

# THE GIFT OF READING



PHOTOS BY CHRIS SEWARD - cseward@newsobserver.com



At left, Sonali Sethi, far left, and Rasika Rajagopalan from N.C. State University joined a host of other volunteers, above, Thursday to sort through some of more than 114,000 books at a vacant store in Cary Towne Center. The books were collected as part of the annual WAKE Up and Read book drive. Organizers said this year's drive exceeded the goal of collecting 100,000 children's books to give to students at nine high-poverty Wake County elementary schools and community centers near those schools.