



BARBARA BUSH
HOUSTON LITERACY FOUNDATION

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Barbara Bush Houston Literacy Foundation Donates One Millionth Book to HISD Student Just in Time for the Holiday Season

My Home Library program aims to close the gap in home access to books, build a culture of reading success and inspire lifelong love of reading.

HOUSTON – The Barbara Bush Houston Literacy Foundation (Foundation) and Houston Independent School District (HISD) partnered to give the gift of reading to students just in time for the holidays and celebrate an incredible milestone through the Foundation’s My Home Library program. On Friday, December 8, the more than 400 students at Browning Elementary School selected six new books to read and keep, which included the one millionth book donated since the inception of the My Home Library program in 2017. Iconic children’s literary characters, Clifford and Dog Man, were in attendance to celebrate the special occasion.

“We are excited to partner with HISD to celebrate the gifting of our one millionth book through the My Home Library,” said Julie Finck, Ph.D., President, and CEO of the Barbara Bush Houston Literacy Foundation. “The My Home Library program is an example of how we can unite as a community around the common goal of increasing childhood literacy outcomes and meaningfully support the important work that our schools and educators do each and every day to create a culture of reading success and spark a lifelong love of reading among students and families across our city.”

The Foundation’s My Home Library program aims to close both the book and opportunity gaps by providing economically disadvantaged children with free books to read, share, love and keep. The Foundation launched the program in 2017 and piloted the concept in partnership with HISD leaders and Browning Elementary School staff, making it extra special to donate the one millionth book to a student from the same school. Since the program’s inception, the Foundation has donated home libraries of six books each to more than 173,000 children through the My Home Library program, totaling more than one million books.

“The Nation’s Report Card showed that 2022 reading scores for HISD students were significantly lower than those of their peers across the country,” said HISD Central Division Superintendent Luz Martinez. “HISD is working to dramatically improve the quality of instruction and teach students in ways that reflect what the research says about how students best learn to read. We are grateful to the Barbara Bush Houston Literacy Foundation for their partnership and for supporting HISD students in learning how to read.”



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These home libraries are provided to children at no cost to them thanks in large part to the Foundation's partnership with Scholastic®, the world's largest children's book publisher, and generous program sponsors, including 1PointFive, Air Liquide, Audacy, CenterPoint Energy, Cotton Foundation, Crestwood, Hess, Marathon Oil, Oxy, Perry Homes Foundation, Phillips 66, and Reliant, as well as the Foundation's Young Professionals Group and Ladies for Literacy Guild. In addition, many individual community members who care deeply about children and education have sponsored home libraries for children in need and supported the program through the Foundation's annual fundraiser, called A Celebration of Reading.

For more information about the Foundation's My Home Library program and how to get involved, visit www.BarbaraBushHouston.org.

About the Barbara Bush Houston Literacy Foundation

The Barbara Bush Houston Literacy Foundation is a charitable organization formed by Neil and Maria Bush to carry forth First Lady Barbara Bush's legacy in the literacy cause and to focus deeply on breaking the intergenerational cycle of low literacy in the Bush family's hometown. Founded on Mrs. Bush's belief, "If you help a person to read, then their opportunities in life will be endless," the Barbara Bush Foundation's mission is to improve lives through the power of literacy. Over the past 10 years, the Foundation has spearheaded innovative literacy programs and expanded access to high-quality services and resources that empower children, families, and adults with the support they need to learn how to read, write, and comprehend. For more information, visit www.barbarabushhouston.org or follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/bushhoustonliteracy on Twitter @bushhoustonlit and on Instagram @bushhoustonlit.

About the Houston Independent School District

The Houston Independent School District is the largest school district in Texas and the eighth largest in the United States. It serves approximately 185,000 students and is one of the largest employers in Houston, with about 27,000 team members.

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