

LOVELAND TWINS LAUNCH ADOPT-A-BOOK PROGRAM

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Alex and Hannah Laman love to read books.

Their house is “a household of readers,” according to their parents, Angela and Brent Laman.

The twins are in third grade at Loveland Elementary School where they can read lots of books. So, when they read a news story that said Quebec Elementary School kids don’t have books, they were shocked.

“It said there are kids that don’t have any books,” Hannah said. “We really like books, so we thought that was kind of odd. We wanted to help them.”

They came up with the idea of starting a business that would donate books to kids. A couple weeks later the idea was still alive. Hannah kept asking when they could start the business. Every day she sees her mom operate a business from home. She kept driving it for her and Alex.

“It’s something they wanted to do on their own. We’re just kind of the guidance behind it,” Angela said about her and Brent helping organize the business.

It actually happened quickly. After checking with their CPA, they went through the process to incorporate, and receive the 501-3C designation as a non-profit organization. Brent came up with the name “Adopt a Book.” Angela is the Ohio director for an adoption program helping connect children and families.

“There is a connection between a child and a book,” Brent said. “It’s like watching a connection with a child and a family. The name just clicked.”

“I really don’t know who came up with the name,” Alex said. “We want to help kids get books. I’d like kids to have books so they can enjoy them; so they can actually have a book they can keep.”

Both read chapter books, like the “Conspiracy 365” series. Of course they both like the “Harry Potter” books. Alex liked the second “Harry Potter” best, and has read four of them. Hannah has read six, but didn’t name her favorite. Those are the kind of books they want other kids to have the chance to read, too. Hannah heard some kids don’t even go to the library. Alex was shocked.

“I was surprised that some kids don’t have any books,” he said.

The two are just getting started. They’ve gathered a box full of their own gently-used books to donate. They waited until the business was organized before they told anyone. They’re ready to begin accepting donations. Mom says the immediate plan is to sort the “new and gently-used books” in their garage and basement.

“They’re excited about it. They’ve been talking about it,” she said. “We’re happy to get the information out there. We hope people will start donating new and old gently-used books.”

“We can use my room,” said Alex. “I’m going to tell my friends. Maybe they can donate some books.”

Angela said the books will be donated to schools like Quebec Elementary, Hamilton County Children’s Services, Pro-Kids organization, the Ronald McDonald House and Children’s Hospital where kids need them. Their hope is the books will come from individuals, groups, community organizations and some schools.

“Ideally, we would like some bigger places like Amazon, or Scholastic books, but we’ll get to that point,” Angela said. “We think big.”

Brent said they researched the Internet to see what else is out there. They found other charitable organizations doing things other than books. There was nothing locally. Brent and Angela are happy to see their children being part of something helpful to the community while sharing their love of reading.

“They see the benefits of giving,” said Brent. “They can share the value of reading; their own experience of what reading means to them, the joy of reading. To see how that affects other people, for them to watch that grow. It is a great learning experience for them.”

Brent and Angela Laman are excited to see their kids recognize that every kid should have books.

“I was amazed. I thought most kids have at least one book,” Hannah said. “I would like kids to have a book of their own, not just a book they can borrow and have to return.”

To donate new or gently-used books to “Adopt a Book” send an email to Alex and Hannah at: adoptabook@fuse.net.

Hannah and Alex Laman enjoy reading in their Loveland home. The 8-year-old twins co-founded "Adopt a Book" to donate books to kids who need books. Angela, Alex, Hannah and Brent Laman hope the public will respond by donating gently-used books for their newly founded Adopt a Book program.