



100 BOOKS IN 100 DAYS – WORKFORCE READINESS INITIATIVE

Sponsored By: Wiregrass Human Resource Management Association (WHRMA)



WHRMA wants to make a difference in improving literacy in Alabama by partnering with Bright Key Resources! We are now collecting new and gently used books for students Kindergarten through 3rd Grade for Selma Street and Highlands Elementary Schools.

Donated books may be dropped off at any Dothan **Wireless Advantage** location: **84 West, Target location next to Moe's, Wiregrass Commons Mall** or Dothan **Five Star Credit Union** location: **411 N. Foster Street and 3331 W. Main Street.**

These books will be put in the hands of local area children at the beginning of the 2016-17 school year.

Shocking Statistics Did you know...?

- Approximately 50 percent of the nation's unemployed youth age 16-21 are functionally illiterate, with virtually no prospects of obtaining good jobs? - *U.S. Department of Health and Human Services*
- Children who have not developed some basic literacy skills by the time they enter school are 3 to 4 times more likely to drop out in later years? - *National Adult Literacy Survey, (1002) NCES, U.S. Department of Education*
- 60 percent of America's prison inmates are illiterate and 85% of all juvenile offenders have reading problems? - *U.S. Department of Education*

According to the Annie E. Casey Foundation, proficiency in reading by the end of the third grade is a crucial marker in a child's educational development. In its 2013 Kids Count Data Book, a stunning 66% of fourth graders in public school were reading below proficient levels! **The end of the third grade marks a point where children transition from learning to read to using reading to learn other subjects.**

Statistics also indicate that by 2020, the United States is expected to face a shortage of 1.5 million workers with college degrees. Even more frightening is the anticipated surplus of 6 million individuals without a high school diploma who are unemployed because they lack necessary education credentials. If we do not ensure all children gain the appropriate reading skills to be successful, their future economic prospects will be dim and the economy will lag.