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COVID19 DOES NOT STOP LOCAL NONPROFIT FROM PROVIDING FREE BOOKS

Santa Clarita, Calif., (4/17/20) - According to the Literacy Project, there are currently 45 million Americans who are functionally illiterate, unable to read above a 5th grade level. Literacy facts are well documented. Children who have access to books at home have significantly higher reading scores.

Founded in May 2016 by student Mackenzie Krestul, Code Read is a fierce advocate for youth literacy. By distributing free books to children from low-income families, Code Read hopes to provide every child with an equal opportunity to increase their academic growth through reading.

In spite of the Corona Virus, Code Read continues to put books into the hands of children who need them the most. “By partnering with local Department of Children and Family Services offices and Los Angeles Family Housing, we can continue to supply thousands of books to children in need.” says Krestul. Since incorporating, Code Read has provided over 20,000 new books to underserved youth.

“Through this journey, I have witnessed the remarkable impact that stories have. From foster children to homeless youth, every child has displayed an incredible eagerness not only to lose themselves in a story, but to find themselves inside. When people see themselves reflected in art, they know that they are not alone, which is essential in an increasingly isolating world.”
Mackenzie Krestul, Founder.

With the support of family, including 12 year old sister Madelyn Krestul, Mackenzie continues to run Code Read while she attends HOFSTRA University in New York. Mackenzie has been awarded grants from organizations including; The Los Angeles Clippers, The Nora Roberts Foundation, The Walmart Foundation, International Paper Company, The Lawrence Foundation, and Believe in Reading. With donations and book grants from First Book, they have accumulated over 20,000 new books for students in need.

Code Read has recently embarked on a capital campaign to raise funds to purchase a custom Bookmobile. This free bookstore-on-wheels will be equipped with book carts which will store up to 2,000 books. When the Bookmobile is at a partner site, participants will be able to come into the Bookmobile to browse. The Bookmobile will allow Code Read to increase outreach, visiting Head Start centers, Children’s hospitals, juvenile detention centers and senior centers.

About Code Read: Code Read is a 501(c)3 nonprofit founded in 2016, by Mackenzie Krestul. Code Read's mission is to provide recreational books to elementary school children in low income communities. By providing books to children who would otherwise not be able to afford them, we hope to increase literacy and foster a lifetime love of reading.

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