

Fairfield Volunteers Collect 101,000 Books



Kids enjoy the fruits of the Dr. Seuss Throwdown's efforts so far.

Photo Credit: *Contributed*

by [Greg Canuel](#) 09/01/11 (the Daily Fairfield)

FAIRFIELD, Conn. — Tens of thousands of kids in Fairfield County battled the "summer slide" by keeping their reading skills alive during their school break. The United Way of Coastal Fairfield County announced that its annual Dr. Seuss Book Throwdown surpassed its goal. The collection drive gathered more than 101,000 books for needy students to read over the summer.

The organization distributed the books in different ways. It sent some to local hospitals, where they will go to new mothers through the Books for Babies program. And the Books for Kids program sent collections to the United Way of Coastal Fairfield County's Schools of Hope, McKinley School in Fairfield, Franklin School in Stratford and Geraldine W. Johnson School in Bridgeport.

Another 4,200 kids from grades K-2 at Bridgeport's Thomas Hooker School also participated in a special program. Each picked five books from the collection and pledged to keep a reading log over the summer of their progress.

In total, 77 individual book drives combined to pass the United Way's 100,000 goal. The group passed the number June 21, with a copy of the classic "Green Eggs and Ham." But it has not stopped the collections. Some of the Fairfield groups that took part included the Junior League of Eastern Fairfield County, Bigelow Tea, Bob Hendrick, Fairfield University, Fairfield Woods Middle School, Sacred Heart University, St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School, Fairfield Preparatory School and Hallie Fuchs' B'nai Mitzvah.

The group is hard at work toward its next goal: 200,000