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Parkway Central Student Donate 1,300 Books to Head Start Kids for Bat Mitzvah

Elizabeth “Lizzy” Goodman, a 13-year-old student at Parkway Central Middle, donated over 1,300 books to the children of the Urban League Head Start program. As an avid reader and instinctive humanitarian, Lizzy was compelled to inspire and fund an ardent love of reading in pre-school age children; and during the process of preparing for her Bat Mitzvah, Lizzy initiated and coordinated a book drive to collect the resources to fulfill her vision.

Over the course of seven months, Lizzy gathered books from several sources including her church, Temple Israel, local schools, family, friends and neighboring communities. Lizzy’s collection efforts brought in over 1,500 books; and with the help of her parents and brother, Adam Carolyn and Josh, Lizzy sorted and assembled the large donation into content and age appropriate categories.

Lizzy had specific criteria she took into consideration while surveying organizations through which to channel the collected books. After researching, and interviewing several community organizations, charities, and overseas literacy programs, Lizzy chose the Urban League Head Start of St. Louis. Since her initial visit to an Urban League

Head Start site in May of 2006, Lizzy has returned and volunteered time to read books from her favorite children's author to a Head Start class. In December, Lizzy and her family delivered the books collected from the book drive to the head start site in Jennings. The books will first be distributed to every child in the agency for their home libraries and any remaining books will be used to supplement the classroom libraries.