Dying for donations? Scraping for supplies? Let us help you the Donor's Choose way.

Ann Post – Grand Rapids Public Schools SXI teacher @ Lincoln Developmental Center

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Friday October 21, 2016 2:10 – 3:10 pm

What is Donor's Choose?

OUR MISSION--

We make it easy for anyone to help a classroom in need, moving us closer to a nation where students in every community have the tools and experiences they need for a great education.

Donors Choose

Donor's Choose History

We were started by a history teacher. In 2000, Charles Best, a teacher at a Bronx public high school, wanted his students to read *Little House on the Prairie*. As he was making photocopies of the one book he could procure, Charles thought about all the money he and his colleagues were spending on books, art supplies, and other materials. And he figured there were people out there who'd want to help — if they could see where their money was going. Charles sketched out a website where teachers could post classroom project requests, and donors could choose the ones they wanted to support. His colleagues posted the first 11 requests. Then it spread. Today, we're open to every public school in America.

Donor's Choose Team

Our team of 80 has vetted and fulfilled over 600,000 classroom project requests that range from butterfly cocoons, to robotics kits, to *Little House on the Prairie*. Many of us are former teachers, so our operation feels like a cross between a startup and a schoolhouse. Stop by our offices in New York or San Francisco and you'll find us working hard, digging into our data, sharing our favorite classroom projects, and Instagramming the happiest thank you notes from students.

How it Works

How it works

> To ensure integrity, we're there through every step of every project. We vet all requests, purchase each item, and ship materials directly to verified schools.

You find a project

> Find a classroom project that inspires you and give as little as $1. We're a public charity, so your donation is tax-deductible.

We fulfill the order

> When a project is fully funded, we purchase all the requested items and ship them directly to the school.

Teachers thank you

> Every donor gets a thank-you letter from the teacher, photos from the classroom, and a report of how each dollar was spent.

Project Examples

[Burton Elementary School project requests](#)

[Lincoln Developmental Center project requests](#)

How to start a project

- [Registering for a teacher account](#)
- [Rules & Responsibilities](#)
- [Managing your account (teachers)](#)
- [Points system](#)
- [Creating a project](#)
- [Donors Choose Vendors](#)
- [Commonly Requested Items](#)
- [Troubleshooting common problems](#)
- [Class Trips & Visitors](#)
- [Helping another teacher use Donors Choose](#)

Special Request Projects

Points needed
Outside vendors

Creative titles

*"Attention: It Will Be Indoor Recess Today Due to Weather"

*Breaker, Breaker 19: Can You Hear Us? We Can't Hear You!

*We Want To Wiggle And Move While Learning!

*Good Good Good, Good Vibrations

*Shake, Rattle and Roll My Senses!!!

*Wipe Your Tears, Fears and Sickness Away

*I Want to Make a Choice But I Haven't Got a Voice

*Diesel Easel

*Help! Our Gathering Rug Is Too Small!

Promoting your project

- Send your friends and family a link to your public profile for easy access to all of your projects.—at the end of personal and professional signature pages.

- On your public profile page, you'll find buttons to share your profile through email, Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn.

- We recommend you customize your public profile URL so that it's easier to remember and share. You can do this through your account in the **Public info** section.

- You can also sign up for Facebook Automatic Updates (in the **Private info** section of your account) so your network receives automatic updates about your projects.

- Promo codes, double your impact, half-off opportunities, and more

- **Promote yourself!!!!!!**

Donations to Project

- Info for donors about projects, teachers and schools
- Promo codes
- Your donor account
- Ways to donate
- Gift cards
- Automatic monthly donations
- Giving pages
- Employee matching

Project funded!

- [Spring and summer ordering schedule](#)
- [#BestSchoolDay - Confirming your funded project](#)
- [Winter ordering break](#)
- [Can DonorsChoose.org send project materials to your home or another address rather than to your school?](#)
- [Magazine subscription timing](#)
- [Materials that are lost or stolen from your school](#)
- [Vendor update: School Specialty](#)
- [Summer ordering for year-round schools](#)
- [Confirming your materials and school address again after summer](#)
- [What to do if the materials you requested and receive aren't what you expected](#)
- [Guidelines to return/exchange materials from DonorsChoose.org](#)
- [Special delivery or expedited shipping for funded materials](#)
- [Receiving live items (i.e., frogs, worms, ants, etc.) for a fully funded project](#)
- [Selecting replacements for unavailable materials](#)
- [Tracking or shipping information for my materials](#)
- [When to expect materials to arrive](#)
- [What to do if you're missing some or all materials for a funded project](#)
- [Understanding the "order status" for your materials](#)

Thank You Package

- Extending the due date for a Thank-You Package
- Thank-You Package tips for Professional Development Projects
- Thank-You Package Timeline to Success
- What is a Thank-You Package?
- Mailing student thank-you letters (and using your own label or FedEx/UPS)
- Uploading photos for your Thank-You Package
- Finding the names of your donors to complete your Thank-You Package
- Photos for your Thank-You Package
- Accessing instructions for your Thank-You Package
- Student names in your thank-you photos
- Guidelines for student thank-yous
- Submitting a late Thank-You Package
- Thanking your donors
- Guide to creating a great Thank-You Package
- List of donors in your Thank-You Package instructions
- Completing a Thank-You Package if your classroom project isn't yet in progress
- Submitting your teacher impact letter
- When to begin your Thank-You Package
- Photo release permission slips
- Difference between the impact letter and the thank-you note written when confirming a fully-funded project

Who 'OWNS' the items?

- [DonorsChoose.org Materials Ownership Policy](#)

Districts and schools often have policies around documenting or tracking donated items, and we encourage teachers to learn about such policies before submitting requests for funding on our site. DonorsChoose.org will not be able to override these policies, but will provide support in cases where a teacher is denied access to materials that were delivered for his/her classroom.

If a teacher leaves a school:
Any materials that have been delivered to the school by default should <u>remain at that school</u> if a teacher leaves. However, the teacher is welcome to take the materials with him/her to a new school if **both** of these criteria are met:
The teacher will continue to teach in a public school and in a position that meets our [eligibility criteria](#).
The principal gives consent for the teacher to take funded materials to use in his/her new classroom.

Need Help?

- Contact Donors Choose

Funded items

Thank you for attending today. Christina and I fully believe in the power of Donor's Choose and how it can empower the learning environment for students of all abilities. We were newbies once, too, so take a leap and write a Donor's Choose request today. Your students will thank you for it. They (and you) are worth the work it takes!!!!

Questions—please feel free to contact either of us.

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