

Prison Books Program

2020-21 Annual Report

The Prison Books last delivery to a prison was on March 13, 2020, to Huron Valley Women's Prison. We had one pick-up since lockdown, a 2018 edition of World Book Encyclopedia, which is in storage, awaiting the re-opening of our service. The encyclopedia was provided by the Ypsilanti Public Library, doing inventory control during lock-down. In all, in 2020, we collected 1220 books from 5 libraries and delivered 1280 books to 4 prisons and 1 school.

In the past 10 months we have had numerous emails, to prisonbooks@uuaa.org, offering donations and expressing interest in helping out. Most requests have come from outside our congregation. All have been answered with an explanation of our situation. All newcomers have been asked if they would like to join our email group list, prisonerbooks@uuaa.org, and most have accepted and are now part of the group list.

Use of both email addresses, prisonbooks@uuaa.org for leadership and prisonerbooks@uuaa.org for the group, have been helpful. We have had major leadership changes with both Bob Heinold moving away. Dave Schwab has stepped in to help, but when we resume operation we will need to re-evaluate the program and its various operations: volunteer coordination, collection points, storage, and distribution. At the moment Phyllis Valentine is replying to all emails to prisonbooks, but the email is currently directed to Phyllis, Dave Schwab, Anne Vanden Belt, and Debbie Zivan.

Submitted by Phyllis Valentine