



THE LAURA BUSH FOUNDATION  
FOR AMERICA'S LIBRARIES



*“Children who love reading, love learning, and once children learn to use a library, the doors to learning are always open to them.”*

*Laura Bush*

# *Laura Bush and the Laura Bush Foundation for America's Libraries*

**T**he love of books — of holding a book, turning its pages, looking at the pictures, and hearing wonderful stories read aloud — is key to developing a love of learning and to building important skills. But not every child is fortunate enough to have access to a colorful, well-stocked school or community library. As school budgets have been stretched thin, often library budgets are cut back or cut out all together. The Laura Bush Foundation for America's Libraries was created to help put books on those library shelves.

Laura Bush's passion for reading and libraries was sparked at an early age by her mother, who read to her and took her regularly to the local public library in her birthplace of Midland, Texas. After receiving a bachelor's degree in education from Southern Methodist University, Mrs. Bush earned a master's degree in library science from the University of Texas at Austin.

She shared her love of reading and books first as a public school teacher and librarian in Houston, Dallas, and Austin. When her husband was Governor of Texas, Mrs. Bush promoted reading and learning – especially for young children – throughout the state. On the national level, Laura Bush has established programs such as her early childhood education initiative, “Ready to Read, Ready to Learn,” and the National Book Festival in Washington, DC.

As our nation's First Lady and Honorary Chair of this new Foundation, Laura Bush is dedicated to supporting programs for reading and learning and to enhancing libraries across America. She wants everyone to understand the importance of reading in a child's development, and she uses her role at the national level to encourage parents, teachers, and caregivers to share the magic of reading with children.

While traveling across the United States and visiting schools and libraries, Mrs. Bush has noted the problems that school libraries encounter in keeping their book collections up to date. As technology is important for student learning, so too are current, diverse, and plentiful book collections. They must be available to all students in order to improve academic achievement and encourage life-long reading and learning.

## *The Laura Bush Foundation for America's Libraries*

# *Important Facts*

- The mission of the Laura Bush Foundation is to support the education of our nation's children by providing funds to update, extend, and diversify the book and print collections of America's school libraries.
- The Foundation was officially launched on June 4, 2002, at the White House Conference on America's Libraries, which featured the latest research on school libraries and student achievement as well as model school library programs. The conference was attended by education, library, government, and philanthropic leaders from across the country. Conference proceedings are available at [www.laurabushfoundation.org](http://www.laurabushfoundation.org).
- Grants from the Laura Bush Foundation for America's Libraries, a fund of the Community Foundation for the National Capital Region, will go to school libraries across the nation to help build or extend their collections. The first grants will be awarded in early 2003.
- The grant application process will be administered by the Community Foundation for the National Capital Region with guidance from the Laura Bush Foundation's Advisory Committee.

*“We can contribute to children's happy learning experiences by making sure they have plenty of books to borrow from their school libraries to read in class and at home.”*

*Laura Bush*



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*A Fund of the Community Foundation for the National Capital Region*