

UUCUC Shared Offering for August 2017

Urbana Champaign Books to Prisoners

Urbana Champaign Books to Prisoners is a Champaign County based project providing books to Illinois inmates through two county jail libraries and by mail at no cost to the inmate.

This is a community-powered volunteer organization with a number of easy ways for you to get involved. Contact Rachel Rasmussen, Volunteer Coordinator, to discuss projects and opportunities to donate your skills. Her telephone number is (708) 782-4608.

If you'd like to get involved with their books by mail operation, you can just show up at one of their "pack-a-thons". They meet three times per week at the Independent Media Center located at 202 S. Broadway in Urbana, Illinois. The Volunteer entrance is located on the South side of the building and is separate from the buildings main entrance.

Volunteers interact with inmates by reading their letters, selecting books from the collection of donated materials and sending books to inmates in response to their requests. They also staff the two lending libraries located in the Champaign County jails. If you would prefer to work behind the scenes, they can also utilize your unique skills coordinating book donations and fund raising, as well as many other education, outreach, and technical tasks.

Finally, you can donate books to Books 2 Prisoners. Books in demand include dictionaries, fiction books, GED preparation, addiction and recovery, health and fitness. Please, do not donate encyclopedias, academic journals, textbooks older than 5 years, magazines, or books in poor condition.

In 2016, Books to Prisoners provided books to approximately 45 new inmates every month, and provided books to approximately 232 repeat customers each month. For more information, check out their web site: books2prisoners.org