



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Randolph Partnership for Children hands out over 6100 Children's Books during holiday parades

Over 65 volunteers came together to make the Gift of Reading possible

ASHEBORO, N.C. (December 6, 2022) — Randolph Partnership for Children (RPC) staff members, along with 68 volunteers distributed new children's books in seven holiday parades this month. Children along the parade routes received 6107 books, which is the most books given out since the Gift of Reading began.

The Gift of Reading is an annual initiative by RPC to get more books into the hands of children. Preparations for this initiative began in October when the Kiwanis Club of Asheboro donated \$2,500 to help with book purchasing and parade preparation for the Asheboro Parade. In November, the Randolph Early College Beta Club (RECBC) and members of the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd volunteered to prepare the books for the parades.

Beginning on Thursday, December 1, RPC staff and volunteers from the Randolph Early College Beta Club walked along the parade route in Randleman, handing out 951 new books to children five and under.

On Friday, December 2, RPC staff walked alongside volunteers from the Kiwanis Club of Asheboro, the Asheboro High School Key Club, RECBC, and others in the Asheboro Christmas parade. Families from the Kids of Hope child care center rode the RPC float, sharing their holiday cheer with the crowd. Families at the parade received a total of 3030 books.

Despite the uncooperative weather, the parades on Saturday, Dec. 3, went on as planned. At the Franklinville parade, RPC staff and RECBC volunteers were able to distribute 130 books to the families that braved the rain. At the Liberty parade, RPC staff and volunteers distributed 634 books. RPC staff and RECBC students handed out 136 books at the Ramseur. In Seagrove, RPC staff and volunteers provided 152 books for families at the parade.

On Sunday, Dec. 4, staff and volunteers walked the Archdale Christmas Parade route to distribute another 1074 books.

"We are grateful to everyone who helped with the Partnership's Gift of Reading Initiative," RPC Executive Director Lisa Hayworth said. "We celebrate those who help us champion early literacy."

Research shows that early literacy experiences are an important part of young children's development. According to the Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University, 90% of a child's brain development happens in the first five years of life, and when children are read to

during this time it helps build brain connections. The Partnership endeavors to support a love of reading in our young children by providing a new book for them to read and encouraging the bonding experience of reading with an important adult in their life.



RPC staff and volunteers prepare to handout books at the Asheboro parade.

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About the Randolph Partnership for Children: Since 1999, the Randolph Partnership for Children (RPC), a non-profit organization, has positively impacted the lives of Randolph County's young children. As the community's lead organization for young children and their families, RPC works with and through diverse agencies, individuals, organizations, and communities to ensure all children enter school healthy and ready to succeed in school and life. RPC is a United Way agency. For more information, visit www.randolphkids.org.

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