

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Community Council of Idaho

Caldwell, Idaho October 28, 2016

A small donation, to make a big difference.

Idaho Senator Mike Crapo, CC Idaho, ICHA, and Idaho AEYC partner to collect children's books

October 28th, 2016 (Wilder, ID) - The children of Wilder will benefit from the distribution of free books. A literacy campaign was launched earlier this month with a book drive hoping to collect 1,000 new or like-new children's books. Community members can get involved by donating at the administrative office of CC Idaho, 317 Happy Valley Blvd, Caldwell till Tuesday the 1st of November. Idaho Senator Mike Crapo, Community Council of Idaho (CC Idaho), the Idaho Commission of Hispanic Affairs (ICHA), and other sponsors will distribute said books at Wilder Elementary, 210 A Ave, Wilder Idaho 83676, during a student and parent assembly on Thursday, November 4th at 1:30pm.

Literacy in Idaho is a huge challenge and that is why all participants feel privileged to provide every student of Wilder Elementary with their own books. We understand even a reluctant reader is motivated to read a book of their own. We hope each student will be excited to explore, escape, to empathize, and enjoy each page. Leticia Ruiz, Communications Specialist with CC Idaho shares, "We know that reading 20 minutes a day for our children leads to a brighter and stronger academic future. We're excited to provide the students and parents of Wilder with books to promote their literacy skills and help break our poverty cycles."

Crapo donated books from the Library of Congress, as well as the Idaho Association of Education for Young Children (Idaho AEYC) which are bilingual in text; hoping to inspire local children's home language of Spanish and provide culturally-centered content while serving as a scaffold for the children's skills in the second language by mobilizing the assets of their dominant language skills. "Bilingual literature addresses racial knowledge and bias, providing a non-threatening manner for discussion and improvement for English Language Learners (ELLs)" states Irma Morin, CEO of CC Idaho. She adds, "With an estimation of more than 50% minorities in our public school systems in just a few more years, and thousands speaking a language other than English in their homes, schools demographics have changed and so should our campaign for encouraging home reading."

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