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## **ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMENDS SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUBS & PAJAMA PROGRAM FOR GIFTING 6,000 NEW BOOKS TO VULNERABLE YOUTH IN NYC**

*Thanks to Scholastic Book Clubs & Pajama Program, 6,000 New Books Will Be Made Available to ACS Affiliated Youth in Grades K-8; Collaboration Promotes Literacy among NYC Youth*

New York, NY – Today, NYC Administration for Children's Services (ACS) Commissioner David A. Hansell announced that, thanks to Scholastic Book Clubs, a division of Scholastic, the global children's publishing, education, and media company, and Pajama Program, a national non-profit based in New York City, six thousand new books are being made available to youth in grades K–8 who are involved in a range of ACS programs. The books will be made available for youth at ACS sites throughout the city, including: the Nicholas Scoppetta Children's Center, EarlyLearn sites, and reading centers at ACS borough offices citywide.

The collaboration among ACS, Scholastic Book Clubs and Pajama Program aims to encourage literacy among NYC youth by making books more accessible to children and teaching parents and caregivers how to better engage children through books.

"At ACS, we work hard to make sure all children in New York City have the resources they need to thrive and these 6,000 new books for children will help us in that endeavor. Literacy is the greatest gift of all and so, I want to thank Scholastic Book Clubs and Pajama Program for their generous donation," said **ACS Commissioner David A. Hansell**.

"At Scholastic, we know that no bedtime routine is complete without a good story, and we're so proud to work with Pajama Program to ensure that kids all throughout New York City will be able to curl up in cozy pajamas with a good book each night," said **Judy Newman, President and Reader-in-Chief of Scholastic Book Clubs**. "It's through the hard work and dedication of the teachers who facilitate these pajama drives in their classrooms that this donation is possible. For that, we thank them."

"Pajama Program's ongoing partnership with ACS connects us with children who are at the heart of our mission. Thanks to Scholastic, we're delighted to play our part in ensuring every child has a good book to share with a caregiver, especially at bedtime," said **Carol Ripple, National Program Director at Pajama Program**. "Books are part of a comforting bedtime routine that sets children up for a good night so they can have a good day."

Since 1948, Scholastic Book Clubs has partnered with classroom teachers to give children of all income levels access to trusted, age-appropriate, and high-quality books at prices starting as low as one dollar. The monthly Book Club flyers, both printed and online, make it easy for children to choose their very own books, fostering a love of reading and creating a new generation of readers.

Pajama Program is a nonprofit that promotes and supports a comforting bedtime routine for all children to help them thrive. Since its founding in 2001, Pajama Program has provided over 6 million pajamas and books to children across the country, thanks in part to an enduring partnership with Scholastic.

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