



# Books Make Transitional Housing a Home

**“A home with books as an integral way of life encourages children to read for pleasure and encourages discussion among family members—providing children with information, vocabulary, imaginative richness, wide horizons, and skills for discovery and play.”**

—DR. MARIAH EVANS, Professor of Sociology, University of Nevada, Reno

Books in the home—wherever home may be—are essential. Findings published in the journal [Social Science Research](#) show that raising a child in a home filled with books positively impacts her future personal and academic success. Specifically, as [Pacific Standard](#) reported, the study found that when it comes to standardized tests, “Regardless of how many books the family already has, each addition to the home library helps children do better.” That makes sense: A book-filled home encourages reading for enjoyment and talking about books.

Being surrounded by books where they live helps children build vocabulary, increase awareness and comprehension, and expand horizons — all benefiting them in adulthood, according to the study. But beyond literacy, the study’s authors found a correlation between homes full of books and both the “ability to use mathematical concepts in everyday life,” and “the ability to use digital technology to communicate with others.” Books in the home make a difference beyond literacy.

## All Children Need Books!

Bring Me a Book is committed to serving children wherever they are—including children who are experiencing homelessness and are currently living in the transitional housing that [LifeMoves](#) provides.

How is it that in one of the wealthiest regions of the country, we find families living on the streets? Most of the homeless here in the Silicon Valley are the working poor. Our homeless crisis is fueled by the high cost-of-living and skyrocketing rents. San Jose is the second most expensive place to rent in the nation, according to new estimates. As of September 2021, there were only 34 affordable and available housing units per 100 extremely low-income households in Santa Clara County. Officials can’t keep up with the demand.

Dr. Brian Greenberg is the Director of LifeMoves, Mountain View, and when asked, “Why do people end up homeless?” Dr. Greenberg has a ready answer: “Because they didn’t win the zip code or parent lottery!”

In other words, given the soaring cost of housing, an individual born into a family facing the challenges of poverty, mental health, and often both—may eventually face periods of homelessness even here in the heart of Silicon Valley.

Since they provide dwellings for both single adults and families, Life Moves also hosts children of all ages. And Bring Me a Book is committed to serving children wherever they are—we want to help children feel at home *always* by providing them with the companionship of the most popular children’s books—and a book cubby to keep their books safe.

And to extend the benefits of books, we suggested to the LifeMoves staff that they consider partnering with the Mountain View Public Library. They didn’t skip a beat. Soon, the Mountain View Public Library bookmobile will add LifeMoves to its route, helping LifeMoves guests sign up for library cards, and opening up the world of literacy riches that awaits.



A toddler visits the LiveMoves Community Center—now, thanks to Bring Me a Book, the Mountain View Rotary Club, and Kappa Kappa Gamma Sorority—it’s become a haven for books and book cubbies, which serve as a child’s home library.

The Bring Me a Book outward-facing bookshelf showcases all the alluring picture books now gracing the LifeMoves Community Center.

