

The Drive for 25 **Reality's New Literacy Initiative**

Okay, friends, it's time for a little quiz. Guess what is most common to all successful students in high school... College education of parents? No. Socioeconomic level of the home? Nope. How about the student's race/ethnicity? No again. Look at this statistic from the latest research as reported in the *Science Daily*: Successful high school students, those who are most sure to go to the next level educationally, have a *home library*, with as few as **20** books! Earlier research revealed that the most successful high school students have at least **25** books in the home. The number of books at home is so directly related to school performance that the research made this discovery... the fewer number of books, the lower the performance; the greater the number of books, the better the performance. In fact, home libraries are *twice* as significant an indicator of school success than the educational level of parents. Especially interesting is this: Children of lesser-educated parents benefit the **most** from having books in the home! That's right, kids from low-income homes are even **more** likely to be propelled to a higher level of education with as few as 20-25 books at home!.

So, everyone, this is the plan: To build a *Giving Library*, not a mere lending library, at the Reality Center. Think of the tremendous impact we could have with our after school students if each of you could donate 25 books to the RC library. Every time students come to our after school, they would be able to look over our display of books, choose one they want to read, take it home, and KEEP it! And as they continue to add to their books at home, they will be that much more likely to be successful in school. Is that awesome or what?

Let's put it this way... If 100 people scour their homes for 25 quality school-age books and donate them to RM, we effectively would be providing 100 students with that all-important home library. And it won't cost anyone a cent! So here's what we need, folks:

1. A small team of friends who would like to lead this literacy effort. We can't do this without significant volunteer leadership;
2. Lots of sturdy bookcases and bookshelves;
3. A commitment from as many of you as possible to donate 25 like-new, worthy, school-age books. No trivial, mediocre, beaten-up books, please!

Book-reading is like weight-lifting for the brain-muscle. Let's work together to strengthen the minds and broaden the education of as many students as possible. They could walk out of here with their very own set of weights for the home! So let's do this, people. *The Drive for 25*. Let's build a library that just keeps on giving.

(Steve Larson, November, 2010)

***Get More Bang for Your Books...
Help Reality Ministries Build a Giving Library!***