

## **A Local Treasure with a Rich History**

By Corey Izzo

For over 20 years, The Book Rack has been a cherished part of the community, providing a space for book lovers to connect and explore. Throughout its history, the store has seen multiple owners, but it was given new life three years ago when Roxy Phaneuf took over. Her renovations made the space more inviting and easier to navigate, creating a warm, cozy atmosphere while maintaining the historical charm that makes The Book Rack so special. Since these changes, the bookstore has flourished, reaching new customers locally and beyond.

### **The Team That Makes It All Possible**

The Book Rack's success wouldn't be possible without its dedicated team. One standout contributor was Sam, who continuously introduced fresh ideas to enhance the store. One of her most significant contributions was the creation of the **No Stress Book Club**.

### **No Stress Book Club: A New Way to Connect**

Sam recognized the challenges of running a traditional book club in a used bookstore.

Purchasing new books every month wasn't financially sustainable, so she reimaged the concept. The **No Stress Book Club** was born—a space where people could bring any book they wanted or come without one. There were no deadlines, no assigned readings, and no pressure to finish a book. The goal was simple: share, discuss, and enjoy books without stress or judgment.

Since its launch, the book club has been an overwhelming success, drawing in open-minded readers eager to explore a variety of genres—from contemporary fiction to the wonders of

poisonous plants. While Sam has since moved on to new opportunities, Kenzie has stepped in to keep the book club thriving.

### **Diving into The Book Rack's Offerings**

As a used bookstore, The Book Rack is full of unique finds. The fiction section is the most popular, with science fiction and fantasy drawing avid readers—including a noteworthy Star Trek collection. Classic literature remains a staple, with rare antique books dating back to the 1700s and 1800s for those who enjoy history.

For those with unique interests, the hobby section is filled with quirky and unexpected books. Meanwhile, bestsellers and new releases are highly sought-after, often gaining traction through social media promotions.

### **Giving Back: The Power of Book Donations**

One of the best ways to support The Book Rack is through donations. Customers can bring in used books and receive store credit in return, making it an affordable way to discover new reads while keeping the store's selection fresh. There are no restrictions—all books are welcomed, ensuring a diverse range of options for visitors.

### **Supporting Local Authors Through Events**

The Book Rack is deeply committed to uplifting local authors. The store hosts two to three author events per year, with plans to expand in 2025. These events allow local writers to gain visibility, connect with readers, and celebrate the literary talent within the community. As local

authors receive increasing support, The Book Rack aims to foster even more opportunities in the future.

### **Strengthening the Community Through Literacy**

Beyond selling books, The Book Rack actively engages with local schools and organizations to promote literacy. Kenzie, one of the store's most dedicated team members, has a deep passion for helping children and young readers find books they love. She firmly believes in the power of books to help kids discover themselves and develop a love for learning.

Recently, Kenzie represented The Book Rack at **PBS's Children's Literacy Book Bash**, an event that connects books with children from low-income families. Her journey at The Book Rack began as a volunteer, and after six months, she was officially hired. She quickly took charge of the **children's section**, ensuring that young readers could find engaging and diverse books that cater to their interests.

### **The Heart of The Book Rack: Volunteers**

The unsung heroes of The Book Rack are its **volunteers**. Their support is invaluable, helping to keep the store running smoothly. In return for their efforts, volunteers receive one free book per shift, making it a rewarding way to give back. With The Book Rack being a small business, every extra set of hands makes a difference. If you or someone you know is looking for a way to contribute to the community, volunteering at The Book Rack is a wonderful opportunity.

### **A Place for Book Lovers, Built by the Community**

At its core, The Book Rack is more than just a bookstore—it's a community where people can find books they love, connect with fellow readers, and support local literacy efforts. Whether through book clubs, donations, author events, or volunteering, The Book Rack continues to make a lasting impact on its town. As it looks to the future, the store remains committed to adapting, growing, and welcoming all who share a passion for reading.