

Liberation Library Hosts Book Drive for Incarcerated Youth in Illinois as Programming Dwindles due to COVID-19

Chicago nonprofit partners with Chicago bookstores to double its book donations and support local business

CHICAGO, April 13, 2020 — [Liberation Library](#), a volunteer-based Chicago nonprofit that provides books to young people in Illinois prisons and juvenile detention centers, today announced a local [book drive](#) to double the number of books it sends to incarcerated youth in Illinois in an emergency response to COVID-19. Due to the widespread impact of the virus, many traditional programs and in-person family visits at jails and prisons in Illinois have been suspended indefinitely.

“At Liberation Library, we believe access to books is a right, not a privilege. The young people we serve are experiencing a loss in family visits and programming, which can be very isolating,” said Alyssa Beer, Liberation Library Steering Committee member. “It is now more important than ever for incarcerated youth to have access to other worlds of their choosing, so we are asking our donors to help us double the number of books we send them.”

As a form of mutual aid and to demonstrate solidarity with the Amazon workers in Chicago carrying out strikes for safe and sanitized working conditions, Liberation Library is encouraging donors to support local businesses by making donations through its bookstore partners. Book drive partners include [Pilsen Community Books](#), [Semicolon Books](#), [Women and Children First Bookstore](#), Open Books and [City Lit Books](#).

Donors can help send books to incarcerated youth in Illinois and support local bookstores by visiting <https://www.liberationlib.com/covid-19-response-shop-local.html>.

About Liberation Library

Liberation Library, founded in February 2015 by Project NIA, is a volunteer-based group in Chicago that provides books to young people in Illinois prisons and juvenile detention centers. It provides books to young readers in all of the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice facilities, including IYC Chicago, IYC Harrisburg, IYC Pere Marquette, IYC St. Charles, IYC Warrenville, in addition to jails in multiple counties in Illinois. Learn more at <https://www.liberationlib.com/>.

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