

# BUFFALO TEACHERS FEDERATION

OF THE PRESIDENT: 271 PORTER AVENUE BUFFALO, NEW YORK 14201 (716)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 2, 2012



## BTF Initiates Historic Effort to Provide Buffalo's 34,000 Students with "A Book of Their Own"

BTF President, Phil Rumore, today announced an historic initiative to provide 34,000 Buffalo students with an age/grade level appropriate book for them to take home.

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 at 80-90% of their cost and some for free (except for a 45¢ shipping and handling fee).

He then set a goal of presenting each of Buffalo's 34,000 students with their own book.

Working with *First Book*, the American Federation of Teachers, New York State United Teachers (BTF's state affiliate) and The Teacher's Desk, the massive project was organized.

For *A Book of Their Own*, BTF asked if Disney which has books for all ages/grade levels and is one of the publishers that *First Book* works with frequently, could be the main provider of this project so that all or most of the books would be supplied by Disney. *First Book* and Disney have agreed to do the best they can to honor our request. We will have first choice for all of the Disney books! We will also have first choice of titles from many other publishers.

Teachers at each school will select titles (books) for each of their students. One teacher will then contact with the name and numbers of each book for the school.

Books will be sent to each school for distribution – hopefully before the winter break.

The shipping costs will be covered by BTF, NYSUT and AFT.

“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.

We hope to have this 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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## BTF Initiates Historic Effort to Provide Buffalo's 34,000 Students with "A Book of Their Own" Continued



Partial List of Yearly "Classroom to the Living Room" initiatives:

- Buffalo's Best Certificates – thousands of certificates for teachers to use to send positive messages to parents
- Backpacks for students distributed at Juneteenth
- Thousands of dollars contributed to United Way
- Safe Halloween bookmarks for elementary students
- Thousands of dollars raised for the "Women and Children's Hospital/Variety Club" telethon
- Books delivered to Hospitals to new mothers on "Read Across America" day
- Thanksgiving dinners for hundreds of Buffalo Families
- "Have you talked to your child about school today?" campaign
- We need your help – student absenteeism project.

(Letter to Buffalo teachers attached)

