

Name of your organisation	Give a Book
Date of TFN event which you pitched at	20/06/2023
Name of the project TFN funded	Reading in Prison
Were you able to undertake your project as you outlined in the application?	Yes
Can you describe and/or demonstrate the specific impact that TFN funding has had against your initial objectives?	<p>We received funding for our reading projects in prison. This enabled us to run various projects including increasing the number of Prison Reading Groups to 92 running in 67 prisons.</p> <p>Prison Reading Groups (PRG) sets up, funds, and supports reading groups in prisons across the country. Groups are voluntary and informal and may be run by the librarian or a volunteer. The emphasis is on the pleasure of reading and where possible groups choose what they read.</p> <p>There are over 87,000 people in UK prisons. All but about 65 of them will be released at some point. Key drivers of rehabilitation are family and a sense of purpose. Prisoners need to feel purposeful and connected to the world. They need a belief that they could be someone better than a loser with a number.</p> <p>“In the reading group everyone is given a voice, all have an equal say. For one hour a month I feel that my opinion is valid, that others care what I say.” (Group member)</p> <p>We also run Books for First Nighters in 62 prisons which provides books for those spending their first night in prison in the hope of offering some comfort and mental release to the new arrival. Books are refreshed quarterly.</p> <p>“It has a calming effect. Prisoners appreciate the act of giving especially because they get very less given to them in a prison. A prisoner told me that it takes</p>

him out of this world for a bit. I have so many positive reviews from the prisoners about the books so far.”
(Prison officer)

3 things are needed to turn a life around, somewhere to live, something meaningful to do, and someone to love, to connect to. Prisoners who maintain family contact and visits are significantly less likely to reoffend. Family relationships have been called the golden thread that runs through the process of rehabilitation. To support this we were able to send books to 68 Family Days and run Raising Readers in 35 prisons. Reading together as family builds bridges and bonds. It’s the chance to help a young child learn to read, or later, discuss school, interests and what they love – and so crucially to remain a part of the life of the home.

For Family Days we send in books to prisons and where possible volunteers to help support the process of prisoner parents choosing a book with their child. 'My son was happy when he got his book, he reads to me on the phone.’ (parent)

“The children’s faces lit up when they received their gift of a book. It was a joy to see the children sitting on their daddy’s knees listening to their story.”
(Facilitator)

Our Raising Readers project offers the opportunity for prisoner parents to choose and send a book home to their children, complete with a bookplate for a personal message. We also supply a copy for the prisoner parent so that they can share the book on phone calls, video visits or on a Family Day. This year we offered prisons a branded library stand so the RR books have their own space in the library.

'Raising Readers is brilliant, my son really enjoyed being able to read the book with me over the phone and be able to read it with me.’ (Parent)

“Thank you for thinking about my family and not just locking me away” (Parent)

What portion of the project did TFN fund?	10%
How many direct beneficiaries did the TFN funded project reach?	1900 prisoners
How many indirect beneficiaries did the TFN funded project reach?	900 children of prisoners
Were you able to leverage further funding as a result of TFN support?	No
Did you receive any pro-bono support, volunteer offers or introductions as a result of the event?	No
How important was TFN funding in helping you achieve your objectives?	We would have found it difficult to achieve our objectives without TFN funding
Has the training you received from TFN better prepared you in pitching your organisation to potential funders?	Yes
Has TFN increased your capacity to raise further funds?	Yes
Can you tell us any personal stories to highlight the value of the project?	It is difficult to get case studies but the feedback we receive which is detailed above shows the benefits for all involved.
Since presenting at TFN, has your organisation undergone any other significant changes?	No
Do you have any other comments or feedback on the experience of the TFN process?	The training was really helpful