



STORIES FROM AMERICA'S LANDSCAPE

*An Inspirational Project
Designed to make the world a
gentler place for all.*

If you've lived in Lakewood for a while, you know that Libby Kinsey and her husband Jim want all children to see the beauty in our world. Now more than ever, Libby and Jim are determined to make this world a gentler and kinder place for all. The Kinseys have been on a lifelong journey that covers the span of literature, child development, poetry, nature, and giving back. Libby, retired as a Lakewood educator after a long career that began here in 1978. Jim, served as a pastor and is an experienced educator in rural sociology. Jim is a dedicated writer, poet, and has a background in children's literature. Both Libby and Jim are avid readers. Over the summer, and during COVID, they launched an initiative, "Stories from America's Landscape" with a goal of placing at least 30 new diverse books in every K-8 classroom and school library in May. "These are diverse books featuring children of color and written by diverse authors" said Kinsey. "We want children to see all the beauty in this world, be curious about others, to see commonalities, be interested, and take delight in differences. What better way to do that than through the power of stories."

The Kinseys hope that folks in the Lakewood community can help them reach this goal. Eight copies of every title will be purchased so that the designated grade has a copy in each classroom. A set of eight hardcover books is \$125, and a set of paperbacks is \$75. The donations this project has received, be it \$5.00 or \$1,400, have come from right next door in our community and as far as Swaziland to Brazil, and points between!

This Thanksgiving season, we are grateful for so very much. We are deeply thankful for the supportive Lakewood community. If you wish to join the Kinseys in this mission to make our world a gentler, kinder place for us all by placing these amazing and diverse stories in the hands of Lakewood students, you can visit:

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/stories-from-america-landscape>

or contact libbylou54@hotmail.com.

Special thanks to Dave Nisbitt, who has been instrumental in reviewing these beautiful books that are a part of the project, and to Kathrine Ruthruff, who has given her time and talents in recording each title, grade level, and author.

With a genuine, warm smile Kinsey stated, "We hope this is a venue that captures the hearts of many. Together we can make a shift in our world. I really believe it. The hope, as always, is in our children."

