



# Collection of novels presented to LMCH from Judith's Reading Room

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The Louisiana Methodist Children's Home (LMCH) in Ruston was recently honored with a custom collection of Young Adult and Graphic novels as a part of Judith's Reading Room's "15 Libraries to Celebrate its 15th Anniversary in 2025."

"As the flagship residential treatment program of Louisiana United Methodist Children & Family Services, a statewide nonprofit dedicated to the well-being of Louisiana's children, MCH provides comprehensive, intensive residential treatment for approximately 240 children ages 11-17 each year," said Michael Garriga, MCH



Courtesy photo

**The recreational staff at the Methodist Children's Home in Ruston joyfully celebrates the arrival of new graphic novels from Judith's Reading Room.**



Frequency:

City: Ruston

Circulation: 6300

State: LA

County: Lincoln



Communications Coordinator, Development and Public Relations. "This collaboration aims to enhance our at-risk children's lives by offering access to new books that can help foster a love for reading and support their academic growth,"

Judith's Reading Room was founded in 2010 in the memory of Judith F. Krug, a distinguished librarian and first cousin to the founders. Krug served as Director of the Office for Intellectual Freedom at the American Library Association for 40 years and is credited with establishing Banned Books Week. The organization is celebrating its 15th Anniversary by dedicating libraries that stretch across 4 oceans and 4 continents.

April 1, the start of National Child Abuse Prevention Month, was the re-inauguration of the Judith's Reading Room library. The effort is meant to bring awareness to the importance of communities working together to support families and protect children. The donation to the MCH includes 92 books with a cover price value of \$1,006, including Victoria Aveyard's Red Queen series, Jennifer Lynn Barnes's The Grandest Game and her Naturals series, Kazu Kibuishi's Amulet Graphic Novel series, and Five Nights at Freddie's Graphic Novels.

Sarah Head, Vice President, LUMCFS, said, "Many of the children who come to us are not reading proficiently. Building confidence inside and outside the classroom is essential to set-

ting these children up for success once they leave our care. One way to do that is to provide age-appropriate Graphic Novels."

Louisiana United Methodist Children & Family Services (LUMCFS) and Judith's Reading Room began their relationship in 2022 when Judith's Reading Room dedicated its 105th eponymous library with the idea that children healing from trauma can "get out of their heads" and into a good story. At that time, the organization donated 124 hand-picked books with a cover price value of \$1,449.

In 2023, the organization added to its library by donating 66 more books, specifically from a wish list provided by the children, with a cover price value of \$724. A donation made later that year plus the current donation of 92 books valued at \$1,006 brings to a total Judith's Reading Room investment of 982 books at a cover price of \$4,411.

"While it is impossible to measure precisely how a book may 'save' a child's life, there are numerous ways that books can have a profound, life-changing impact on a child," said Cathy Leiber, President of Judith's Reading Room. "We hope these books plant seeds of courage and hope. Creating opportunities for children to connect with the right book is an invaluable step in their journey."

Judith's Reading Room's mission is to enrich lives and societies by proactively encour-

aging freedom through literacy. That mission has been fulfilled by establishing 111 libraries in 25 countries, with 134,000 books donated worth over 1.4 million dollars.

The Judith's Reading Room board of directors voted to dedicate 15 new or enhanced Judith's Reading Room libraries around the world in 2025. LUMCFS is the organization's 7th library to be honored during the 15th Anniversary celebration.

Other sites dedicated during the 15th Anniversary Celebration during 2025 include Muhanga, Rwanda; Puerto Vallarta, Mexico; Toledo, Ohio; Southaven, Mississippi; Grenada, Mississippi; East Harlem, New York; Hillsboro, Oregon; Edinburgh, Scotland; Jamestown, New York; Chinle, Arizona; Bandarawela, Sri Lanka; Limpopo Province, South Africa; and Kathmandu, Nepal.

LUMCFS is a nonprofit organization with a 120-year history dedicated to the well-being of Louisiana's children and families. Its programs include the state's most intensive, comprehensive residential treatment in the three Methodist Children's Homes; the OWL Equine Center's therapeutic services for children; four Life Skills Training centers for children in foster care; Methodist Foster Care's therapeutic foster care program, the Kinship Navigator program, and the Louisiana Foster Care Support Organization; and the Family Counseling Center.