

NEWS

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ASSISTANCE LEAGUE OF ST. LOUIS TREATS CHILDREN TO CHARACTER PARADE, BOOK GIVEAWAY AT STIX EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

ALL-VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION GIVES TWO NEW BOOKS TO NEARLY 500 CHILDREN



Members of Assistance League of St. Louis joined Saint Louis Public School Chief of Staff Dr. Nicole Freeman Williams (notice the cool Lego glasses) for a photo sporting their favorite themes—literacy and STEM (science, technology, engineering and math).



These Stix kindergartners were excited to receive books from Assistance League of St. Louis' Books From Friends program.

Assistance League of St. Louis volunteers treated nearly 500 students at Saint Louis Public School's Stix Early Childhood Center (647 Tower Grove Ave.) to a Halloween parade and book giveaway on Oct. 29.

The all-volunteer organization that for over 30 years has served the needs of thousands of St. Louisans, gave each student in grades pre-K through second grade two books to take home and a visit from such book characters as Pete the Cat and Penelope Rex.

"It was wonderful seeing the excitement of the children when their favorite book characters walked into class," said Stix Early Childhood Center Principal Diana Dymond. "The Assistance League team not only delivered books to our students but their costumes made those books come to life."

Chairmen of Assistance League of St. Louis' Books From Friends program Susan Long and Ruth Ellen Barr chose books for meaningful content, such as an introduction to STEM (science, technology, engineering and math). Other selected books can help children process emotions through fun and entertaining plots, like *Allie All Along*.

"Presenting these books in a unique way with a Book Character Parade led by Penelope Rex of *We Don't Eat Our Classmates* and Pete of *Pete the Cat* brings the books to life for young children," Long said.

Each Stix Early Childhood Center teacher received a container of books and a video-taped reading days before the parade to help build excitement and anticipation about the books each child would take home. Dr. Nicole L. Freeman Williams, Chief of Staff of Saint Louis Public Schools Superintendent's Office, visited the school to see the parade.

ABOUT ASSISTANCE LEAGUE OF ST. LOUIS. For more than 30 years, Assistance League of St. Louis' mission has been to identify, develop, fund and implement ongoing philanthropic programs to serve specific needs of children and adults in the St. Louis community. Assistance League of St. Louis is run by an all-volunteer group of almost 500. In 2019-2020 alone, Assistance League members and friends donated nearly 60,000 volunteer hours through six philanthropic programs, impacting more than 35,000 lives. Each program has a special focus from providing new school uniforms to shoes and socks and from personal care items for crisis shelters to books for aspiring readers. All funds raised are returned to the St. Louis community. Assistance League of St. Louis is an accredited charity of the Better Business Bureau and has achieved a Platinum Transparency Rating from GuideStar.