

## Friends of the Monroe County Public Library 25% Plate Fund Nominee – Supplemental Information

The funds would be used by the Friends of the Library to purchase Coretta Scott King award-winning books for K-12 Monroe County Schools, in consultation with Monroe County Public Library (MCPL) and school librarians. Classroom book kits requested by teachers would also be created so all their students can read and discuss books together. Due to budget constraints, a diverse representation of stories by African American authors and illustrators is often not available to students in their schools. Books range from \$5 to \$25. The Friends will be responsible for monitoring the funds.

Why do these books matter? MCPL Children’s Librarian Ginny Hosier says: "We talk a lot about ‘[windows and mirrors](#)’ when we talk about diversity in children's literature. **If you never see yourself in the media you consume, you begin to believe you don't matter. Likewise, if you only see yourself in the media, you begin to believe others don't matter.** Children who see their identity represented and celebrated are validated and empowered."

The purchase of the books this year is particularly relevant because the Library, with support from the Friends, is planning a special exhibit in early 2022 of illustrations from books that have received the Coretta Scott King Book Award. The exhibit, entitled *Our Voice: Celebrating the Coretta Scott King Illustrator Awards*, is curated by the National Center for Children’s Illustrated Literature and features prints of illustrations from the award winners since 1970.

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**Friends of the Monroe County Public Library (Friends)** <https://mcpl.info/friends/about-friends-library>

**Friends Mission Statement:** The Monroe County Public Library Foundation (Friends) supports the mission, vision, and values of the Library. The Friends advocates for the Library and supports Library collections, services, programs, and staff development.

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**Mission, Vision and Values of Monroe County Public Library (MCPL or Library)** <https://mcpl.info/about/mission>

**MCPL Mission:** The Library strengthens our community and enriches lives by providing equitable and impartial access to information and opportunities to read, learn, connect, and create.

**MCPL Vision:** A knowledgeable, inclusive, diverse, and engaged community empowered by the Library.

**MCPL Values:** Accessibility; Respectful Discourse; Diversity; Inclusiveness; Integrity; Intellectual Freedom; Lifelong Learning and Literacy; Safety; Service; Stewardship

Brochure of 2020 Library accomplishments, including support from Friends.

[https://mcpl.info/sites/default/files/images/2020-accomplishments\\_website-version.pdf](https://mcpl.info/sites/default/files/images/2020-accomplishments_website-version.pdf)

Information about the Advancing Racial Equity Collection in the Library’s Children’s Services

<https://mcpl.info/childrens/advancing-racial-equity-collection>

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**Coretta Scott King Book Awards** <http://www.ala.org/rt/emiert/ckbookawards>

The Coretta Scott King Book Awards are presented annually by the Ethnic and Multicultural Information Exchange Round Table of the American Library Association to outstanding African American authors and illustrators of books for children and young adults that demonstrate an appreciation of African American culture and universal human values. The award commemorates the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and honors his wife, Mrs. Coretta Scott King, for her courage and determination to continue the work for peace and world brotherhood.