

SPOKANE COUNTY LIBRARY DISTRICT

Food donations to Bites and Books at libraries helps turn the page on hunger

Spokane, WA | March 18, 2025 – Spokane County Library District's (SCLD's) annual spring food drive has expanded this year to include partnerships with <u>Spokane Public Library</u> (SPL), <u>Liberty Lake Municipal</u> <u>Library</u>, <u>Second Harvest</u>, and <u>KHQ</u>. Together, these organizations are launching a county-wide food drive for the entire month of April, called **Bites and Books – Turning the Page on Hunger**.

Every library in Spokane County will collect non-perishable food. As non-perishable food donations are collected, Second Harvest and other food banks will distribute food to communities throughout the county.

<u>The USDA</u> defines food insecurity as "limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate and safe foods, or limited or uncertain ability to acquire acceptable foods in socially acceptable ways." <u>Feeding</u> <u>America</u> estimates that "47 million people—1 in 7—are food insecure in the US." In Spokane County, 13% of our population and 19% of our children are food insecure.

Partners INW, the largest food bank in Spokane Valley, shares that food insecurity is increasing. In January 2025, it served 8,510 households with 16,375 individuals—a 74% increase from just last year. Of these households, 2,684 (32%) were new food bank clients. Partners INW is only one of many food banks in Spokane County experiencing this trend.

In past years, residents throughout the greater Spokane area have been generous during food drives and have shown that they value community and helping to end food insecurity. All who are able to donate non-perishable food are encouraged to drop donations off at their local library during the month of April.

The following libraries in Spokane County are participating in the Bites and Books food drive:

SCLD Locations

<u>Airway Heights Library</u> 1213 S Lundstrom St, Airway Heights

Argonne Library 4322 N Argonne, Spokane

<u>Cheney Library</u> 610 First St, Cheney

Deer Park Library 208 S Forest Ave, Deer Park

Fairfield Library 305 E Main St, Fairfield Medical Lake Library 321 E Herb St, Medical Lake

Moran Prairie Library 6004 S Regal St, Spokane

North Spokane Library 44 E Hawthorne Rd, Spokane

<u>Otis Orchards Library</u> 22324 E Wellesley Ave, Otis Orchards

Spokane Valley Library 22 N Herald Rd, Spokane Valley



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SPL Locations

<u>Central Library</u> 906 W Main Ave, Spokane

Hillyard Library 4110 N Cook St, Spokane

Indian Trail Library 4909 W Barnes Rd, Spokane

City of Liberty Lake Location

<u>Liberty Lake Municipal Library</u> 23123 E Mission Ave, Liberty Lake <u>Liberty Park Library</u> 402 S Pittsburg St, Spokane

Shadle Park Library 2111 W Wellesley Ave, Spokane

South Hill Library 3324 S Perry St, Spokane

Spokane County Library District (SCLD) provides resources, experiences, and places that empower people to learn, explore, and succeed. The District operates 10 libraries that include Airway Heights, Argonne, Cheney, Deer Park, Fairfield, Medical Lake, Moran Prairie, North Spokane, Otis Orchards, and Spokane Valley as well as the mobile library LINC. District library cards are free to Spokane County residents.

For more information about our libraries and programs, please visit <u>scld.org</u> or call 509.893.8200.

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