

BOOKS FOR KIDS FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES

BOOKS FOR KIDS FOUNDATION OPENS REFURBISHED LIBRARY AT THE ANNIE G. NEWSOME HEAD START PROGRAM IN HARLEM IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE RODEPH SHOLOM SCHOOL

NEW YORK, New York – January 10, 2006 -- The Books for Kids Foundation today announced a library re-opening at the Annie G. Newsome Head Start with support from students of Rodeph Sholom School in New York. The library, originally created by the Foundation in 1995, is located on W. 138th Street in New York and serves more than 80 three and four year olds. Shon Gables, WCBS anchorwoman, also attended the opening and interviewed the students.

“This refurbishment exemplifies the meaningful results of our ‘Kids Helping Kids’ initiative,” said Trish Belfatto, Executive Director of The Books for Kids Foundation. The funding for the new books and furniture was provided through the activities of students of Rodeph Sholom School. Ms. Sarah Pettit, third grade teacher, initiated her class’ read-a-thon last spring to benefit the Books for Kids Foundation. Today’s event was an opportunity for the 60 now fourth grade students to visit the refurbished library and partner with the pre-schoolers in a reading activity.

ABOUT BOOKS FOR KIDS

The Books for Kids Foundation (<http://www.booksforkidsfoundation.org>) is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization whose mission is to promote literacy among all children with special emphasis on children in low income areas. Books for Kids raises money so that it can donate books, create children's libraries in underserved locations, and participate in reading initiatives with community based organizations.

The Books for Kids Foundation has provided children with more than 5 million books with an estimated retail value of \$45 million, built 50 libraries and distributed reading materials through approximately 280 agencies in the New York area and other communities served by Books for Kids chapters.

In addition to assisting recognized learning programs, such as Head Start, the Books for Kids Foundation seeks to create opportunities for children and parents in underserved or overlooked locations. Books for Kids libraries are being established in daycare, after-school and teen parenting programs, detention and correctional facilities, homeless shelters, and children’s healthcare centers.

ABOUT RODEPH SHOLOM

Rodeph Sholom School is committed to providing our students with a challenging academic environment, comprehensive Jewish knowledge, and enduring values to create compassionate, independent thinkers with a lifelong love of learning.

ABOUT THE ANNIE G. NEWSOME HEAD START

Abyssinian Development Corporation (ADC) sponsors the award-winning Annie G. Newsome Head Start Program, which provides pre-school age children with early childhood education, socialization skills, nutrition, medical, dental and developmental screenings and a full range of early intervention services. The Annie G. Newsome Head Start Program works from a holistic approach, focusing on the needs of 80 children and their families, and engaging the family and community as partners.

ABOUT ABYSSINIAN DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Abyssinian Development Corporation (ADC) is a not-for-profit comprehensive community development corporation dedicated to improving the quality of life in Harlem. ADC's mission is to increase the availability of quality housing for people of diverse incomes; enhance the delivery of family and social services, particularly to the homeless, elderly, families and children; foster economic revitalization; enhance educational and developmental opportunities for youth; and build community capacity through civic engagement. For more information on ADC's programs, services and Annie G. Newsome Head Start Program, please visit www.adcorp.org.

