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CANYON HIGH STUDENT CONTINUES SISTER'S MISSION

Santa Clarita, Calif., (5/15/2023) – Maddy Krestul is preparing to donate 2,000 new books to students at Mint Canyon Elementary. Maddy is continuing the work started by her sister Mackenzie's nonprofit Code Read.

Code Read was founded by Mackenzie in 2016 and has since donated 50,000 new books to underserved youth in Los Angeles County. 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 economically disadvantaged areas, there is one age-appropriate book for every 300 children, as compared to an average of 13 books in the homes of their more affluent peers (Handbook of Early Literacy Research). While many of the statistics paint a bleak picture, there is hope on the horizon. **If a child grows up in a home with 100 books, they have a 90% probability of completing 9th grade, compared to 30% in bookless homes.** (Reading is Fundamental) Children agree their favorite books are the ones that they have picked out themselves.

Quote

Mackenzie Krestul

Students at Mint Canyon have been working hard for two months to earn a free shopping trip at a book fair hosted by Code Read on May 19th. Students will shop for 4 new books and receive a book bag as well.

Research has shown that increasing access to books and giving children the opportunity to choose what they read boosts literacy levels, bridges the gap between privileged youth and low-income youth, and improves attitudes toward reading and learning.

With the support of her siblings, Jordan a senior at UCLA and Maddy a freshman at Canyon High as well as her mom, Amanda, Mackenzie has surpassed over 50,000 new books donated. Code Read has been awarded grants from organizations including The Nora Roberts Foundation, The Water Buffalo Club, Walmart Foundation, Believe in Reading, and the Sundt Foundation.

Code Read has 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. The Bookmobile will allow Code Read to increase outreach, visiting Head Start centers, Children's hospitals, juvenile detention centers and senior centers. Donations can be made at www.coderead.org.

Maddy will be available for interviews at the book fair: Mint Canyon, 16400 Sierra Hwy, Canyon Country, CA 913851

About Code Read: Code Read was 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 will increase literacy and foster a lifetime love of reading.

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