



Geauga County  
**Public Library**

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## Press Release

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### **GCPL launches “1,000 Books Before Kindergarten”**

*Participating children receive free T-shirt*

**Geauga County – Jan. 5, 2017** –To help families foster a love for reading in their young children, GCPL is launching “1,000 Books Before Kindergarten.” Reading is an essential life skill linked to successful practices throughout childhood and adult life. Establishing the patterns and habits that create solid early literacy practices is a long-standing goal of Geauga County Public Library. Studies show that families that start reading aloud to their children at birth help strengthen their language skills and build their vocabulary — important tools when learning to read in kindergarten.

To sign up, parents need to visit their local GCPL branch. Participating children will receive a free 1,000 Books T-shirt featuring our new raccoon mascot. Additionally, parents will receive a book-tracking flyer and as milestones are reached, their children’s names will be added to a special page on GeaugaLibrary.net.

The best benefit, though, is building the reading confidence and letter and word recognition long before children even enter the kindergarten classroom. “We’re thrilled to be bringing this program to our youngest readers,” says GCPL Director Ed Worso. “Early literacy remains one of our key objectives, and this program is a practical and fun way to introduce kids to the joy of learning through reading.”

GCPL’s “1,000 Books Before Kindergarten” program is sponsored the Geauga County Library Foundation. The 1000 Books Foundation is a Nevada 501(c)(3) non-profit public charity, which was founded in 2013 to promote reading to newborns, infants and toddlers and seeks to encourage parent-child bonding through reading. The 1000 Books Foundation helps facilitate the implementation of 1000 Books Before Kindergarten ([www.1000BooksBeforeKindergarten.org](http://www.1000BooksBeforeKindergarten.org)) reading programs nationwide and in Canada.



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## About the Geauga County Public Library

The Geauga County Public Library includes four full-service branches in Bainbridge, Chardon, Chesterland (Geauga West) and Middlefield; two library stations housed in schools in Newbury and Thompson; two Bookmobiles that serve farms and community centers; a Lobby Stop vehicle; a car for homebound patrons; and one administrative center where technical services, computer services, facilities and administrative functions reside. GCPL has more than 500,000 books and ebooks. The collection also contains more than 100,000 audio / video items and 400 research databases available through its website. GCPL is a member of the SearchOhio / OhioLINK consortium, giving patrons access to more than 66 million items. Learn more about the Geauga County Public Library at the [GCPL website](http://GCPL website), GeaugaLibrary.net.

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1,000



**BOOKS BEFORE  
KINDERGARTEN**

**Caption:** GCPL is proud to launch its "1,000 Books Before Kindergarten" program. All participating children receive a free T-shirt. Sign up at local GCPL branches.