

LOCAL & STATE

Nonprofit collects books for Liberians

BY BECCY TANNER

The Wichita Eagle

If you've stashed away an old volume by Dr. Seuss, Shel Silverstein, L. Frank Baum or any other children's author, a Wichita nonprofit is asking you to dig it out and donate it. No textbooks.

Or new books.

Just slightly used children's books with pictures, please.

Then, Trees for Life will send them off—to the African nation of Liberia.

"We have been using books to help people in developing countries by inspiring them with the joy of reading," said David Kimble, executive director for Trees for Life/Book for Life. Trees for Life provides education, health and environmental services to try to help reduce poverty and hunger.

Trees for Life began collecting books for Liberia three years ago after that country's education minister called seeking help in finding books for children. There is one book for every 27 children in Liberia, Kimble said.

"This is a chance to have an impact on these children who live 10,000 miles away," Kimble said.

The group hopes to collect 100,000 books by the time

the drive ends, Feb. 28.

Books have been coming in by the handfuls and by the hundreds.

Book drop boxes are available at participating Dillons grocery stores and at some high schools. Dillons will also accept cash donations at checkout counters to help cover the cost of shipping the books, Kimble said.

The drive is for used books only—in part because these are tough economic times for a lot of people, Kimble said.

"It's not costing any money," he said. "We don't want people to go out and buy new books. The thing is we all grew up with books that we have fond attachments of... Most of those books are sitting in attics and basements collecting dust. Why not let these books have an impact on these children's lives?"

For more information about the program, visit: <http://loveinyourattic.org> or contact Kimble at 316-945-6929 or david@treesforlife.org.

©The Wichita Eagle & Wichita Eagle and Beacon Publishing Co., Inc.



Trees for Life
3006 W. Saint Louis
Wichita, KS 67203-5129
www.treesforlife.org