

News Release

For Immediate Release

Contact Information

Erin Smith
Public Relations Manager
Bring Me A Book Foundation
(650) 625- 5000 ext 233
esmith@bringmeabook.org

Bring Me A Book and The HEDCO Foundation Celebrate National Literacy Month with Donation of Libraries

*Library Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on Tuesday, September 29, 10:30am Eastmont Head Start
Program, 7200 Bancroft Avenue, Suite 203, Oakland 94605*

(Oakland, CA) The HEDCO Foundation and the Bring Me A Book Foundation (BMAB) will conduct a ribbon cutting ceremony to commemorate the donation of six Bookcase Libraries to the Eastmont Head Start Program. The ceremony will take place September 29 10:30am at Oakland's Eastmont Head Start Program and will feature a ribbon cutting ceremony and read aloud sessions by Derek Jernstedt, Executive Director of the HEDCO Foundation, Brian Rogers, Executive Director of the Rogers Family Foundation, Donovan Cook, Director of Development of the Bring Me A Book Foundation and Lynda Stitt Site Director of Eastmont Head Start. Members of the media are encouraged to attend for event photographs and interviews.

The installation of the classroom libraries is being provided through a \$52,500 grant to Bring Me A Book from the HEDCO Foundation. Through the HEDCO Foundation grant funding, Bring Me A Book has placed 72 Bookcase Libraries in state funded preschool and Head Start classrooms in Oakland in 2009. Each Bring Me A Book Bookcase Library features a maple wood bookcase filled with 35 new, hardcover children's classic literature book titles.

In 2005, Bring Me A Book launched the Oakland Preschool Library Initiative which seeks to provide a Bring Me A Book Bookcase Library in every state funded preschool and Head Start classroom in Oakland. In addition, the Initiative provides BMAB's "First Teachers" training workshop at each site to the children's parents and caregivers, to ensure that a child's First Teacher, their parents and caregivers, understand both the importance of reading aloud to children on a regular basis and are provided examples of how they can make reading aloud "fun" for children. With major funding from the HEDCO Foundation, the Rogers Family Foundation, the Yahoo! Employee Foundation, and Kaiser Permanente, Bring Me A Book has delivered 165 Bookcase Libraries to 60 state funded preschool, Head Start and Child Development Centers in Oakland. Through the delivery of BMAB programs, the Initiative has impacted 3,120 children and 1,200 parents and has provided 6,955 new, high quality, hardcover children's books to Oakland's most underserved communities. The Oakland Preschool Library Initiative is slated for completion in 2010.

The Bring Me A Book Foundation® is a 501 (c) (3) award winning literacy non profit headquartered in Mountain View, CA. Bring Me A Book provides easy access to the best children's books and inspires reading aloud. Founded by Judy Koch in 1997, Bring Me A Book places libraries of books in state funded preschools, elementary schools (K – 3rd grade) and community centers and provides a First Teachers literacy training workshop for parents, teachers and caregivers. To date, Bring Me A Book has served over 450,000 children and families in 1,700 sites. For additional information or media inquiries please contact Erin Smith via telephone (650) 625-5000 ext 233 or through email esmith@bringmeabook.org.

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