

For Immediate Release

The Lost Keys Literary Festival Launches Book Drive To Benefit Local Children

The Lost Keys Literary Festival is spreading the gift of literacy with a book drive from December 1 to December 18.

Donated books will be given to children through the Rainbow House and the Safe House. There are no limitations on genre or length, though the reading material should be appropriate for K-12 students. This is the organization's first book drive and will hopefully become a future holiday tradition. It offers a different kind of present for the holiday season, one that gives long after it is received.

"Everyone can benefit from literature, but especially children," Claire Helm, Lost Keys Literary Festival board member, said. "Books truly enrich the minds of young people and can expose them to new, previously unimagined worlds."

Current drop off locations include the Macon Arts Alliance, Kudzu Company on Second Street and Wesleyan College. Additional drop offs will be posted on the festival's website as facilities are confirmed. For those who are unable to make it to these locations, the Lost Keys Literary Festival is also offering to pick up books from those who wish to donate. Individuals who need to utilize this option should email the organization to set up times.

"We want this book drive to be inclusive as possible, for both the children and the donors," Danielle Quesenberry, Lost Keys Literary Festival founder, said. "We want to reflect the open and inclusive nature of literature itself, which invites everyone to enjoy and share."

This book drive is part of the festival's goal to not only strengthen the Macon's literary community but to foster a love for reading among the youth. The organization intends to have more kids centered events in the upcoming months, including a children literary festival in May. Lost Keys Literary Festival is also developing partnerships with local schools and other nonprofits with children at the heart of their mission. Although serving the adult community remains an essential part of the organization's objective, the impact literature can have on children cannot be ignored.

"Literacy should begin at an early age, growing into a deep appreciation for literature," Quesenberry said. "This continues into adulthood, creating a new generation of creatives who can influence and shape the world and how we view it."

About Lost Keys Literary Festival

Lost Keys Literary Festival aims to establish an annual gathering for the writing community in Middle Georgia. The Festival offers two days of events during which regional writers collect to give readings of their work, lead workshops, and join for discussion panels. Writing workshops cover fiction, nonfiction, poetry, journalism, songwriting, and screenwriting. Panel discussion topics include (but are not limited to) poetry, freelance writing, blog and magazine editing, character writing, and writing for Southern fiction. Visit lostkeysfest.com for more information.