

jersey's **helping** hands

Book drive reaches all the way to South Africa

Who: Emma Carver, a junior at the Pingry School in Martinsville

What: Spearheaded a project to collect books for youngsters in South Africa for the Global Literacy Project Inc., a nonprofit group that fosters community-based literacy throughout the world.

Quote: "I started with a goal of collecting 20,000 books and ended up with 58,000 including textbooks, children's books, picture books, dictionaries and reference books. I was amazed," said Carver, 17.

Background: Carver learned about the Global Literacy Project last year while taking part in a volunteer effort at a church in Summit, where members of the group sponsoring the project also had a booth. "The nonprofit was co-founded by Olubayi Olubayi and Denniston Bonadie, professors from Rutgers University. It sounded like a great project," the Mendham resident said. So she sought permission at school to present the idea to the student body.

"Starting at the end of March, to the end of May, there were boxes placed in school where people could drop off books. The idea caught on and even kids from other schools and people from our church, Christ the King in New Vernon, got involved," Carver said. The books were sent to Randfontein, a town near Johannesburg.



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Emma Carver, left, with some of the 58,000 books destined for South Africa. With her are Neeraj Shekhar; her twin brothers, Sean and Reeve Carver; Christina Vanech; and her sister, Chloe Carver.

In August, Carver was among a group of 28, including fellow students, parents, teachers and people from Global Literacy, who traveled to South African to visit schools and libraries. "Seeing firsthand that what we did was making a difference is a

pretty good feeling," she said.

Personal: Carver is the daughter of Anne DeLaney and Chip Carver. She has a sister, Chloe, 15, and twin brothers, Sean and Reeve, 12, who also attend Pingry.

How you can help: Learn more

about Global Literacy Project Inc. by logging onto glpinc.org.

— Michele Howe

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