



From left, Niswonger Foundation representatives Larry Neas, Amanda Carpenter and Law Loving present books to Dr. Kristi Wallin of the Greene County Schools system to benefit the new “Magic Book Bus.”

Niswonger Foundation Provides Hundreds of Books for “Magic Book Bus”

The Niswonger Foundation has joined efforts by Greene County Schools to ensure that a new “Magic Book Bus” becomes a reality for local students.

With assistance from Robert Mahaffey, president of the Rural School and Community Trust, the Niswonger Foundation was connected with international publishing company *Penguin Press* to secure a contribution of over 500 books for middle and high school students.

The books are mostly classics by authors like John Steinbeck, Jane Austen, Emily Bronte and Mark Twain. There is an assortment of fiction for young adults, like John Green’s “The Fault in Our Stars.”

Various nonfiction and history books were also among the donated materials.

“We are honored to be part of the establishment of the “Magic Book Bus” in Greene County. Our children need every opportunity to develop their reading skills and to enjoy good books,” said Niswonger Foundation President and CEO, Dr. Nancy Dishner. “The development of effective literacy skills will be the decisive factor in our students’ ability to be prepared for post-secondary education and workforce readiness.”

Niswonger Foundation Literacy Coordinator, Larry Neas and Niswonger Foundation Literacy Specialist, Amanda Carpenter recently presented the books to Dr. Kristi Wallin, Greene County Schools’ K-8 curriculum supervisor.

Wallin stated that plans are for the “Magic Book Bus” to begin serving Greene County students this summer.

Neas and Carpenter coordinate the Literacy Initiative Focused on Effectiveness, or LIFE, program, which is a pilot K-2 literacy improvement initiative supporting Greene County Schools.

Law Loving, the Niswonger Foundation’s CareerConnect program coordinator, participated in the book presentation. CareerConnect supports students in the Greene County and Greeneville City high schools by introducing students to skills that ensure they are prepared for the workforce and career opportunities.

Additional contributions of books appropriate for students from pre-kindergarten through high school can be donated to the Greene County Schools Greene LEAF Foundation. For more information about donating to benefit the “Magic Book Bus,” contact Greene LEAF Executive Director Darlene McCleish at 423-470-9533.