



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF THE UPSTATE

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Hello, thank you for taking a moment to read this recommendation of Emily Conrad and her *Need To Read Book Club*.

Today our young people read books less than ever. As technology and multimedia provide a broad river of information, pop culture, and varied messages to our young people, reading as a leisure and learning activity is being steadily drowned out. At the same time, another trend is rising. Through home-schooling and other community programs, young leaders are stepping up to make a difference. Before you today is one of the most outstanding students you will find in that group – Emily Conrad. In her studies and civic involvement, Emily has adopted a mission of helping young people acquire a love for reading through her *Need To Read Book Club* organization.

Her hard work has produced a program model that fills several significant gaps in the education and involvement of our middle school aged students nation-wide:

- Young teens that read because they want to,
- Young teens reading books, properly screened for adult content, that carry positive messages; and
- Young teens connecting learning with serving others.

As president of our local Boys & Girls Clubs, an organization serving over 1,200 children every afternoon, I know that the *Need to Read Book Club* is highly marketable to schools, parents, and youth serving organizations. The service that Emily is offering through this work is worth your thoughtful consideration. Please listen to or read this young lady's vision and proposal with the mission in mind – young people involved in positive reading and helping others.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Greg Tolbert
President and CPO

