

Wisconsin Books to Prisoners

1202 Williamson St #1, Madison, WI 53703
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wisconsinbookstoprisoners.org

Who We Are:

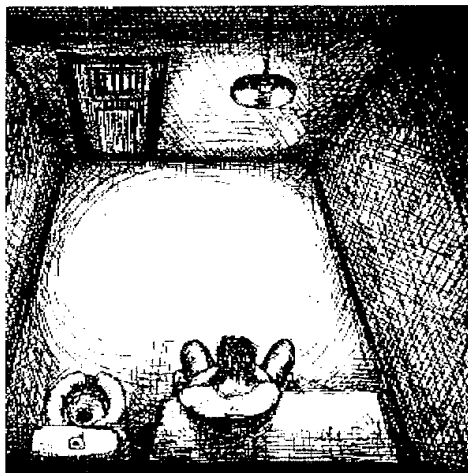
Wisconsin Books to Prisoners (WBTP) is an all-volunteer, non-profit project of A Room of One's Own Bookstore, an independent bookstore in Madison offering a wide selection of current and classic fiction, nonfiction, and periodicals. WBTP has been active since 2006.

Our Mission:

Wisconsin Books to Prisoners' mission is to foster a love of reading behind bars, encourage the pursuit of knowledge and self-empowerment, and help break the cycle of recidivism.

What We Do:

Prisoners write to us directly requesting books, typically by topic or author. Volunteers meet weekly to read letters, select books from the WBTP library, wrap and mail packages.



Why:

Incarcerated people face significant barriers to being able to access books and information. Prison libraries are often antiquated and poorly funded, and educational and vocational programs for prisoners are nearly non-existent.

WBTP volunteers love to read and want to ensure the same freedom for those living behind bars. We believe that books are tools for learning and can open minds to new ideas and possibilities.

How you can help. . . .

Volunteer:

Help us respond to letters, package books, organize book drives, and raise funds.

Donate Books:

The range of interests that prisoners have in the world is as broad and varied as any population outside of prison. Donations of books across the entire spectrum of fiction and nonfiction subjects are appreciated. Books about occupational trades and how to start a business are frequently requested as well as history books, reference books, urban lit, philosophy, and books on learning languages and how to draw.

Please note that WBTP can only accept new and gently-used paperback books with no handwriting, margin notes, or highlighting.

Drop off sites for book donations:

Madison

- The Social Justice Center
1202 Williamson St.
- A Room of One's Own
315 W Gorham St.

Milwaukee

- Voyageur Book Shop
2212 S Kinnickinnic Ave.

Contribute:

All monetary donations go to postage and the purchase of collegiate dictionaries. It costs roughly \$3.50 to send a package of 3 books to a prisoner; the number of requests for books WBTP can fulfill depends entirely on the generosity of people like you. Thank you!

Donations can also be made via our website: wisconsinbookstoprisoners.org

Checks or money orders can be mailed to:

Wisconsin Books to Prisoners
1202 Williamson St. # 1, Madison, WI 53703

Tax-deductible donations can be made out to our fiscal sponsor "PC Foundation" with "WI Books to Prisoners" in the memo line.



Wisconsin Books to Prisoners is a member of the Wisconsin Network for Peace and Justice and is funded by the Racine Dominican Mission Fund, the Sinsinawa Dominicans and members of our community. Thanks also to Half Price Books, The Book Deal, and Voyageur Book Shop for their generous support.

A Room of One's Own has been incorporated in WI since 1975 and has operated a retail bookstore in downtown Madison ever since. Our WI resale number is 456-0000353784-03. A Room of One's Own operates in accordance with federal and state policies regarding the receipt of publications by prisoners.

Organizations that work on criminal justice reform in WI:

ACLU OF WISCONSIN

aclu-wi.org

Protects the civil liberties of WI citizens.

EXPO Ex-incarcerated People Organizing

expowisconsin.org

Committed to dismantling all systems that support mass incarceration and dedicated to creating just systems with policies that build healthy families and safe communities.

FAIR SHAKE

farishake.net

A reentry information resource hub with a free 'office in the cloud' for all for people personally affected by the prison system

FORUM FOR UNDERSTANDING PRISONS

prisonform.org

Advocates for and corresponds with WI prisoners via a newsletter and blogs.

LEGAL ACTION WISCONSIN

legalactionwi.org

Represents incarcerated people as they approach their release from prison. They assist clients in applying for a variety of public benefits.

PEOPLE AGAINST SOLITARY CONFINEMENT

peopleagainstsolitaryconfinement.org

Does public outreach in WI with a mobile to-scale model of a solitary confinement cell. They also perform staged readings by prisoners.

WISCONSIN INNOCENCE PROJECT & LEGAL ASSISTANCE TO INSTITUTIONALIZED PERSONS (LAIP)

law.wisc.edu/fjr/

Provides pro bono legal and investigative services to individuals seeking to prove innocence of crimes for which they have been convicted. LAIP provides legal assistance and advice to WI prisoners.

WISDOM

wisdomwisconsin.org/

Linking people across faiths to work for justice.

Note: A resource list for those re-entering communities in Wisconsin is available by request from WI Books to Prisoners. A shortcut to many of these services can be located by dialing: 211 <https://211.wisconsin.communityos.org/>

National resources:

ACLU NATIONAL PRISON PROJECT

www.aclu.org/issues/prisoners-rights

Works to ensure that U.S. prisons, jails, and detention facilities comply with the Constitution, domestic law, and international human rights principles.

CRITICAL RESISTANCE

criticalresistance.org

Works to end the Prison Industrial Complex by challenging the belief that caging and controlling people makes every-one safe. The Abolitionist newspaper is free to prisoners.

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENSE CENTER

humanrightsdefensecenter.org

Advocates on behalf of the human rights of people held in U.S. prisons and detention facilities.

THE MARSHAL PROJECT

themarshallproject.org

Nonprofit journalism about criminal justice.

THE NATIONAL LAWYERS GUILD

nlg.org/

Publishes "The Jailhouse Lawyer's Handbook", which explains how a prisoner can start a lawsuit in federal court to fight against mistreatment in prison.

PRISON ACTIVIST RESOURCE CENTER

prisoneractivist.org

Publishes a 24-page directory of organizations supporting prisoners.

PRISON BOOK PROGRAM

prisonbookprogram.org

Source of the "National Prisoner Resource List" and the "We the People" legal primer.

PRISON POLICY INITIATIVE

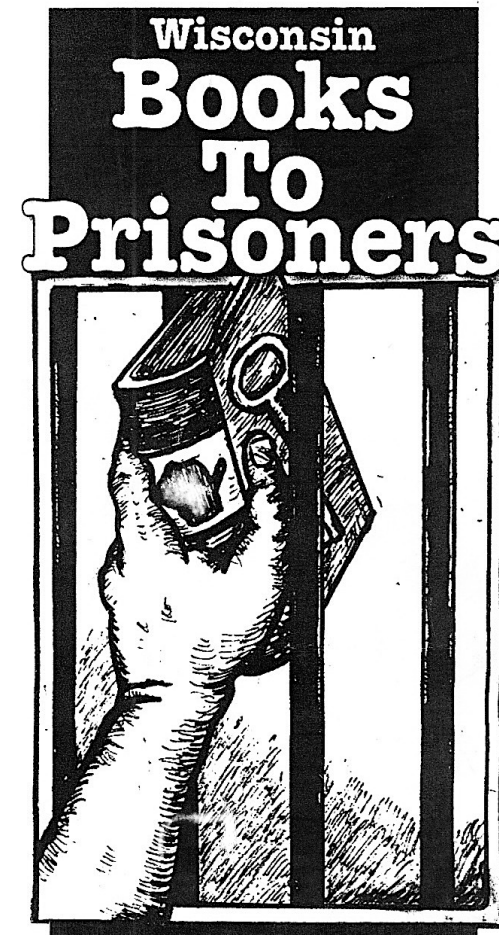
prisonpolicy.org

Produces research to expose the broader harm of mass incarceration, and advocates to create a more just society.

THE SENTENCING PROJECT

sentencingproject.org

Works for a fair criminal justice system by promoting reforms in sentencing law and practice and alternatives to incarceration.



Every man who knows how to read has it in his power to magnify himself, to multiply the ways in which he exists, to make his life full, significant and interesting.

-Aldous Huxley-



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