

LOCAL

Young readers help with Briceville Library move

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BRICEVILLE— From 3-year-olds still toddling to fifth-graders, they formed a line that stretched down a long school hallway and out the door to this isolated community's new library.

It was moving day, at least for several hundred of what librarian Daphne Windham calls the "easy books."

All of the children in the 130-student Briceville Elementary School helped on Friday morning.

With teachers joining in, the students passed some 300 children's books hand to hand to their final destination — a hitherto empty bookshelf in the new Briceville Library.

"I'll come here every day to read a book," 10-year-old fifth-grader Renneea Chapman said, briefly pausing from her book-passing duties.

It's the first phase of



PAUL EFIRD/NEWS SENTINEL

Librarian Daphne Windham supervises a human chain Friday at Briceville Elementary School transferring about 300 children's books to the new Briceville Library next door. The work is a prelude to a bigger undertaking today as community volunteers are scheduled to transfer about 4,000 books from the Briceville Friendship

Center on state Highway 116 to Slatestone Road and then into the library, next door to the school.

The second, adult

version of a human chain takes place at 10 a.m. today. That's when volunteers will extend from the Briceville Friendship

Center on state Highway 116 to Slatestone Road and then into the library, next door to the school.

They'll be conveying

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Video: Scenes from Friday's moving day

books that have for years been crammed into a 420-square-foot room in the Friendship Center, owned by the Clinton Baptist Association.

Watching Friday's event was Marshall Hackworth, a longtime member of the Anderson County Library Board.

"The people of Briceville had been let down by the lack of a library," he said. "That's what got me determined to work on it."

For more than six years, Hackworth and other board members strived behind the scenes to find funding for the library, which cost nearly \$400,000 to build.

The state and Anderson County chipped in \$100,000 each. A long-term, low-interest federal loan also was received, and

contributions poured in.

"It has been a long, tedious process," Hackworth said.

Efforts are continuing to raise \$20,000 for children's furniture, fellow board member Hazel Guyton said.

Contributions in other forms are arriving. Oak Ridge resident Al Denney donated 55 boxes of books that are now in storage, Hackworth said.

Tennessee Secretary of State Tre Hargett was on hand when groundbreaking for the Briceville Library occurred in June 2011.

Daphne Windham, the library's director, said Hargett "wants to come back and finish the job" and plans to be on hand 10 a.m. Sept. 13 for a ribbon-cutting.

The official opening date hasn't been determined yet, but the 2,000-square-foot building will be available Monday through Friday noon to 6 p.m.