



# PRISON BOOK PROGRAM

Sending free books to people in prison since 1972

## 2023 Annual Report

2024 will be PBP's 52<sup>nd</sup> year in operation! The following are some significant milestones from 2023:

- Together, the PBP community fulfilled book requests from 18,172 people in 2023, a 19% increase over the 2021 total and far more than our goal of 17,000. The average package contained 3.5 books, for a grand total of over 63,000 books. We continued to fulfill most orders within 60-90 days.
- We continued to run a lean operation by relying largely on volunteer power and donated books.
- Our second staff position was increased from 30 hours/week to full time.
- Prison Book Program continues to attract thousands of volunteers. In 2023, 1,429 unique individuals attended one of our 199 volunteer sessions. This headcount is a 30% increase over the 2022 total. This means that many sessions were completely full. Volunteers donated a grand total of 12,970 hours of their time, a 53% increase from the previous year. The value of this time is \$508,294.
- The number of groups who joined us rose 64% from 50 in 2022 to 82 in 2023. These groups came from companies, schools, colleges, civic organizations, houses of worship, and more.
- In May, PBP board members and staff completed the organization's first-ever strategic plan. It will focus our human and financial resources for the next 5 years. It calls for: continued expansion (sending 25,000 packages of books by 2028); improvements to our services for both book requestors (shorter wait times and tracking of individual orders) and volunteers (special events and advocacy); and building our regional and national profile as an organization through partnerships and media
- We now have 7 wish lists: 5 at independent, local bricks and mortar bookstores, and 2 online. Wish lists continue to be our main source of books in new condition.
- One of our flagship publications, the [National Prisoner Resource List](#), is up to 16 pages and contains descriptions and contact information for more than 100+ organizations that serve incarcerated people.

- *Art from Inside*, a curated collection of approximately 30 works that have been sent to Prison Book Program over the last 50+ years, was displayed in eight local communities and at one university.
- We completed our first capital project, re-flooring and re-painting a classroom at United First Parish Church and installing more than 100 linear feet of new shelving.
- PBP finished FY23 (7/1/22-6/30/23) with a small surplus. Individual giving was up 17%, and revenue from grants more than doubled from the previous fiscal year.

Thank you for supporting Prison Book Program in 2023!