



## Barefoot Books Donates Bilingual Navajo-English Collection to Navajo Nation Washington Office



*Left to Right: Vincent Redhouse, NNWO Executive Director; Nancy Traversy, Barefoot Books CEO & Co-Founder; and Sarah O'Neill, Director of Education & Special Markets. NNWO photo.*

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Representatives from Barefoot Books, an independent children's book publisher, visited the Navajo Nation Washington Office this week to present a special gift: 18 newly published bilingual Navajo-English books.

The Navajo-language titles are part of Barefoot Books' newly launched collection of bilingual editions, which now includes titles in nine languages. Prior to this initiative, the publisher had only released select titles in French and Spanish. Barefoot Books sees this as just the beginning and hopes to be able to add new titles to the Navajo collection in coming years. The publisher has nearly 1,000 books in its catalogue to choose from but is always looking for new stories that will spark curiosity and inspire the next generation of readers. Many of their authors already come from underrepresented communities, and with the expansion of their offerings into Navajo, the publishers want to make it a priority to collaborate with local authors to publish original stories that better reflect the voices, traditions, and experiences of the community.

During their visit, the Barefoot Book representatives expressed excitement about exploring ways to work with the Navajo Nation, including with the Office of the First Lady, to advance literacy across the Navajo Nation as well as in urban Navajo communities. They have a history of partnering with non-profit organizations such as First Book, Heart of America, Reading Is Fundamental, and Reach Out and Read, to get their books into the hands of as many children as possible. It was actually one of their partnering organizations that first suggested translating some of the books into Navajo.

“It was a pleasure to meet with Nancy Traversy, one of the original founders of Barefoot Books. The work they’re doing is important, and I look forward to seeing the kind of partnership they build with the Navajo people. Promoting literacy both in English *and Navajo* will help strengthen our language and culture, and give our children the tools they need to be successful in the world,” said NNWO Director Vincent Redhouse.

Founded in 1992, Barefoot Books has printed over 35 million books, building an international reputation for publishing culturally sensitive, creative children’s titles that promote global citizenship, social-emotional learning, STEAM education, and early childhood literacy. To make learning more interactive, they also maintain a YouTube channel with sing-along videos that accompany their collection of sing-along books. Their latest bilingual Navajo collection consists of eight paperbacks and ten board books designed for young readers, ages 0–7. Their books can be purchased at a variety of online retailers, including Amazon, Walmart, and Target, or directly from their website: [barefootbooks.com](http://barefootbooks.com).

The 18 donated titles will now be available for visitors to read in the Navajo Nation Washington Office, where they will join the office’s growing library and cultural display. Visitors to the Navajo Nation Washington Office are always welcome.

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For more information about the Navajo Nation Washington Office, please visit [www.nnwo.org](http://www.nnwo.org)