



Friends' Trends

The newsletter of Friends of the Ridgefield Library

Fall 2021

Eighth Grader Gives the Joy of Books to Youngsters with Less



When it came time for Maggie Fleurette—a local eighth grader vying for the title of Ridgefield's "Ms President US"—to demonstrate her leadership potential, she decided on a project that would benefit under-served inner-city youngsters.

"I wanted to have a positive impact on kids who don't have the privileges I've had," Maggie explains. And what better way to wield that positive impact than through the power and wonder of books?

So Maggie developed a program whereby she would collect empty bottles and cans from anyone who contacted her, then use funds from their redemption to purchase books to share with students in Bridgeport.

When John Somma, Friends Book Distribution Coordinator, learned of Maggie's project through another FORL Board Member, he reached out to offer her a large collection of kids' intermediate books the Friends had recently obtained from Wooster School, which phased out its lower-school programs last year.

It was a win-win all around. Maggie, who was one of more than 30 girls in grades 4-8 who participated in the civic-leadership program, was named "Ms President US" of Ridgefield and students in several Bridgeport communities will reap the benefits of her hard work and compassion.

For more information about Maggie's project, please visit fleuettem25.wixsite.com/bottlesforbooks.