

M-NASR Aktion Club

Single Service Project 2024–25

Bernie's Book Bank

BOOK DRIVE AND VOLUNTEER DAY



M-NASR Aktion Club arrives at Bernie's Book Bank to deliver the books they collected and to volunteer on site.

Service need:

Maine-Niles Association of Special Recreation (M-NASR) is an extension of seven park districts in the northwest suburbs of Chicago. M-NASR's Aktion Club is sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Park Ridge. Bernie's Book Bank is Chicago-area nonprofit that collects, processes and distributes new and gently used children's books to children who need them. According to Bernie's Book Bank, two out of three children lack books in their households. Upon learning this, our club decided they wanted to help Bernie's in their mission to empower children in under-resourced communities to explore new ideas, gain knowledge, and strengthen reading skills through book ownership.

Advocating on behalf of children's literacy was something our members felt excited about and Bernie's Book Bank offered numerous tangible ways to help, where Aktion Club members could use their time and energy to make a real difference.

Project plan:

At one of their meetings, our Aktion Club members decided to organize a book drive to collect children's books to donate to Bernie's Book Bank. They developed a plan together, first designing a flyer. They distributed the flyer in person, via email and via M-NASR's social media to let people know they would be collecting books for children. After collecting the books, they planned to deliver them to the Bernie's Book Bank facility, where they would also participate in one of Bernie's volunteer sessions to process books for distribution.



M-NASR's Aktion Club is starting a new service project and they need your help! They're collecting children's books for Bernie's Book Bank. If you have any gently used or new books for children aged birth to sixth grade, you can drop them off at the M-NASR office between now and October 6. Help Action Club help make book ownership a reality for area children who don't have books to call their own.



AKTION CLUB BOOK DRIVE

Help us support Bernie's Book Bank and their mission of creating pathways to success through book ownership by **donating children's books!**

Bernie's Book Bank accepts new and gently used children's books, aged birth through sixth grade.

Please no workbooks, textbooks or reference material. For more information go to www.berniesbookbank.org



DROP OFF YOUR BOOKS BY OCTOBER 6 HERE:

**M-NASR Office
6820 W. Dempster Street
Morton Grove, IL 60053**

M-NASR Aktion Club is a community service organization designed for adults with disabilities, offered in partnership with the Park Ridge Kiwanis Club.

2 out of 3 children have no books of their own



Empower children to strengthen reading skills



Help us increase book ownership in local communities



QUESTIONS?

Contact Kelly Brunning at kbrunning@mnasr.org or 847-966-5522



1 share

M-NASR Aktion Club's book drive flyer, posted to M-NASR's social media and distributed in person and via email.

Project implementation:

Part 1: Book drive. Along with spreading the word about their book drive, Aktion Club members placed bins in M-NASR's office, where community members could drop off their donations. They monitored the bins and sorted the books, removing any that didn't meet the criteria that Bernie's Book Bank outlined.



Several M-NASR Aktion Club members with their book donation bin and donated books at the M-NASR office.

Part 2: Delivering books and volunteering at the Bernie's Book Bank facility. Aktion Club members traveled to Bernie's Book Bank in Lake Bluff, Illinois, where they delivered the books, they had collected. They then proceeded to one of Bernie's volunteer sessions, where they helped sort and sticker books to be distributed to local children.



M-NASR Aktion Club members volunteering at the Bernie's Book Bank facility after dropping off the books they collected during their book drive.

Final results:

The book drive was a success, resulting in about 500 donated books. Aktion Club's advisor, Kelly Brunning, arranged for members to deliver them personally to Bernie's Book Bank and to volunteer as a group at the facility to help process books for distribution to local children. As a result of the Aktion Club book drive, Bernie's Book Bank received books that could be distributed directly to Chicagoland children who need them. Studies have shown that book ownership improves literacy skills. By donating books and their time, M-NASR's Aktion Club helped to empower the children Bernie's Book Bank serves.



M-NASR Aktion Club members at the Bernie's Book Bank facility.

Public awareness:

Members distributed flyers in person and via email and let friends, family and community members know about the book drive. They used M-NASR's social media to help spread the word and to report on their volunteer session. They enjoyed it so much that they returned to Bernie's Book Bank in the spring!



Examples of M-NASR Aktion Club's public awareness efforts on M-NASR's social media.

Member impact:

Aktion Club members learned that when it came to the issue of children's literacy, they could use their platform in a variety of ways, whether it's collecting books to donate, advocating and spreading awareness of the importance of books for children or donating their time at the Bernie's Book Bank facility. They learned that while some people take books for granted, others don't have any. It made them happy to be able to provide books that might otherwise be sitting unused on a shelf or in a basement to children who will be happy to receive and read them. They were excited to play a part in helping get books ready for distribution at the Bernie's Book Bank facility, where they worked together in an efficient manner to help ensure that deliveries would be going out on schedule. They saw the valuable impact that volunteers can make when working together.

Additional information:

M-NASR Aktion Club members take great pride in their service projects. They are always thinking about new ways to give back to the community but their connection to Bernie's Book Bank is strong so they will continue to include them in their growing calendar of upcoming projects.