

NEWS

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ASSISTANCE LEAGUE OF ST. LOUIS BRINGS LITTLE LENDING COMMUNITY LIBRARIES AND LOADS OF BOOKS TO ALL RITENOUR SCHOOL DISTRICT ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

MEDIA OPPORTUNITY: Members of the media are invited to visit Ritenour School District's Iveland Elementary School at 1836 Dyer Ave, St. Louis, 63114, to check out one of six new Little Lending Community Libraries being installed by Assistance League of St. Louis. The official ribbon-cutting of these sharing libraries is set for Friday, March 1, from 2 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. At the ribbon-cutting, Iveland Elementary School children will be checking out these small wooden boxes offering free books. Media will also be able to speak to Dr. Mike LaChance, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, Ritenour Public School District, and Iveland School Principal Amanda Connelly. Assistance League of St. Louis President Roxie Randolph and other Assistant League leaders will be available for interviews.

Assistance League of St. Louis today announces the establishment of Little Community Libraries in Ritenour School District's six elementary schools. Assistance League volunteers will keep these little libraries stocked with books that children can borrow or keep to take home.

While other volunteers built the Little Libraries going into five of the six schools, it was recent Parkway South High School senior Elijah Edwards who built the Little Lending Community Library at Iveland Elementary School. This was his final project to complete all requirements to become an Eagle Scout. "We have been thrilled to work with Elijah on this and appreciate his hard work," said Sue Long, Chairman of Assistance League's program behind this initiative—Books From Friends.

Through this program, Assistance League volunteers have conducted school book fairs across St. Louis, providing free books, reading sessions and literacy activities to hundreds of students. Last year alone, Assistance League provided 12,000 books to aspiring readers.

“Research shows that having a book at home helps a child develop early literacy skills and learn to value books and stories,” said Assistance League of St. Louis President Roxie Randolph. “Assistance League volunteers have realized the importance of focusing on literacy as part of our many programs that bring essential clothing and personal items to children and their families. We know that reading sparks a child's imagination and stimulates curiosity. With this new initiative, we look forward to continuing to share the joy of reading and igniting the power of continuous learning.”

ABOUT ASSISTANCE LEAGUE OF ST. LOUIS. Assistance League of St. Louis is run by an all-volunteer group of more than 500 volunteers. The organization's mission is to identify, develop, fund and implement ongoing philanthropic programs to serve specific needs of children and adults in the St. Louis community. In 2017 alone, Assistance League members and friends donated 80,000 volunteer hours through nine philanthropic programs, touching more than 44,000 lives. Each program has a special focus from providing new school uniforms to shoes and socks and from personal care items for crisis shelter clients to teddy bears for comfort. 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.

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