

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE- 5/21/2021

### **DEON's First Annual Book Drive- Midpoint Update**

The Diversity & Equal Opportunity Network's (DEON) first annual Book Drive is well under way. In less than a month, they have collected more than 200 books and over \$750 in cash and gift card donations. DEON wishes to extend sincere thanks for the generosity and support shown throughout the community so far from all of the businesses, families, and individuals that have contributed to the goal of collecting at least 250 books to enhance the Evesham township school's libraries.

Community members still have the opportunity to make an impact and give to the drive by selecting books from DEON's Amazon wish list and having them delivered directly or making their purchase from their preferred retailer and dropping off in person to DEON's Book Drive drop bin conveniently located at Evesham Township's Municipal Building, in the lobby right outside the Library entrance doors.

[https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3JHPCWKRMG2AU/ref=nav\\_wishlist\\_lists\\_1?encoding=UTF8&type=wishlist](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3JHPCWKRMG2AU/ref=nav_wishlist_lists_1?encoding=UTF8&type=wishlist)

As at May 21<sup>st</sup>, not only does the date mark DEON's Book Drive for Evesham Township School District (ETSD) midway point, it also marks the 'World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development'. This day is set aside annually by the United Nations (UN) as an opportunity to deepen our understanding of the values of cultural diversity and to learn to live together in harmony. The UN's website states, "the aim is, on the one hand, to incorporate culture into all development policies, be they related to education, science, communication, health, environment or cultural tourism and, on the other hand, to support the development of the cultural sector through creative industries." The overall significance of DEON's Book Drive is very thoughtful and displays the passion and dedication the advocacy group brings in their efforts to increase diversity, inclusion, and equity within the Evesham Township School District.

To celebrate the nearing of the end of DEON's 1st Book Drive for ETSD, the event has been changed to Saturday June 19, 2021 and is being held in conjunction with Evesham Township's First Annual Juneteenth Celebration that is focused around unity. This public event will be held at Marlton's Memorial Park (1010 Tuckerton Road, Field M3) for a fun-filled afternoon with music, art, activities & food for the entire family to enjoy from 3pm -7 pm. We look forward to seeing everyone there.

DEON would like to take this opportunity to thank Dr Justin Smith (ETSD Superintendent), Aneesh Kanthan (ETSD BOE) along with all other involved attf for their ongoing liaison and willingness to nurture this partnership along Evesham Township for their partnership on this event. We also extend our sincerest appreciation to the community for their support in strengthening the Evesham Township K-8 schools! For more details on how DEON can

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