



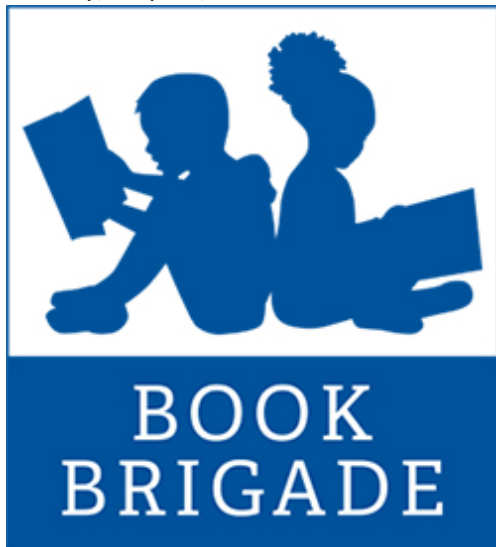
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BJC Book Brigade is on the way to local schools

Monday, May 06, 2019



BJC | Now in its fourth year, the BJC Book Brigade has provided more than 73,000 second-graders with a new book to read during their summer vacation.

This year's books have been packaged and delivered to nearly 400 elementary schools across the communities BJC serves, thanks to the staff at Valley Industries, a sheltered workshop that employs community members with developmental disabilities.

The additional 26,000 books will make their way to second-graders throughout St. Louis City, St. Louis County, St. Charles County, Columbia, Sullivan and Farmington in Missouri; and Alton, Belleville and Shiloh in Illinois.

Studies have shown that third-graders' reading proficiency can improve the likelihood they will graduate from high school and live a healthier life, which is why all BJC donations go to graduating second-graders.

"Reading books can open up so many opportunities, and we want to encourage childhood literacy, because we specifically know it is related to health outcomes," says June McAllister Fowler, BJC senior vice president of communications, marketing and public affairs, and executive sponsor of the BJC Book Brigade program.



BJC partners with Valley Industries, a sheltered workshop that employs community members with developmental disabilities, to package and distribute the books donated to local second-graders through the BJC Book Brigade program. | Photos by Tim Mudrovic

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Colleen

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This is such a great program. This is the 2nd year I've donated books.

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