

# A Hero Who Gives Things Away

volume 1  
issue 15



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What do you do with the things you love? You probably take care of them and keep them safe. That's not what Cameron Payne does. This fifth

grader from North Carolina is sharing his love of books by giving them away.

In 2008, Cameron was looking for a way to help his community when he heard about a family who lost everything in a house fire. He was sad that all of their books were destroyed, and he wanted to find a way to help them. That's when he created his program, which gives books away to people in need.

Cameron's program collects books for young people of all ages and reading levels. He collects books for kids who are blind or low vision, too, because he wants everyone to have books.

Cameron knows that books can help kids think about their future. They do this by helping kids dream about what they might be when they grow up. Learning

about new things can give kids new interests. Six years later, Cameron is still giving away books.

Many of the books he gives away were given to him by others, but Cameron's grandmother also shops for books that don't cost a lot. She buys books that are new or that look new. In addition to working with schools, Cameron and his grandmother give books to children in places near their home, such as hospitals, libraries, and day camps.

Cameron wants to keep his program going and growing. Over the past six years, he has given away more than 3,000 books. He has also won many prizes for his work. His program has grown over the years, too. Last Christmas, Cameron was even able to give away toys and books.

Cameron Payne is making a difference in kids' lives by giving away the things he loves: books. Who needs help in your community? How might you help?



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