Atlanta woman celebrates birthday with gift of literacy

Nollette Mundabi plans to send 45,000 books to kids in her native Congo.

**HOW TO HELP**

Volunteers are needed to sort and pack books at the books for Africa warehouse at 1101 Cobb Industrial Dr., Marietta. Learn more at booksforafrica.org.

---

Nollette Mundabi, a 62-year-old Atlanta woman who learned to read and write in the Democratic Republic of Congo, is celebrating her birthday with a very special gift: 45,000 books for kids in her native country.

Mundabi, who was born in Kinshasa, Zaire (now the Democratic Republic of Congo), said she was inspired to start a book drive after seeing a photo of a young girl holding a book. She decided to organize a campaign to collect books for children in her home country, where literacy rates are among the lowest in the world.

**The books**

The books, which will be sent to children in primary and secondary schools, will be donated to schools in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Mundabi plans to send the books in batches of 5,000, with the first batch scheduled to be delivered in the fall.

**The challenge**

Although Mundabi has been arequent visitor to the Democratic Republic of Congo, she says it has been difficult to find a way to get the books to the children who need them the most. She has been working with a few local organizations to help her with the logistics of the project.

**Why Mundabi decided to give back**

Mundabi said she was inspired to start the campaign after reading about the challenges that children in the Democratic Republic of Congo face in accessing education. She believes that books are essential for children to develop their reading skills and to help them reach their full potential.

**How you can help**

If you would like to help Mundabi in her book drive, please consider making a donation to her campaign. Donations can be made through her website, booksforafrica.org, and will be used to cover the cost of shipping the books to the Democratic Republic of Congo.

---

**The Uplift**

Teen risks life to rescue disabled stranger

High school senior pulls woman out of path of oncoming train.

By Sydney Page

washingtonpost.com

Lilly Baker was driving to meet some friends in Limestone County, Alabama, last month when she spotted a woman with a wheelchair who was crossing the railroad tracks.

The woman was struggling to cross the tracks and Baker knew she had to act fast. She sped to a safe distance from the tracks and quickly turned off her car's lights.

Baker then ran back to the woman and helped her across the tracks.

Baker was later honored by the Alabama State Legislature for her bravery. She was recognized for her quick thinking and decisive action.

Baker told the Washington Post that she had been driving in the area for years and had never seen anything similar happen before.

"I just knew I had to do something," Baker said.

Baker's actions were hailed as a true act of heroism. Her story went viral on social media and inspired many to think about the importance of being compassionate and willing to help others in need.

"I'm just glad I was able to help," Baker said.

Baker's actions were also praised by local officials, who praised her for her bravery.

"Lilly Baker's actions are a shining example of what it means to be a good citizen," said Rep. Danny Woods, a Democrat who represents Limestone County.

---

**HELP US INSPIRE ATLANTA**

We recognize the big impact of our journalistic missions to shine a light on wrongdoing and to hold public officials accountable.

But we also understand the importance of presenting uplifting stories that celebrate our region's progress, diversity, and culture. We hope you enjoy our weekly feature Inspire Atlanta, which appears in Sunday's Living & Arts section, and our daily feature The Uplift — a regular dose of touching stories from around the world. We're also expanding that connect with our @Feeding-Only Inspire Atlanta Extra on Fridays.

Know someone who inspires you or makes metro Atlanta a better place for others? Email us at Auj.InspireAtlanta@ajc.com.

---

**SUNDAY, MARCH 7, 2021**

**THE ATLANTA JOURNAL-CONSTITUTION**

---

**Disclosure**

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution is a service of the Cox Media Group.

---

**About Inspire Atlanta**

Inspire Atlanta is a weekly feature in the Sunday Living & Arts section of the Atlanta Journal-Constitution that highlights uplifting stories from around the world. The feature includes a mix of stories about local heroes, acts of kindness, and inspiring moments that bring joy and hope to our readers. Inspire Atlanta is a part of our ongoing commitment to shine a light on the positive aspects of our region and to celebrate the people who make metro Atlanta a better place. To submit a story idea, email us at Auj.InspireAtlanta@ajc.com.