

NomNom ReadRead

Werthen Gass has been a Girl Scout for 12 years and is in Troop 8081 in Service Unit 820. She is currently a junior at Trenton High School.

Werthen's Gold Award project addressed the issue of low literacy rates and limited access to reading materials for young children, particularly those in poverty. When children don't have access to enough reading materials, their reading skills suffer and can cause them to fall behind in a variety of subjects. By creating a YouTube channel with digitized books and recorded readers, any child with internet access can have someone read to them and work on their own reading skills. She also worked with kindergarteners one-on-one to help them with reading during summer school and hosted a reading sleepover where each child got to take home a book. Furthermore, she donated books to the county health department for children in the WIC program and to an after-school center for at-risk children.

Werthen worked with a reading specialist, a life coach, Scholastic, Trenton schools, family members and teachers to create her project, scan the books and get permission to use the material online. The sleepover and summer school aspects helped local kids while the digital component can access readers worldwide. Thanks to a generous donation of 100 books from Scholastics, kids in Trenton, MO now have books of their own as part of this project. By helping kids improve their reading skills, Werthen is helping to set them up for a life of success.

Because of Girl Scouts... I have developed leadership qualities and a devotion to children and literacy.



Werthen Gass

Trenton, Missouri

