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Program joins books, football for foster kids

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ANDERSON - Indiana foster children were special guests at Colts camp Tuesday and came away with something that may change their lives.

Everyone who shows up at Colts training camp has a favorite player, but the foster children who took in practice were just getting started. The kids bounced around Colts City, climbing and sliding, but the most important part of the event came inside a backpack, delivered by Colts mascot "Blue."

The backpacks held 25 books for the students to read before returning to school as part of the "Books for Youth" program that has been around since 2007. It's delivered a half-million books and 2,000 backpacks to Indiana's foster children.

"Any given time there's 10,000 foster kids that are in the system. We're able to provide them a backpack with the Colts platform and Child Services. It's theirs, it's very cool," said Steve Fugate with Cargo Services.

"I think they're amazing, how they give us 25 books," said one girl.

"The books are fun to read and I love to read," said another girl.

"It's an amazing opportunity for children who often don't have books in their home. And even though they're in foster families now, a lot of times, they return back to their homes and take their books back to their families of origin," said Susan Dove-Tobin.

They're going back with more than books, they're taking memories of an incredible day of football and fun.

You can get involved in the program. If you order a backpack, the Colts and Indiana Department of Child Services [will donate one backpack filled with 25 books](#) to an Indiana foster child.



Dozens of foster children attended Colts camp Tuesday.



The Colts mascot helped distribute backpacks to the children.



The backpacks were filled with books for the children to take home and read.

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