



1 March 2023

Literacy is the foundation for effective communication. As professionals dedicated to educating our youth, you understand that low early literacy and illiteracy are challenges that stem from early childhood and have a long-lasting impact throughout adulthood. To do our part to help end poverty and increase literacy across the Nation, the Toys for Tots (TFT) Literacy Program provides books throughout the year with the belief that access to books will assist with enhancing a child's literacy skills.

In 2020 when the COVID-19 pandemic began, the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation initiated an endeavor to help lessen children's anxiety and bring normalcy to their lives by providing books directly to schools receiving Title I funding. This initiative was responsible for distributing over 172,000 books to children attending Title I schools. Since then, the TFT Literacy Program distributed over 500,000 books in 2021 and over 800,000 books in 2022. Your school and/or school district can benefit from our Program and request books for specific reading levels which will be shipped directly to you. There is no cost to your school due to the significant generosity of the American public. Assisting in this effort is the National Association of ESEA State Program Administrators (or NAESPA, where ESEA is the Elementary and Secondary Education Act).

The Marine Toys for Tots Foundation launched the TFT Literacy Program in 2008. Our Program is a year-round initiative to support children in need across our Nation. The Program offers the Nation's most economically disadvantaged children the ability to compete academically and to succeed in life by providing them direct access to books and educational resources that enhance their ability to read and communicate effectively. This Program not only brings the joy of reading to these children, but also serves as an important tool in breaking the cycle of poverty. The TFT Literacy Program distributed 6.3 million books in 2022 and has distributed over 53 million books to disadvantaged children since the Program's inception.

To assist children directly, or to help teachers with reading material in their classrooms or school libraries, we will ship reading level appropriate books that focus on topics, as much as possible, on subjects that provide children with the tools necessary to be successful throughout their lives. Books that focus on STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) as well as titles that provide both entertainment and enrichment. We will send up to 1M books across the Nation with this back-to-school endeavor!

We invite you to go to our Title I School Book Request Form located here [Title I Book Form](#), or via the QR Code below, and indicate your needs. The Title I Request Form will be available on 1 March and conclude 14 April.

The Marine Toys for Tots Foundation looks forward to assisting your students with greater access to books. We hope that by providing these books, we are in a small part helping your mission of educating our Nation's most precious resource – our children!

Thank you for all you do and Semper Fidelis!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Laster".

Jim Laster  
Lieutenant General, USMC (Ret)  
President & CEO



**The Marine Toys for Tots Foundation is a Combined Federal Campaign approved charity (#10400)  
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