

GEORGETOWN MOM HOSTING BOOK DRIVE FOR CHILDREN IN THE PHILIPPINES

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Having ample books and learning resources at our fingertips is considered a normal part of life for many, but Rosa De Dieu knows that sourcing reading materials can be a monumental challenge for some children in her home country.

"The kids (in the Philippines) are trying their best, sometimes walking one hour to go to school, but there's not enough resources when they get there," said the Georgetown mother of two. "The books are falling apart, so they're putting tape on them. These are things we take for granted here."

It's stories like this that have inspired De Dieu to collect books for youth of all ages, and educational materials, to ship to schools in the Philippines. She's now turning to the local community for donations and hopes to send a hearty shipment before the school year there begins in June.

"Most kids there still rely on books, as there's not always a signal for the internet," she said. "I would like all kids to have access



Melanie Hennessey/Metroland
Georgetown resident Rosa De Dieu is collecting books to donate to several schools in the Philippines.

to books."

This isn't De Dieu's first time gathering resources to benefit Filipino schools; she previously collected books as part of a community outreach program during her high school reunion. She's always on the hunt for second-hand book bargains and would like to have an even bigger impact this time around, with the help of local residents.

"I'm hoping that people will be generous," she said. "Being an immigrant coming from the same environment, I want to do something to help these children."

An avid reader, De Dieu, as a child, walked half an hour to the library, or to her aunt's house, to borrow books.

She has four elementary schools in mind in Iriga City and Nabua that would benefit from the donations of books and learning materials such as flash cards, puzzles and educational toys. She isn't seeking monetary donations and plans to pay out of her own pocket for shipping.

Those interested in making a donation can contact De Dieu at parabal3@gmail.com to arrange for pickup.



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- 11^{AM} Tyke (2011/2012)
- 12^{PM} Novice (2009/2010)
- 1^{PM} Pee Wee/Bantam (2005/2008)



Sat. April 20

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