Dear <INSERT NAME>

**Join the Oceanside Promise’s Community-wide Drive to Collect 10,000 Books**

**for Oceanside’s Youngest Children by November 9th!**

I am a proud partner of the Oceanside Promise, a community-wide initiative to ensure Oceanside’s students graduate ready for college, career, and life. I am writing to request your participation in an upcoming community-wide book drive to benefit Oceanside’s youngest children, ages zero to five.

***Did you know...***

* Less than 40% of Oceanside’s children enter Kindergarten ready to succeed.
* Only 32% of Oceanside Unified School District’s 3rd grade students meet state standards for English Language Arts proficiency.
* Children from families with lower incomes and lower education levels hear 30 million words fewer than their peers by the age of five.

We need your help to turn the tide and close the gap for Oceanside’s children by starting in the earliest years and by increasing access to early literacy—beginning with books—for more children. Here’s how you can help:

1. **Commit to hosting a book drive** in your workplace/business between October 23 and November 9 by responding to this email with your commitment to participate.
2. **Place a box or bin with the Oceanside Promise labeling from our resource center on it in a high traffic space**. Post the list of book ideas for children ages zero to five on or close to the collection location as well.
3. **Promote your book drive using the materials posted in the resource center at OceansidePromise.org**. You’ll find ready-made messages and resources to use in high traffic areas and to send messages through email, voicemail, and social media.
4. **Contact** [**OceansidePromise@gmail.com**](mailto:Ariel.Locke@oside.us) **when your book drive is complete** and we will coordinate to have your books picked up and distributed to our partners.

The partners benefiting from the drive include Oceanside Unified School District’s Pre-Kindergarten and Transitional Kindergarten classrooms, the City of Oceanside Public Library, the City of Oceanside Community Resource Centers, Vista Community Clinic Parent Outreach Program, Education Begins in the Home and more.

Thank you for joining with us on this important community-wide effort to improve early literacy in Oceanside!

<YOUR NAME>