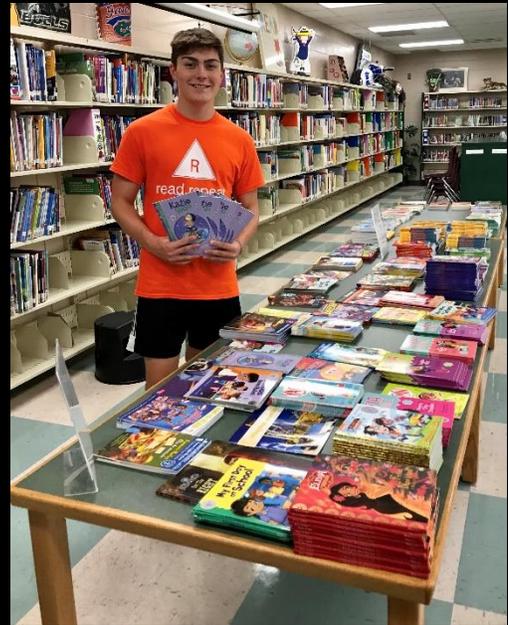


# CHASE HARTMAN

Co-Founder of read.repeat. and Eco Brothers, Inc.

MEDIA PACK

2016-2022



# CHANGEMAKING IN ACTION: HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2022 YOUTH SUMMIT

AUG 2, 2022 BY [POINTS OF LIGHT](#)

The 2022 [Points of Light Conference](#) was filled with memorable moments, but one that stood out in particular was this year's Youth Summit. In case you missed it, here's a recap of what went down... Don't forget to mark your calendar for June 14-16, 2023 so you can be in attendance at next year's Conference.

The Youth Summit opened with a welcome from [Points of Light President and CEO Natalye Paquin](#) and [Points of Light Board Chair Neil Bush](#). After sharing about his father's founding of the [Daily Point of Light](#)



[Award](#) program, Natalye and Neil awarded [Michelle Song](#) of Greenville, North Carolina, with the day's Daily Point of Light Award for her efforts in environmental conservation.

"With the right support, young people, you are changing the world," Natalye said, before handing things off to President and Board Chair of KPMG Foundation Anita Whitehead. Anita introduced the various ways the KPMG Foundation has revitalized its mission and poured funding into equity and diversity efforts, committing millions of dollars to this focus.

Anita then interviewed the keynote speaker, [Orion Jean](#), [2021 Time Kid of the Year](#) and Ambassador for Kindness, who spoke about his personal journey and gave helpful advice to any young person looking to make a change.

He encouraged young people who see problems they want to fix to be proactive, reaching out to adults who can help them secure the resources they need to contribute their talents and energy to that issue. He also encouraged adults with resources to support kids with a vision, as the power to change the world lies in this type of collaboration.

Following Orion's chat with Anita, four members of the Points of Light Youth Council—[Esha Venkat](#), [Chase Hartman](#), [Eleanor Ann Schoenbrun](#) and [Adom Appiah](#)—and Generation Amazing Youth Advocate Sayed Alam—joined a moderated panel discussion. Each spoke about their individual civic journeys and shared touching moments from their experiences.

From fostering hope in communities through uplifting words and gestures... to reinforcing the message that we are never alone, but supported... to releasing one's ego in volunteering and learning to be a team player... these five leaders passed on a wealth of knowledge and encouragement for all the civically engaged youth in attendance. "Embrace the vulnerability of not knowing what you're doing," shared Adom Appiah.

One theme highlighted again and again was the importance of listening and learning before acting. Several Points of Light Youth Council members spoke about how their nonprofits or initiatives had changed as the leaders themselves continued to learn and grow.

While this year's Youth Summit featured a powerful group of young leaders, Points of Light is committed to uplifting youth voices every single year at the [Points of Light Conference](#). So don't miss next year's conference in Chicago June 14-16, 2023—save the date now so you can join us in person.

[HTTPS://WWW.POINTSOFLIGHT.ORG/BLOG/CHANGEMAKING-IN-ACTION-HIGHLIGHTS-FROM-THE-2022-YOUTH-SUMMIT/?FBCLID=IWAR3JYWHDOXN7OXBVBF4YWBM1OWDOD9X2IDVQ3CLZS7XJ6R88Y1SNNZMJ-M](https://www.pointsoflight.org/blog/changemaking-in-action-highlights-from-the-2022-youth-summit/?fbclid=IWAR3JYWHDOXN7OXBVBF4YWBM1OWDOD9X2IDVQ3CLZS7XJ6R88Y1SNNZMJ-M)



## SERVICE-MINDED AND MOTIVATED: MY JOURNEY THROUGH VOLUNTEERISM

BY CHASE HARTMAN

*Chase Hartman (r) and co-founder of "read.repeat." (and fellow NEHS and NJHS member) Vance Tomasi deliver thousands of new books to Cleveland Elementary School, purchased from a grant award.*



*Chase Hartman, co-founder of the nonprofit "read.repeat."*

Volunteering is an instrumental opportunity for youth to develop organizational and social skills while learning the importance of helping others and giving back to the community. Service has become an outlet for me to enjoy friendships, build leadership skills, and solve problems. When I was just 10 years old, I began a service project with my best friend called "read.repeat." which, over the course of the last five years, has grown into its own nonprofit. My goal as a fifth grader was simple: to collect as many books as possible and give them to those in need. I've now

distributed more than 170,000 books to locations in all 50 states, and I've raised more than \$90,000 for literacy and the environment.

Devoting time to participate in service events while balancing a sometimes-overwhelming schedule of sports and academic events can be difficult. Discovering my passion for books and the need for more of them in struggling areas of our country is what made me grasp the fact that volunteering is not just an obligation but a way to develop new skills and compassion for those around me. Volunteering doesn't have to be an all-encompassing commitment. But, by dedicating even a couple hours a week, students can make an impact.

**FINDING YOUR PASSION**

Discovering my passion for books and realizing that kids in struggling areas often don't own any books of their own sparked a determination in me to create positive changes within my



community. It all started with one small idea at the end of my fourth-grade year. My National Elementary Honor Society (NEHS) chapter was doing a book drive for a local homeless care facility where the admittance fee to a school dance was the donation of at least one book. Preparing for this one event changed the way I viewed my role in the world. I realized that even at my young age, I had the power to make a difference. The event was a great success and knowing that we were impacting people less fortunate with these books inspired me to do more. So, I began running my own book collection project and eventually realized these key points to staying motivated at a young age:

- Finding activities that you enjoy can help spark a greater drive to stay involved in service.
- Keeping events short will make the project feel less like a job. Plus, a quick event is easier for potential participants to fit into their schedules.
- Action-oriented events can help the participants stay engaged. For young volunteers, we have them sort and count books into specific categories and age groups, so we're organized and prepared for deliveries to schools.

### EXPANDING YOUR REACH

As I ventured into middle school, my job responsibilities matured. I began running our Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram accounts, and I communicated with adults to coordinate events. Once we developed a following on social media, "read.repeat." was discovered by our county's public school system, and we formed a partnership that has since impacted the lives of over 35,000 students in Hillsborough County, FL. It was exhilarating to meet with adults who understood that kids had the ability to help local schools and students. I believe that forming alliances with adults and companies has helped the project grow immensely.

I realized that whether you're organizing an event or looking to participate in one, finding like-minded people can really help you. Friendships slowly become more important as kids grow older, and a welcoming club can motivate students to stay involved. When I became friends with many of my fellow students in NJHS, their motivation for service and interest in my project led to more collaborating, including hosting a book drive within the organization and getting my project recognized by every student and teacher in the school. Meeting new friends in clubs and getting support from my peers and family was important to me and made community service feel more socially acceptable.

### LISTEN AND LEAD

As I grew, so did my project and eventually it was time to take it to the next level. In high school, I transitioned my service project into

**If you want to get involved with "read.repeat.," contact Hartman via email at [books@readrepeat.org](mailto:books@readrepeat.org).**

a 501c3 nonprofit called Eco Brothers in hopes of expanding my reach and inspiring others. One of my goals was to connect with more students in my area, so I started a Youth Board with seven members to contribute fresh ideas and opinions on how teens could impact the community. With those ideas, we began offering opportunities for high school students to complete much needed, required community service hours.

As a student, I'm thankful for the many adults who have listened to my ideas on how I can help, and I feel it's important for more teens to have our voices heard. We have many valuable opinions that need to be considered, but some might be intimidated to speak out. When I encourage my Youth Board to share ideas for upcoming events, I notice that they are more excited to be involved. I feel young people can offer a different way to look at problems, which can lead to refreshing approaches to change. In addition, I'm proud that the Youth Board is structured so that each member gets an equal opportunity to experience leadership.

At first, looking back at my journey of service from elementary school to high school can seem a little overwhelming. If I said aloud as a 10-year old that I was going to donate 170,000 books and raise nearly \$100,000 for community initiatives, people might have said that would be impossible, underestimating my potential because of my age. My project began with a lot of adult support when I was in elementary school, and now I feel I'm able to encourage young people to be leaders by showing them a good example and including as many people as I can in our efforts.

As of now, I've dedicated more than 1,000 hours to service, but I was able to stay motivated because I enjoyed every minute of it. I set and achieved small goals and took everything one step at a time, and I really enjoyed the process of creating positive change. I've built a successful nonprofit with the help of hundreds of students, teachers, media specialists, and principals in my county, and I was given so much encouragement along the way. ●

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**Chase Hartman** is a sophomore at Sickles High School in Tampa, FL, where he is a member of student government, and he's also an Eagle Scout. His service has been recognized by the Environmental Protection Agency's President's Environmental Youth Award, Florida's Prudential Spirit of Community Awards, and he was named Community Hero of Tomorrow by the Tampa Bay Lightning hockey team.

# FOX 13 TAMPA BAY

## Teenage Bookworm Shares Love of Books

1/27/2022

### Teen donates thousands of books to underserved children

Kelly Ring reports.

**WIMAUMA, Fla.** - Recently, Chase Hartman and his family delivered more than 2,000 books to students at Wimauma Elementary School. "I've always been



passionate in reading and writing, and so I wanted to share my love of reading and writing, and I thought this was the perfect way to do it," he explained.

"The moms had to be the ones to carry the heavy boxes of books," shared Kim Parrish, Chase's mom. "And at about 25,000 books, I thought, are we done yet?" Hartman eventually recruited his younger brother Zach to help. They call their effort Eco Brothers.

"It makes you feel really good to see all the kids," he shared. "When they come in, they see all the books. It makes me feel really happy, especially if it's just a small smile and then picking up a book. I know that it made their day and it makes me really happy." Principal Ismael Lebron-Bravo says it's a great way to help out students who have a hard time getting books. "It's great to see a student like him doing this for our students who they don't have access to books. The only time they get to go to the library is when they come here and ask in our school,"

Lebron=Bravo stated. Hartman has an important lesson for his peers. "My message is to follow your passion and to get involved in your community. Even if it's just small actions, doing something small for someone can make such a big impact," he said. Hartman has given away more than 100,000 books and hopes fellow students will follow his example of helping others.



Hartman collects books from the community and money that he raises off social media.

<https://www.fox13news.com/news/teenage-bookworm-shares-passion-for-reading-with-thousands-of-underprivileged-students>



## Chase Hartman as Lightning Community Hero of Tomorrow

10/19/2019

TAMPA BAY - The Tampa Bay Lightning honored Chase Hartman as the second Lightning Community Hero this season during the first period of tonight's game versus the Colorado Avalanche. Hartman, who received a \$50,000 donation from the Lightning Foundation and the Lightning Community Heroes program, will



donate half the funds to Hillsborough County Schools, while the other half will go towards a scholarship for his education.

Hartman, an eighth grader at Farnell Middle school, has a passion for promoting literacy in schools. He started his own organization, Read.Repeat, which collects and donates books to schools nationwide. Hartman has already collected 110,000 books for 200 different locations in all 50 states. By partnering with Hillsborough County Schools, Hartman has helped 25,000 local students receive the literary resources they need to achieve a strong educational foundation. Hartman's organization not only helps improve literacy, but also helps the environment by promoting reuse. Read.Repeat has saved nearly 3,200 trees by distributing used books to schools. The Environmental Protective Agency awarded Read.Repeat with the Presidential Environmental Youth Award for its environmental awareness.

After learning that the Hispanic population makes up 35% of Hillsborough County, Hartman wanted to do more to help Spanish-speaking students. His new initiative, "Lightning Libros", will provide Spanish-speaking Kindergarten students in Hillsborough County with dual-language books to take home and read with their families. These books will also be delivered to each school's Reading Instructor, who will help run the program.

Hartman becomes the 370th Lightning Community Hero. <https://www.nhl.com/lightning/news/chase-hartman-honored-as-lightning-community-hero-of-tomorrow/c-310282342>



# POINTS OF LIGHT

## Florida Teen Volunteers to Improve Literacy

6/23/2020

Meet [Daily Point of Light Award](#) honoree Chase Hartman. Read his story and [nominate](#) an outstanding volunteer or family as a Daily Point of Light.

One in four children in America grow up without [learning how to read](#), and students who don't read proficiently by the 3rd grade are [four times more likely](#) to drop out of school. 14-year-old Chase Hartman says that in his Tampa, Florida community, it is not uncommon to come across students who don't read at age level, an issue the rising high school freshman decided to try to solve.

Discovering that some children in his community didn't own books and at the same time, people and businesses dispose of a huge number of new and used books every day, Chase launched [read.repeat.](#) in 2016 along with a fellow student. Getting new and gently used books into the hands of those in need, Chase has distributed over 120,000 books thus far at schools, hospitals and libraries across all 50 states, supporting literacy and helping to improve the future for thousands of impoverished children.



### SHARE ONE PERSONAL STORY WITH ME FROM YOUR VOLUNTEERISM.

On our first book drive in Tampa where kids got to come and pick up books, we donated 1,400 books. One girl picked up her books, and then was interviewed by the local news. She told them, "I'm going to hold it, I'm going to love it, and I'm going to read it." That was very impactful to us because she was one of the first kids we met through our volunteering, and she didn't have many books at home, but we knew she was going to take our donated books and would read with her family at night and have fun with the books she read.

### YOU ALSO SUPPORT DIVERSITY IN LITERACY AND DUAL-LANGUAGE RESOURCES. EXPLAIN.

35% of our county is Hispanic and 21% of the families in our county speak Spanish as their first language, so many kids enter school not knowing English. In addition, we realized a lot of the books we were giving out didn't feature the demographics of the kids in the schools we visited. When we visited [Cleveland Elementary School](#) in Tampa, where 92% of the students are minorities, we donated \$2,000 worth of new books with diversity to students along with used books. Kids need to see themselves in the books they read. In total, we've raised more than \$7,000 for books with diversity and \$25,000 for dual-language books.

<https://www.pointsoflight.org/awards/florida-teen-volunteers-to-improve-youth-literacy/>

3/7/18 – Governor of Florida Website

<https://www.flgov.com/2018/03/07/governor-scott-and-volunteer-florida-present-champion-of-service-award-3/>



## Governor Scott and Volunteer Florida Present Champion of Service Award



**TALLAHASSEE, Fla.** – Today, during a meeting of the Florida Cabinet, Governor Rick Scott and Volunteer Florida Chief Executive Officer Vivian Myrtetus awarded 12-year-olds Chase Hartman and Vance Tomasi with the Volunteer Florida Champion of Service Award, Florida’s official statewide volunteer recognition.

Governor Scott said, “At such a young age, Chase and Vance have devoted their time to giving back and making a difference in their community. Their incredible work to deliver books to students across the state makes them worthy recipients of the Champion of Service Award today.”

Volunteer Florida CEO Vivian Myrtetus said, “Volunteer Florida is honored to give this award to Chase and Vance for their outstanding work in collecting and distributing thousands of books to those in need throughout the state. It’s inspiring to see their commitment and dedication to helping others at only 12 years old.”

### **About the Champion of Service Recipients:**

Chase Hartman and Vance Tomasi are two 12 -year-old boys from Tampa, Florida, who created “read. repeat.,” an organization that collects gently used books from companies and individuals and distributes them to those in need. So far, they have collected more than 40,000 books of all kinds. Their most impactful deliveries have been to 10 local Title 1 schools in Florida where they donated a total of 13,000 books, including Sheehy Elementary School, which suffered from a flood and lost classroom libraries, and Lee Elementary School, which burned down days after Hurricane Irma moved through Tampa. Under the leadership of Chase and Vance, “read. repeat.” makes monthly donations to the James Haley Veterans’ Hospital, with more than 3,000 books donated so far.

*L-R- Attorney General Pam Bondi, Governor Rick Scott, Volunteer Florida Chief Executive Officer Vivian Myrtetus, Chase Hartman, Vance Tomasi, Chief Financial Officer Jimmy Patronis, Commissioner of Agriculture Adam H. Putnam.*

# Q&A With Microgrant Recipients Chase

June 13, 2019

Karma for Cara Foundation awards microgrants to youths 18 years of age and younger who spearhead exceptional service projects in their communities. Meet Chase (12) from Tampa, FL, co-founder of the nonprofit [read. repeat.](#) Chase and his friend Vance have donated over 90,000 books in the past two years through their nonprofit's activities. They collect books through book drives for their local county school system to be given either directly to schools or to children who might not otherwise own books. However, most of the books they donate only represent a small percentage of the children attending those schools. They also realize there is a need for popular books with diversity, representing the minorities in their county. It is their goal to give kids books that represent them. They are leaders of the only "kid-run" book collecting nonprofit in their county and collected books through May 2019 for this particular project.

1. **What inspired you to start this project?** We love reading and started our project called "read.repeat." almost three years ago to share our love of books. We've now donated more than 100,000 books and we're most proud of the 60,000 we've delivered to Title 1 schools and students. Our favorite deliveries are when we take thousands of books to a school, set up tables piled with donations and help kids pick out books to read over the summer and to keep! We began realizing the majority of the books we collected did not represent the vast diversity of ethnicities we see in schools.



- We knew we wanted to collect as many books with diversity to provide kids with new, high-interest books with characters like them. We also knew that for children in struggling areas, having the chance to own a new book of their very own would inspire them even more to enjoy it.
2. **Other than you, how many student volunteers participated in your service project?** 34
  3. **How many adult volunteers participated in your service project?** 12
  4. **How many hours did you spend on your project?** 120
  5. **How many hours did other volunteers spend on your project?** 85
  6. **How many individuals were affected by your project?** 350
  7. **During the time period between when you applied for a K4C microgrant & when you completed the project, what surprised you?** We are constantly surprised by how many people help this project. We applied for the K4C microgrant and also ran a GoFundMe to match the grant so we could definitely afford

to buy each child at [Cleveland Elementary School](#) one new book with diversity and supply each of the 17 classrooms with 10-15 new books for their libraries. We also collected 3000 used books so the kids could get an additional 6 books to help combat the summer slide. We were shocked by how many individuals came forward to donate money to this cause. Along with the books, my little brother, Zach, raised money to supply each child with a book bag so they'd have a place to store the books. Cleveland is described as a transient school; kids move around a lot, sometimes living in the surrounding motels. Zach felt it was important to provide the students with a safe place to keep their books. With the help of so many people making monetary donations we gave kids not just a bag filled with books but the key to a positive educational future.

8. **Overall what did you learn from this experience?** Kids need high-interest books with characters that look like them! Although there were piles of thousands of used books for the students to sort through the most exciting books were located on the special tables containing the books-with-diversity provided by the K4C microgrant. Cleveland Elementary School's demographics are 70% African American, 30% Hispanic, 4% Mixed and 6% White. The kids squealed with excitement to see characters like Little Shaq, Sofia Martinez, Jada Jones, Mya Tibbs and Freddie Ramos!
9. **How will your project continue having an impact in the future?** It is proven that kids who own books do better in school and kids who read over the summer combat the "summer slide," returning to school in the fall prepared to learn. The 350 kids at Cleveland Elementary headed into summer equipped with the tools to supply a more positive experience in school next year. Because we were able to purchase additional books for the classrooms, providing each classroom with 10-15 books for the new school year, we have given the teachers additional resources to keep their kids engaged in reading next year and years to come.
10. **How was the K4C microgrant helpful in the completion of your project?** "read.repeat." has donated 100,000 books in the past three years, more than 60,000 going to Hillsborough County Public Schools and its students. Most of our donations are used books. By providing new, high-interest, books of diversity we increased the excitement level of the students toward reading. Without the microgrant we would have never been able to provide each student with a new book containing characters like them. For many of the kids, this was the first new book for them to own!

<https://www.baynews9.com/fl/tampa/news/2019/05/29/bay-area-teens-donate-books-to-kids-over-summer-break>

BAY AREA TEENS DONATE BOOKS TO KIDS OVER SUMMER BREAK

BAY NEWS9

SPECTRUM  
NEWS 9

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FO



Vance Tomasi and Chase Hartman, both 13-years-old, started the Read Repeat program in 2016 to share their love of books and to save the planet. (Courtesy of Read Repeat website)



**Tutoring Service  
Helps  
Underprivileged  
Children to Succeed**  
Hillsborough County | 1  
week ago



**Migrant Families  
Learn About School  
System Via New**

By [Jason Lanning](#) Tampa

PUBLISHED May 29, 2019 @7:43 AM

**TAMPA, Fla.** — Two Bay Area teens are changing kids' lives one book at a time.

### Bay Area teens donating books to community

Vance Tomasi and Chase Hartman, both 13-years-old, started the [Read Repeat program](#) in 2016 to share their love of books and to save the planet.

The teens collect thousands of gently used books a month and distribute them to schools, hospitals, libraries, and organizations. The books are either donated or collected from landfills.

So far they have collected over 85,000 books and distributed over 83,000 books to the community and charities in other states.

"Books help inspire kids to do great things, and great things help the world," said Vance Tomasi.

Students at Cleveland Elementary will also get to enjoy those books. The boys plan to donate hundreds of books today to the school, thanks to a grant from Karma for Cara and a GoFundMe page they started. "We think it's important for the younger kids to start reading because if they start off reading they will continue reading through middle school, high school, and later in life," Tomasi said.

Each student at Cleveland Elementary will be able to take seven books home with them.

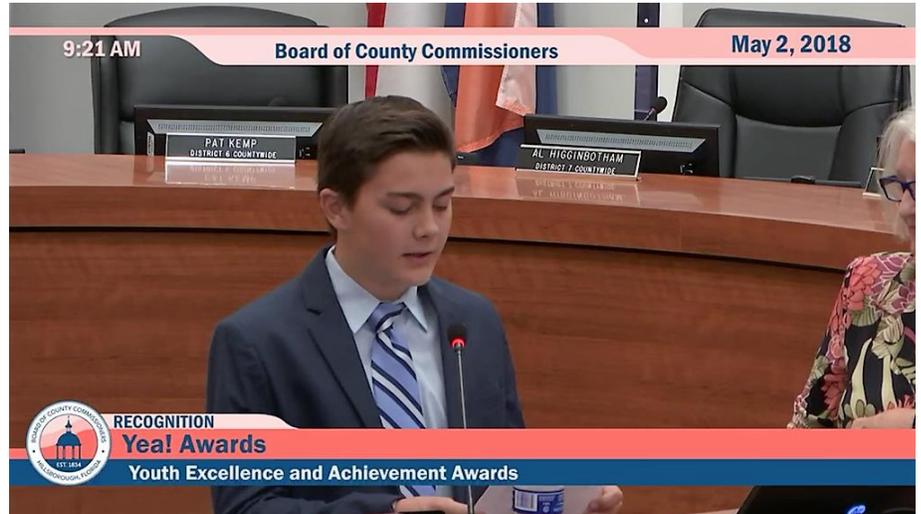
## 5/3/2018 Hillsborough County Youth Excellence Award, YEA

<http://www.hillsboroughcounty.org/en/government/board-of-county-commissioners/youth-excellence-and-achievement-award-yea-award>

## Youth Excellence and Achievement Award (YEA! Award)

The Board of County Commissioners created the YEA! Awards in 2010 to recognize Hillsborough County students for making a difference in their community. The award recipients show initiative, innovation, and commitment to themselves and others, while pursuing excellence in a leadership capacity. This can be demonstrated in academics, community service, athletics, performing arts, conservation, or other areas.

All students who live in Hillsborough County are eligible for the YEA! Awards, whether they attend public or private schools, or are



home-schooled. The Hillsborough County Commission on the Status of Women reviews the nominations and selects six winners, three from high school and three from middle school, in one of three categories:

- Leadership - demonstrating positive impact on others in an ongoing endeavor, such as sports, academics, or the arts
- Success Despite Difficult Odds - overcoming tremendous personal difficulty to attain success and to make a positive impact on others
- Volunteer or Community Service - allocating discretionary time to help others or complete a project that has improved our community

The Board of County Commissioners presents the awards at a Board meeting each spring.

### 2018 YEA! Awards winners

The Board of County Commissioners presented the 2018 Youth Excellence and Achievement Awards (YEA! Awards) to these six outstanding young people on May 2, 2018:

#### Leadership

- [James LaFayette, Jr.](#), Orange Grove Middle Magnet
- [Brooke Shapiro](#), H.B. Plant High School

#### Success Despite Difficult Odds

- [Carlie Wilson](#), Burnett Middle School
- [Isaac Cross](#), Livingstone Academy

#### Volunteer or Community Service

- [Chase Hartman](#), Farnell Middle School
- [Harsh Bagdy](#), C. Leon King High School

10/26/2017 – ABC Action News

[http://www.abcactionnews.com/news/local-news/middle-school-students-start-readrepeat-non-profit-saving-38000-books-from-landfills?utm\\_content=bufferda3b3&utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=twitter.com&utm\\_campaign=buffer](http://www.abcactionnews.com/news/local-news/middle-school-students-start-readrepeat-non-profit-saving-38000-books-from-landfills?utm_content=bufferda3b3&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter.com&utm_campaign=buffer)



## Middle school students start 'Read.Repeat.' non-profit saving 38,000 books from landfills

Read.Repeat donates books to schools and hospitals

BY: Sean Daly

POSTED: 3:28 AM, Oct 26, 2017



TAMPA, Fla. - Book-lovers and best friends Chase Hartman and Vance Tomasi are not even teenagers. But the two boys are [getting national buzz](#) for their Tampa-based non-profit organization, read.repeat.

The group has saved 38,000 books from landfills, redistributing them to those in need. The Farnell Middle Schoolers recently received the [President's Environmental Youth Award](#) for that effort.

But the boys' humanitarian work is just as strong. They have donated books to needy schools, the Goodwill and the Salvation Army. They also personally delivered books to the James A. Haley Veterans Hospital.

"We see the smile on their faces and know we've done something good," says Chase.

The boys began [read.repeat.](#) when a local company was about to throw away a few thousand books. Chase and Vance took the books, sorted them and found a local school that desperately needed them.

And thus began the journey. Saving books. Delivering books. And making people happy.

"We loaded up my mom's car with 1,200 books," says Vance. "It was down like a lowrider!"

They have only been doing this for 15 months, but they now have dropboxes for donations and [social media accounts](#) to inspire other kids.

Lot of donations and lots of requests for books.

They helped Sheehy Elementary and Robles Elementary and delivered 3,000 books to the VA Hospital.

"Typically with kids, they give up on things kind of quickly," says Kim Parrish, Chase's mother. "I'm absolutely shocked they've been doing this for 15 months."

But these are special kids, she says. And a lot of people, including some in Washington, agree with her.

8/15/2017 – ABC Action News

<http://www.abcactionnews.com/morning-blend/floridas-top-youth-volunteer-prudential-spirit-of-community-awards>



## Florida's Top Youth Volunteer - Prudential Spirit of Community Awards



One of Florida's **Top Teen Volunteer Winners** shares his courageous story of volunteerism, as well as his experience participating in the big national youth volunteer awards event, the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards, in Washington DC where he was honored by Olympian Michael Phelps, along with the other 100 state teen volunteer winners from all across the U.S.

Chase Hartman of Tampa collected more than 15,000 books with his best friend and donated them to 23 organizations across two states so that kids and others without ready access to books could discover the joy of reading. But last year while working on a book drive that yielded hundreds of books for kids in need, Chase realized there are many children who don't have books of their own.

After Chase found a local company willing to give away thousands of books, he and his friend reached out to others for additional book donations on social media, as well as through interviews with the press, collection boxes, and presentations to schools and community groups. Since last August, the boys and other young volunteers they recruited have spent many hours collecting books, sorting them into categories, and delivering them to Title I schools, libraries, ministries, a local veterans hospital and other organizations. [Click here](#) for more information.

6/8/2017 – EPA.gov

<https://www.epa.gov/education/presidents-environmental-youth-award-peya-winners>



# President's Environmental Youth Award (PEYA) Winners

Each year, EPA recognizes national winners of the [President's Environmental Youth Award](#).

## EPA Region 4:

**#Share a Book #Save a Forest #Change a Life**

### Florida

Team: Chase H. and Vance T.

When 5<sup>th</sup> grade friends Chase and Vance came across a bin of a thousand books heading to the landfill, while knowing that some community members had no books, these two students set out to solve both problems at once. Calling their partnership “read.repeat”, Chase and Vance successfully collected, sorted and repurposed over 25,000 books in six months, taught thousands of community members about recycling and repurposing, and kept thousands of pounds of waste from entering the landfill.

Chase and Vance researched the lifecycle of books, learning about the amount of wood needed to create a book, the challenges to recycling them (due to glue in the bindings), and the estimated 300 million books discarded into landfills each year. They began collection of gently used books, getting word out into their community through their website [readrepeat.org](http://readrepeat.org), complete with a program logo to enhance community recognition of the project. They made presentations to their school, their Cub Scout Pack, a martial arts studio, their local National Elementary Honor Society chapter, and other community groups. Chase and Vance even approached the source of the original bin of books that inspired their effort and convinced the company to donate leftover inventory rather than dispose of it. When donations came pouring in, they enlisted friends and family to sort, pack, and deliver thousands of books to community members in need, at places like a homeless shelter, a local VA Hospital, local libraries and schools, and foster and group homes.

Chase and Vance surpassed their initial goal, donated books to 32 organizations across three states, and brought the joy of reading to more than 5,000 individuals. With more than 80 volunteers and involvement from local businesses and media, they made a meaningful impact in their community and environment by keeping waste out of landfills and teaching others to #Share a Book #Save a Forest #Change a Life. In the future, they hope to expand their reach nationally to repurpose 50,000 books annually.



5/8/2017 – FOX 34 News

<http://www.fox34.com/story/35371806/two-florida-youth-honored-for-volunteerism-at-national-award-ceremony-in-washington-dc>



## Two Florida youth honored for volunteerism at national award ceremony in Washington, D.C.

SOURCE Prudential Insurance

### Olympic gold medalist Michael Phelps pays tribute to Miami and Tampa students

WASHINGTON, May 8, 2017 /PRNewswire/ -- Florida's top two youth volunteers of 2017, Annie Farrell, 18, of Miami and Chase Hartman, 11, of Tampa, were honored in the nation's capital last night for their outstanding volunteer service during the 22nd annual presentation of The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards. Annie and Chase – along with 100 other top youth volunteers from across the country – each received \$1,000 awards and personal congratulations from Olympic gold medalist Michael Phelps at an award ceremony and gala dinner reception held at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History.



The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program, sponsored by Prudential Financial in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP), named Annie and Chase Florida's top high school and middle level youth volunteers in February. In addition to their cash awards, they each received an engraved silver medallion and an all-expense-paid trip with a parent to Washington, D.C., for four days of recognition events.

Annie, a member of the Girl Scouts of Tropical Florida and a senior at Coral Gables Senior High School, organized three college-prep workshops to help about a dozen students who had aged out of foster care navigate the complicated and often overwhelming college application process. "As the daughter of a first-generation college student, I'm aware not everybody lives

with the expectation that college is the next step," said Annie. Since she was about to begin applying to colleges, she thought she could help some at-risk teens by taking them through the process with her.

First, Annie researched the application process and collected tips for success. Then she recruited two University of Miami admissions counselors, three Miami Herald writers, and the education director of a local cultural center to help her conduct three workshops for residents of Casa Valentina, a nonprofit that houses and assists young people who are too old to remain in foster care. At the first workshop, the college counselors explained how to complete a college application and the residents were provided with the tips and information that Annie had compiled. At the next two sessions, the newspaper writers addressed how to brainstorm topics for application essays, and helped each student craft an essay. Annie also created a "college cubby" at Casa Valentina stocked with college guides, binders and test preparation books, and gave each student a college sweatshirt to symbolize the path they had embarked upon.

Chase, a fifth-grader at Mary E. Bryant Elementary School, collected more than 15,000 books with his best friend and donated them to 23 organizations across two states so that kids and others without ready access to books could discover the joy of reading. "I've always loved to read," said Chase. "My parents made sure I had a stocked library in my room and my teachers always have great books in their classrooms." But last year while working on a book drive that yielded hundreds of books for kids in need, Chase realized there are many children who don't have books of their own. "I knew I could do more," he said.

After Chase found a local company willing to give away thousands of books, he and his friend reached out to others for additional book donations on social media, as well as through interviews with the press, collection boxes, and presentations to schools and community groups. Since last August, the boys and other young volunteers they recruited have spent many hours collecting books, sorting them into categories, and delivering them to Title I schools, libraries, ministries, a local veterans hospital and other organizations. "I know we are making a difference," said Chase. "We are helping kids learn to love reading."

"These honorees have done exemplary work to contribute to the health and vitality of their communities, and we look forward to seeing the great things they achieve in the future," said John Strangfeld, chairman and CEO of Prudential Financial, Inc. "Congratulations to each of these extraordinary young volunteers."

"It's a privilege to celebrate these students not only for outstanding volunteer service, but for the example they've set for their peers," said Jayne Ellspermann, president of NASSP. "These honorees prove that one person truly can make a difference."

Youth volunteers in grades 5-12 were invited to apply for 2017 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards last fall through schools, Girl Scout councils, county 4-H organizations, American Red Cross chapters, YMCAs and affiliates of the HandsOn Network. More than 31,000 middle level and high school students nationwide participated in this year's program.

The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program was created in 1995 to identify and recognize young people for outstanding volunteer service – and, in so doing, inspire others to volunteer, too. In the past 22 years, the program has honored more than 120,000 young volunteers at the local, state and national level.

For more information about The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards and this year's honorees, visit <http://spirit.prudential.com> or [www.nassp.org/spirit](http://www.nassp.org/spirit).

#### **About NASSP**

The National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) is the leading organization of and voice for middle level and high school principals, assistant principals, and school leaders from across the United States. The association connects and engages school leaders through advocacy, research, education, and student programs. NASSP advocates on behalf of all school leaders to ensure the success of each student and strengthens school leadership practices through the design and delivery of high quality professional learning experiences. Reflecting its long-standing commitment to student leadership development, NASSP administers the National Honor Society, National Junior Honor Society, National Elementary Honor Society, and National Association of Student Councils. For more information about NASSP, located in Reston, VA, visit [www.nassp.org](http://www.nassp.org).

#### **About Prudential Financial**

Prudential Financial, Inc. ([NYSE: PRU](http://NYSE:PRU)), a financial services leader, has operations in the United States, Asia, Europe, and Latin America. Prudential's diverse and talented employees are committed to helping individual and institutional customers grow and protect their wealth through a variety of products and services, including life insurance, annuities, retirement-related services, mutual funds and investment management. In the U.S., Prudential's iconic Rock symbol has stood for strength, stability, expertise and innovation for more than a century. For more information, please visit [www.news.prudential.com](http://www.news.prudential.com).



4/30/2017 – WFTS Tampa Bay

<http://www.abcactionnews.com/news/local-news/tampa-fifth-grader-recognized-for-being-floridas-top-youth-volunteer>



## Tampa fifth-grader recognized for being Florida's top youth volunteer

BY: WFTS Webteam

POSTED: 3:20 PM, Apr 30, 2017



TAMPA - Chase Hartman, 11, of Tampa, has been named the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards state honoree as "Florida's Top Youth Volunteer."

The fifth-grader at Mary E. Bryant Elementary School collected more than 28,000 books with his best friend. They donated the books to 23 organizations across two states.

The two boys wanted to provide other children and teachers access to great books.

Chase visited the ABC Action News studios Sunday to talk about his award.

Contact Information: Jason McDonald ([mcdonald.jason@epa.gov](mailto:mcdonald.jason@epa.gov)), 404-562-9203, 404-562-8400

8/2/2017 – FOX 13 News/WTVT

<http://www.fox13news.com/news/local-news/271655761-story>



News Local News FOX 13 Investigates Politics Health Consumer What's Right with Tampa Bay

## ReadRepeat.org duo makes another huge donation



By: **Linda Hurtado, FOX 13 News**

POSTED: AUG 02 2017

**TAMPA (FOX 13)** - **School** is about to start and today was the first day back for many teachers in our area.

They'll be organizing their rooms and stacking their shelves with **supplies** and books. But some teachers at Sheehy Elementary had a lot more work to do after flooding damaged books in their classrooms.

That is, until a young but **dynamic** duo surprised them Wednesday.

11-year-old Chase Hartman and 12-year-old Vance Tomasi helped out by donating 2,000 used books. This isn't their first time, either.

They've donated 35,000 books to 38 schools, hospitals, libraries, and charities in the past 8 months.

**LINK: Friends donate 30,000 books to schools**

"First we collect the books from organizations, schools, and other communities. And friends and **family** help us. We sort them into genres, adult books, kid books, hard back, paper back," Chase explained.

This is a big deal since many of these teachers lost their entire **class** libraries. The school couldn't be more grateful.

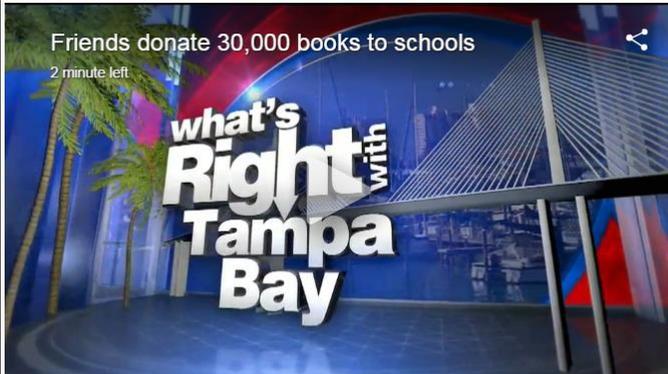
The boys just won a prestigious award from the EPA, recognizing their efforts as one of the top five environmental projects by elementary school kids in the nation.

5/24/2017- FOX 13/ WTVT

<http://www.fox13news.com/news/what-s-right-with-tampa-bay/256717534-story>



## Friends donate 30,000 books to schools



By: Kelly Ring, FOX 13 News



POSTED: MAY 24 2017 03:38PM EDT

UPDATED: MAY 24 2017 03:37PM EDT

"Today we brought 1,300 books," Vance explained.

They've named their mission **Read** and Repeat.

"It's been a passion for us to do this and it's been a really **fun** experience," Chase said.

The duo donated more than 30,000 books to 23 organizations.

"I never dreamed that they would achieve their goal of 20,000 books, let alone being able to achieve the goal today of 30,000 books," Chases' mom, Kim Parrish said.

Chase even won the Prudential Spirit of Community Award for his hard work. The award recognizes one middle and high school student volunteer from each state for outstanding community service.

"[He is a] remarkable young man and [his] dedication to this process to bring books to people who don't have books, it's fantastic," Ben Nichols with Prudential Financial said.

The winners get \$1,000 and a free trip to Washington D.C. for the awards.

"I didn't have any idea that I was going to get this **award**," Chase said. "It's a cool thing to win. I think it is very exciting for me."

"I'm really proud of him," Vance added. At the end of the **day**, the boys have a simple message.

"Just because you are younger doesn't mean you can't make a difference," Vance explained.

**TAMPA (FOX 13)** - Two fifth-graders are passing on their passion for **reading** to other students. Chase Hartman and Vance Tomasi are doing big things for their fellow students.

The boys have been traveling throughout Hillsborough County **schools** delivering books to students who can't afford them.



3/2/17 – TampaBayScouting.org

<http://tampabayscouting.org/2017/scouts-donated-book-campaign-recognized-with-grant-that-they-donate/9786>

Category: Cub Scouts, NewsBy Jim Dinsmore March 2, 2017



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## Scouts' Donated Book Campaign Recognized With Grant That They Donate



Cub Scouts Chase H. and Vance T. have collected in excess of 27,000 books and donated more than 24,500 books to more than 31 elementary schools, hospitals, libraries and other charities in three different states in the past six months. Chase and Vance are members of Cub Scout Pack 38, sponsored by Mary Bryant Elementary School PTA in Tampa. After learning that some children in their community didn't own their own books, they wanted to do something about it. At the same time, they realized people and businesses dispose of a vast number of new and used books every day. The boys set out to solve both problems simultaneously: get gently used books into the hands of those in need while encouraging reuse and reducing landfill waste. And so, their campaign **read.repeat.** was born.

Chase and Vance set a goal to donate more than 20,000 books by February 2017 and achieved the goal on New Year's Eve 2016. They now have set new goals and have big plans in 2017. They know they can #ShareABook, #SaveAForest and #ChangeALife all through their love of reading and generosity. More information is available at [www.readrepeat.org](http://www.readrepeat.org). You can follow them on Twitter at [@readrepeatorg](https://twitter.com/readrepeatorg) and on Facebook at [readrepeat](https://www.facebook.com/readrepeat).

Last week, Chase and Vance were awarded a grant of \$1,000 from the Newtown Kindness, an organization that recognizes youth who are doing great things for children in their community, giving recipients the opportunity to "Pay it Forward." Chase and Vance demonstrated this by generously donating the funds received to the Greater Tampa Bay Area Council, Boy Scouts of America to support environmental education and improvements at Camp Brorein in Odessa.

# Tampa Bay Times



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9:39.PM, Thursday, September 29th, 2016



## GRADEBOOK

Education news and notes from Tampa Bay and Florida

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### The gift of books in Northwest Hillsborough



Marlene Sokol, Times Staff Writer

Thursday, September 29, 2016 6:13pm

We heard this week from a grassroots organization called [readrepeat.org](http://readrepeat.org) about a generous gift from children to children.

Fifth grade students Chase Hartman and Vance Tomasi from Bryant Elementary School in Westchase held a book drive over the summer that generated 800 books for Woodbridge Elementary School in Town 'N Country.

"Our teachers will be so appreciative to expand their classroom libraries," said media specialist Nicole Rideout, according to the announcement.

The boys recruited classmates, members of their Cub Scout troop and their younger brothers to sort thousands of books into age-appropriate categories. Their parents helped them build the website and make deliveries.

Their goal is to distribute 20,000 books by the end of February to schools, hospitals, libraries, nursing homes and other organizations that can use them.

Many of the books came from a business called 2 Swell Guys. More donations are welcome. [Check out this website](#) or look for them on Facebook.



Woodbridge Elementary Principal Christine Hanjian, Bryant Elementary students Vance Tomasi and Chase Hartman, Woodbridge Media Specialist Nicole Rideout

READREPEAT.ORG

## Friends collect and donate hundreds of books to students



The kids streamed into the library with smiles on their faces and wide eyes. It's not every day you get something for free in a library.

"I like Harry Potter books because they're magical. I like magical stuff," said Chase Hartman with a smile.

Hartman, and his friend Vance Tomasi, walked around the room helping kids at [Robles Elementary School](#) pick out a book to keep. The duo collected and donated 1,400 to the kids at the school so that they would be able to experience the love of reading that the friends discovered.

"I read 200 a year," said Hartman.

Tomasi has lost count.

"It takes you on an imagination adventure where anything can happen," he said.

Robles is a Title 1 school, meaning it receives funds aimed at bridging the gap between low-income students and other students. Many of the kids' eyes lit up when they got one of Hartman and Tomasi's books.



"It means that they are very caring and nice and they think about other children and they want other kids to grow up and be something," said Ivan.

One of his classmates agreed while holding her new paperback.

"I'm going to read this book in class," she said. "I'm going to try to get to page 91 or 29."

The boys started collecting books from [Tampa-based business 2 Swell Guys](#). Their goal is to pass out 20,000 books by February.

"Not many people can say they've donated 1,400 books to a Title 1 school," said Tomasi with a smile.

The boys are delivering books to schools, hospitals, libraries, nursing homes and organizations including Friends of Upper Tampa Bay Regional Library, James A. Haley Veterans Hospital of Tampa, Friends of Town 'N Country Regional Public Library, Better World Books, Goodwill, Friends of Austin Davis Public Library, the Salvation Army and more.



Kelly Ring reports

By: Kelly Ring, FOX 13 News



POSTED: SEP 26 2016 05:22PM EDT  
UPDATED: SEP 26 2016 08:22PM EDT

2 Reactions

**TAMPA (FOX 13)** - Two Tampa fifth-graders are hoping to change the lives of other students through [books](#).

Chase Hartman and Vance Tomasi learned during their summer [break](#) that some kids in their community don't even own their own books. So they came up with "Read. Repeat."

"When they read them, they might want to give them to someone else, so they are repeating and somebody else is [reading](#)," Chase explained.



Students help peers 'read, repeat'

The Mary Bryant Elementary students relied on local businesses and avid readers like themselves for donations. They circulate the gently used books to local schools, nursing homes, and hospitals.

The boys want to collect 20,000 [books](#) by February.

If you are interested in donating [books](#) to the program, visit <http://www.readrepeat.org/>

From: "Greater Tampa Bay Area Council, BSA" <[jim.dinsmore@scouting.org](mailto:jim.dinsmore@scouting.org)>

Date: March 2, 2017 at 2:08:58 PM EST

Subject: Cub Scouts' Book Drive Recognized, Join Campmaster Corps

3/14/17 – *The Suncoast News*

[http://www.suncoastnews.com/news/kidpreneurs-aid-library-school/article\\_51fd0e10-08d8-11e7-9705-c3dc7c633b1e.html](http://www.suncoastnews.com/news/kidpreneurs-aid-library-school/article_51fd0e10-08d8-11e7-9705-c3dc7c633b1e.html)

## The Suncoast News

Tampa Bay Newspapers

# ‘Kidpreneurs’ aid library, school

## Fifth-graders have donated more than 25,000 books

By JEFF ROSENFELD Tampa Bay Newspapers Mar 14, 2017



JEFF ROSENFELD

Vance Tomasi, 11, left, and Chase Hartman, 10, donated 300 books to the Oldsmar Public Library on Feb. 15 as part of their “read.repeat” initiative.

OLDSMAR — Last summer, Chase Hartman and his buddy Vance Tomasi saw a story on the news about schools that had been affected by a string of hurricanes in Louisiana. That’s when the proverbial lightbulb went off for the fifth-graders.

Vance, 11, and Chase, 10, both honors students at Mary Bryant Elementary School, in Tampa, and Cub Scouts and avid readers, decided to donate some extra books they had lying around to the schools that were affected by the storms.

Since then, the pair have donated more than 25,000 books through their “read.repeat” initiative, including drops of more than 4,000 books to several Title I schools in the area, more than 1,000 copies to the James A. Haley Veterans Hospital, in Tampa, and most recently, 300 books to the Oldsmar Public Library and 300 to Dunedin Elementary School.

“Our goal was to deliver more than 20,000 books by Feb. 28, and we’re over 25,000 already, so we’ve exceeded our expectations,” Vance, who serves as the duo’s unofficial spokesperson, said during the book drop in Oldsmar on Feb. 15.

“When they first told us about it, I thought their goal of 20,000 books was a bit extreme,” Chase’s mom, Kim Parrish, said. “But they’ve worked so hard to reach that goal. To see kids work on a goal like this and achieve what they have so far is astounding. It’s inspiring.”

Since they began their effort, the boys have donated thousands of hardcovers and paperbacks from every genre to more than 30 locations in three states, which they’ve received from friends, community organizations as well as a partnership with Tampa-based used bookseller, 2 Swell Guys. They’ve also been featured multiple times on the local news and have spoken to student bodies and city officials. But despite the immense success of their project, the endeavor ran into a major obstacle when they recently lost their storage space, forcing them to headquarter the operation in the Hartman family garage.

“We probably have 750 in the garage now. That’s why I told the mayor we need storage space,” Vance said, referring to a plea the “kidpreneurs” made to the Oldsmar City Council in January.

“We need to sort and organize the books to bring them to certain places,” Hartman added, noting they can’t bring children’s books to VA hospitals nor adult fare to elementary schools. “If we didn’t have to do it all in my garage, it would be much easier.”

Despite the storage-space setback, the two professed bookworms continue to promote the power of reading while providing the tools to do so for thousands of readers, and their efforts are being lauded by the recipients of their philanthropy.

“We take donations all the time, but not usually this much,” Oldsmar Public Library Director Susan Hurley said after the boys and their helpers dropped boxes full of books at the main desk. “We’re always happy when kids want to help out and are really excited about reading. They are really great kids, and what they are doing is amazing.”

For their part, the boys said it’s all about seeing the expression on the kids’ faces when they deliver the books, especially to Title 1 schools that have a high percentage of students from low-income families.

“When we deliver the books, the kids are in disbelief!” Vance said. “They can’t believe it. They’re like, ‘You have Harry Potter?!’ I’m pretty amazed at it, and shocked and happy.”

“They’re very thankful,” Chase added. “I feel happy because I’m seeing all these kids happy.”

For more information on Vance and Chase’s book drop initiative, visit [read.repeat.org](http://read.repeat.org) and for more on 2 Swell Guys visit [2swellguys.com](http://2swellguys.com).

2/19/2017 – OldsmarConnect.com

<http://oldsmarconnect.com/kidpreneurs-have-donated-more-than-25000-books-since-august/>

## “KIDPRENEURS” HAVE DONATED MORE THAN 25,000 BOOKS SINCE AUGUST

What started as a whim to help schools that had been hit by hurricanes in Louisiana last summer has turned into a massive book donating endeavor by “kidpreneurs” Chase Hartman and Vance Tomasi, as the fifth graders have now donated more than 25,000 books through their [read.repeat](#) initiative since August.

The Mary Bryant Elementary School students started their efforts after seeing on the news the devastating toll the storms had on the schools, and since then, they have conducted drops of more than 4,000 books to area Title I schools, more than 1,000 copies to the James Hayley Veterans Hospital, and, earlier this week, 300 books to the Oldsmar Public Library.

But despite the immense success of Hartman’s and Tomasi’s project—they’ve already been featured on the local news and have spoken to city government representatives—the boys have one big problem: storage space. Or more specifically, a lack of storage space.

“We probably have 750 books in the garage right now, so we’re hoping to get a storage space,” 11-year-old Tomasi, the more garrulous of the pair who serves as the duo’s unofficial spokesperson, said during the Oldsmar book drop.

“I told the mayor a few weeks ago we need storage, so we’ll see what happens.”



“We need to sort and organize the books in order to bring them to the right places,” Hartman, 10, said, adding, “If we didn’t have to do it all in my garage, it would be much easier.”

Indeed, the fact that these two young men, both Cub Scouts, avid readers and excellent students, have been able to deliver more than 25,000 books in a little more than six months using only kid (and parent) power, a temporary storage space and suburban two-car garage is an incredible testament to the boys’ entrepreneurial spirit and desire to help others.

Chase Hartman (l) and Vance Tomasi delivered 300 books to the Oldsmar Public Library on Tuesday, Feb. 15, 2017 as part of their [read.repeat](#) initiative.



Fifth graders Vance Tomasi and Chase Hartman conducted a book drop at the Oldsmar Public Library on Wednesday, Jan. 15, 2017. Since August, the “kidpreneurs” have donated more than 25,000 books to area schools, hospitals and libraries through their [read.repeat](#) initiative.



*Kim Parrish (r) and Amanda Tomasi help their sons deliver books to the Oldsmar Public Library on Feb. 15, 2017.*

“When they first told us about it, I thought their goal of 20,000 books was a bit extreme,” Hartman’s mom, Kim Parrish, said. “But they’ve worked so hard to reach that goal. It’s inspiring.”

“To see kids work on a goal like this and achieve what they have so far is astounding,” she added. “People are pretty shocked, but these kids are Cub Scouts and overachievers, so it makes sense that they’ve been able to accomplish something like this.”

For Tomasi and Hartman, the endeavor is both fun and fulfilling.

“When we bring the books to the schools, the kids are in disbelief,” Tomasi said. “They can’t believe it. They’re like, ‘You have Harry Potter!’”

“They’re very thankful when they see what kind of books we’re delivering,” Hartman said, noting they have to carefully sort every book so they don’t deliver children’s books to a VA hospital or adult fare to schools.

With help from Palm Harbor based used bookseller [2 Swell Guys](#), as well as others who donate everything from crime thrillers to cook books to the cause, the boys have amassed a large inventory of books.

After being kicked out of their previous storage area, that led the pair to plead with the Oldsmar City Council for help recently.

“I was wondering if you could, like, buy us like a storage space, because our old storage space we’re not allowed to be in anymore,” Tomasi asked the council on January 3, 2017.

“So maybe if you could, like, keep it up for another three months, we might be able to hit like another 10,000 or 15,000 (books).”

While the council members said they would do what they could to help get the word out and find them a space, the kids remain committed to delivering their books to schools, hospitals, libraries and other places with or without enough room to store them.

“As long as we keep getting books we can donate, we’ll keep doing it,” Vance said.

“We’re fully committed to supporting them,” Parrish added. “So who knows when we’ll get our garage back?!”

**For more information on Vance Tomasi and Chase Hartman’s book donation initiative, visit [read.repeat.org](http://read.repeat.org).**



*Vance Tomasi (front) and Chase Hartman (back) get a little help from their friends and siblings delivering books to the Oldsmar Public Library on Feb. 15, 2017.*

9/16/2016 - Bay News 9

## Two 5th graders share their love for reading with less fortunate students



### Two 5th graders share their love for reading with less fortunate students



Chase Hartman and Vance Tomasi donated 1,400 gently used books to students at Robles Elementary in Tampa. (Dalia Dangerfield, staff)

By [Dalia Dangerfield](#), Reporter

Last Updated: Friday, September 16, 2016, 4:52 PM EDT

TAMPA --

Two Bay area 5th graders have launched an effort to get books in the hands of people who need them.

- **Two Mary Bryant 5th graders donated 1,400 gently used books**
- **Chase Hartman and Vance Tomasi wanted to encourage other students to love reading as much as they do**

Friday, Chase Hartman and Vance Tomasi donated 1,400 gently used books to students at Robles Elementary in Tampa. Each student at the school picked one book to take home.

The initiative is called 'read.repeat.'

Hartman and Tomasi, both students at Mary Bryant Elementary, kicked off the effort earlier this summer after learning some children weren't fortunate enough to own books themselves.

"Let's share our love of reading and give back to the community," said Hartman. "It goes hand-in-hand."

The students at Robles were excited to see all the books.

"I love to read," said Robles Elementary 5th grader Janiya Smith.

"I think this is awesome," said Assistant Principal Beverly Bowden-Humbert. "These young boys should be commended for what they're doing at our school."

Hartman and Tomasi have also delivered books to hospitals, libraries and nursing homes. Their goal is to donate 20,000 books throughout the community.