

Sistas Are Reading Volunteer Projects and Partnerships

1. **Mother's Day Brunch** – My book club has been gathering women for our annual Mother's Day Brunch to recognize mothers for their contribution to society. We also bring mothers and women together to share information that is out there but may not be readily available. Each year we have knowledgeable speakers who come and share vital information from breast cancer awareness, heart disease and its effect on women of color, organ donation, to car care and maintenance. We round out the event with a special conversation with an author who comes to share their life as a mother or as woman in today's society. We've had the pleasure of having many authors join us from Karen Quinones-Miller, Valerie Wilson-Wesley, Tiffany "The Budgetnista" Aliche, Bernice McFadden to Virginia DeBerry & Donna Grant.
3. **Cabaret and Charity Dance** – Since starting as a group we have always worked with the United Way in our community. They do so much for the community and as a group we decided to host a charity dance to help raise money for the United Way to help them continue their work in our communities. We also designated a portion of the proceeds to start our Scholarship Fund.
4. **Gift Wrapping at Borders Book Store (Literacy Connection)** – During the Christmas season every year Borders Book Stores would partner with United Way to raise money for literacy programs in Passaic County, NJ. Any donations that are given for items that are wrapped in the store go towards their literacy programs. For the previous 4 years my book club has participated in this event.
5. **Partner with local Food Bank, Community Food Bank of NJ** – Volunteer at my local food bank numerous times helping package and sort food items for families in need. Along with my book club, we also helped sort and package items for Hurricane Katrina victims. During the month of October, we have also worked with them in their yearly Supermarket "Check-Out Hunger" program that reaches out to local supermarkets who will donate proceeds from canned goods purchases. We volunteer and visit our designated local supermarket and solicit shoppers to donate recently purchased canned goods or in turn a small donation.
6. **Holiday Wishbook** -United Way has a Holiday Wishbook they publish each year right before the Christmas Season that includes holiday wishes from organizations, individuals and families that are in need of a little help. It benefits the surrounding Passaic County, NJ area and gets the message out there for anyone who is willing to lend a helping hand during the holiday season. We as a group select a family each year and we purchase for the family the items they have on their Christmas list hoping to make their holiday a little brighter. I also spearhead this program at my job with my co-workers.
7. **Donated books to start an African-American Library (March 2008)** – A member from a book club in Jackson, TN reached out to us asking for book donations for the creation of an African American library in their community for teenagers and young adults to keep them off the streets. The name of the library is the Nubian Library and we as a group were able to send over 50 books to this group to help jumpstart their library.
8. **Partnered with American Diabetes Association (2001)** – Sponsored a boat ride up the Hudson River in NYC. A portion of the proceeds went to ADA to help with research for a cure.

9. **Partnered with the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of NJ** for their Prince Hall Community Festival the last 7 years by distributing free books and school supplies to kids of all ages. This festival is held in different locations throughout New Jersey from Camden to Willingboro to East Orange.
10. **Raised funds for Making Strides Against Breast Cancer (American Cancer Society).** Raised funds by creating a specially made Breast Cancer Support the Cure t-shirt for a raffle giveaway during our bowling party fundraiser event. All the proceeds were sent to American Cancer Society.
11. **Volunteered with United Presbyterian Church of Paterson 2017-**Served hot meals to the community and distributed winter gear on Christmas morning.
12. **Partnered with several local organizations for National Night out 2018, 2019 & 2021.** Set up a table and gave out books and school supplies for all age groups, and in 2021 we added masks and sanitizer along with handing out pamphlets for various programs located around Essex County.
13. **Participated in the 2018 Voter registration rally and workshop-** Rally and workshop held during National Voter Registration Day in Paterson, NJ.
14. **Marched in a rally with P.O.P. (People's Organization for Progress)-**a rally was held in Newark July 2015 & July 2016 fighting for the rights for racial injustice, police brutality, voting rights and economic inequality.

Notable Awards and Honorable Mentions

- Received the National Book Club Conference "Community Service Award" in Atlanta in 2008
- Featured article in Black Expressions Magazine Book Club Spotlight in 2002
- Featured article in The Star Ledger Newspaper, "Book Club" section in 2005
- Acknowledged in Karen Quinones-Miller Book "I'm Telling" (2010)
- Member spotlight in Brandon Massey's book "Don't Ever Tell"

