleen Watt.

This year, the book drive includes a drive through drop off in conjunction with a celebration of the life of Apollo Bohanon at the Kids' Book Bank warehouse.

About Apollo Bohanon

Apollo Bohanon and his family have been part of the Kids' Book Bank story for many years. Apollo was the face of our first Books Like Me Campaign, which raises funds to purchase books featuring characters from a wide variety of backgrounds and experiences.

Apollo passed away on June 1, 2024, at just five years old, leaving behind a legacy of joy, curiosity, and love for stories—especially his favorite, *The Giving Tree*. The Kids' Book Bank hosted a celebration of Apollo's life on his birthday - July 11 - last year. In partnership with Apollo's family, we are again celebrating his birthday this year with this special event and also raising funds to create Apollo's Book Nook in our new home. [More about Apollo's Book Nook.](#)



“We have been honored that Apollo’s family has connected so deeply with the Kids’ Book Bank, and we are proud to help keep alive his passion for reading through events like the one on July 12,” Leslie FitzSimmons, Cleveland Kids’ Book Bank, Communications Manager.

Join us on Saturday, July 12 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Cleveland Kids’ Book Bank, 3635 Perkins Ave., Cleveland, OH. Kids’ Book Bank staff and volunteers will collect donated books and host a birthday party for Apollo Bohanon in partnership with Apollo’s parents.

Family-friendly activities include music from [DJ Lily Jade](#), balloon artist, sidewalk chalk, craft table, painting of a Little Free Library, bounce house, an appearance by Clifford the Big Red Dog, oversized puppets from Pinocchio, and a free book fair for kids! We will do a bubble send up in celebration of Apollo at noon.

About the Cleveland Kids' Book Bank

Since 2016, the nonprofit organization has been dedicated to ensuring that every child in Greater Cleveland has books in the home. Through its community-based partnerships, the Cleveland Kids’ Book Bank has distributed more than five million new and gently used books to children, schools, and community organizations, helping to foster a love of reading and improving childhood literacy. The Kids’ Book Bank recently purchased a new building and anticipates a summer move to larger space.

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