

A children's bookmark and display project

By Irene Woodworth

Did you know that the Assistance League of Boise clothes around 3,600 children in need from Ada County through their flagship Operation School Bell Program? The children receive brand new clothes that include two pairs of jeans, two colorful tee shirts, a sweatshirt, a coat, hat, gloves and a new age-appropriate book. Our family decided last year they needed a bookmark that would inspire and motivate these children. (To learn more, go to <https://www.assistanceleague.org/boise>.)

This year, with several team members of Assistance League of Boise, we created another 3,600 colorful and creative bookmarks with various decorations and words. It has been proven that words can either make or break a person. We know that positive words will empower, encourage, strengthen and sustain each child who receives a bookmark.

There were two different types of bookmarks. One is designed with a letter of the alphabet that corresponds to each child's first name. For example the letter "A" may connect with Aaron or Alice. In addition to the letter, we created adjectives that will inspire, encourage and motivate with each letter listed down each bookmark. For example, "A" has positive words listed down the bookmark with bright colors, such as "Able" and "Accepted."

The other style we created was a quote or saying that empowers and encourages. For example, we created one that says, "Advice from a Tree: Stand Tall and Proud."

Due to more than 45 different colorful styles of bookmarks, we needed a simple display that would speed up the time as the members assist the children to find the clothes that fit them and their style.

Sometimes using simple everyday things can help you make something custom for your needs. We created a display made up of a hollow core door with vegetable tin cans screwed on and decorated with

poster board borders symmetrically designed to hold all of these bookmarks. There is no limit on how long this



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can be used to bless all of the children we graciously serve.

Each bookmark is touched with love and prayers. That bookmark can last for years, maybe even a lifetime, with hope and healing for each child. This project took hundreds of hours. It was well worth all the time and labor. We may never know what a powerful influence each one has on each child. We have realized that our team will be part of transforming children for generations with this project! ●

Irene Woodworth is known as "Idaho's Color Lady" and is founder and CEO of Redesign Boise. She is a national redesign award winner, motivational speaker, certified redesigner and color consultant, and instructor on redesign and color. She has a degree in education and interior design and has taught various decorating and color classes throughout the country. For more information, visit RedesignBoise.com.



Members of the Assistance League created inspiring bookmarks for kids, then made a "bookmark wall" where children could select one of the bookmarks from a handily decorated tin can. (Photo provided by Irene Woodworth)