

Partnership, B&N team up for book drive

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The Herald-Sun, From staff reports

DURHAM —Durham's Partnership for Children will kick off its annual Barnes & Noble Holiday Book Drive on Tuesday.

This is the sixth year that the partnership, a Smart Start Initiative, has teamed up with the Streets at Southpoint Barnes & Noble for this event, during which patrons will be asked at checkout to purchase books to benefit young Durham County children who might not otherwise have access to books.

The book drive will run through the end of December when all donated books will be distributed to Durham community agencies that serve young children.

Last year, more than 2,800 books were collected and donated to 23 agencies and nonprofits, including home-visiting programs, social services, medical facilities, congregations and a variety of family support and family literacy programs.

"Community agencies have already voiced increased needs this year – particularly with literacy resources," said Bob Ashley, volunteer chairman of the partnership's Community Awareness and Development Committee. "Many of our partner organizations are lacking bilingual books as well as board books for infants and toddlers. We see the book drive as a tremendous opportunity to pinpoint those needs and engage the Durham community to work together in placing books into the hands of children who need them most."

Durham shoppers have been loyal supporters of the cause each year, said Cheri Hodges, community relations manager at the Southpoint Barnes & Noble store.

"During the eight-week drive, we consistently see an outpouring of support from our customers," Hodges said. "The Durham community makes this event such a success, and we hope that generosity continues this year when need is at an all-time high."

Read more: [The Herald-Sun - Partnership B N team up for book drive](#)