

BUFFALO TEACHERS FEDERATION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**For the Third Year, BTF Distribution of 35,000
Age Appropriate Books to all
Buffalo Public School Students**



BTF President, Phil Rumore, announced that for the third year, the distribution and delivery of 35,000 age/grade level appropriate books for all Buffalo Public School Students has been completed.

While at an American Federation of Teachers (AFT, one of the BTF's national affiliates) meeting, Rumore saw a presentation by an organization called First Book. First Book provides new books for free (except for a 70¢ shipping and handling fee).

He then set a goal of presenting each of Buffalo's 35,000 students with their own book on a yearly basis. This year's delivery brings the total to 105,000 new, age appropriate books by BTF to Buffalo students.

Working with First Book, the American Federation of Teachers, New York State United Teachers (BTF's state affiliate) the massive project continues.

For "A Book of Their Own", Disney which has books for all ages/grade levels, is one of the main publishers that works with First Book. This year all books were from Disney.

Teachers at each school selected titles (books) for each of their students. One teacher at each school, usually with the help of other teachers, volunteered to undertake the Herculean task of collecting the desired book titles from teachers, completing their requests online, and arranging for the book distribution at their school.

BTF Treasurer and Presidential Assistant, Rebecca Pordum, coordinated with the schools and First Book.

"Studies have shown that having books in a home impacts greatly on a student's ability and desire to read.

When I was a child, we had a very old set of The Book of Knowledge that I would open to explore science and the world around me. To this day, I remember that ancient set of books and the wonders it unfolded. We want each of our students to share that wonder by having their very own book.

This will be a yearly project so that each year from Pre-K – 12 our students will have a book they will cherish", stated Phil Rumore

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