

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LIBRARY SCIENCE STUDENT GIVES BOOKS TO TEENS IN FOSTER CARE

NEWTON -- Kurt Reid, a graduate student studying library science at Appalachian State University, recently gave 20 books to Catawba County teens in foster care as part of World Book Night.

Reid, a Maiden resident, participated in the program as part of an internship. The books were given to participants in LINKS, a Catawba County Social Services program that helps older teens and young adults who have been in foster care prepare for adulthood.

The book Reid chose to donate was the novel "Same Difference" by Derick Kirk Kim. Reid said he picked the book because it was the first graphic novel to be included in World Book Night, and the first book in the program by an Asian author. A graphic novel is similar to a comic book in that it uses drawings as well as words to tell the story. Reid said he thought this type of book would appeal to a younger group of readers.

World Book Night is an international program through which volunteers each give away 20 copies of a book to persons who may have limited access to books or may be light readers. The purpose is to encourage reading. The authors of the books waive their royalties, and the publishers provide the books free of charge.

World Book Night, which is April 23, is recognized by UNESCO as the International Day of the Book. It was chosen because it is the birthday of William Shakespeare and also the death date of Miguel de Cervantes.



Regina Roberts, a social worker at Catawba County Social Services, welcomes Kurt Reid, a volunteer Book Giver. Reid gave 20 free books to members of LINKS, a program that helps young people who have been in foster care prepare for adulthood. The books were provided by World Book Night, an international program to encourage reading. Volunteers sign up ahead of time to give out the books, which are provided free of charge by the publishers.

World Book Night was first celebrated in the United Kingdom in 2011. It spread to the United States in 2012. Persons wishing to be a volunteer book giver for the next year must apply online in advance. Book givers are chosen based on their plan for how they will give away their books.

This year, the Catawba County Library served as a pick up station for the books. For more information about World Book Night, go to <http://www.worldbooknight.org>.

For more information about how you or your organization can assist participants in the LINKS program, contact Regina Roberts at rroberts@catawbacountync.gov.

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