



For Immediate Release
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BERWYN C.A.R.E.S. DONATES "SUMMER READING KITS" TO BERWYN ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

May 25, 2009 (Berwyn, IL) – This week Berwyn C.A.R.E.S. (Citizens Aligned to Renew Education for Students) delivered hundreds of books to principals at District 98 and 100 schools to address the potential risk of Summer Learning Loss among young students.

Summer Learning Loss refers to the decline in skills and achievement over the summer months when school is not in session. Typically, this loss is more significant in low-income children. While middle class and wealthy children often have age appropriate books in their homes, poor children rely on schools for their reading material.

“Poor children can lose over two months of achievement during the summer months. Middle class and wealthy students often make gains or remain at the same level of achievement during the summer. Summer learning loss contributes significantly to the achievement gap in our country and in our community, said Shelley Titzer, president and founder of Berwyn C.A.R.E.S.

The article *Bridging the Summer Reading Gap*, (McGill-Franzen & Allington) suggested a simple solution and sparked C.A.R.E.S. to action. Children need to read outside of school and finding novel ways to get books into the hands of children during the summer break is key.

Supportive local businesses including Dan’s Bike Shop and Over the Rainbow Ice Cream Shoppe worked with C.A.R.E.S. to coordinate a community based book drive to collect appropriate books for children up to 5th grade. Books were assembled into Reading Kits, with ten kits distributed to every school in District 98 and 100.

“It is our hope that giving kids books to take home on the last day of school will result in continued progress over the summer,” said Mrs. Titzer.

Berwyn C.A.R.E.S. (Citizens Aligned to Renew Education for Students) is an organization created to unite residents interested in renewing and sustaining an enthusiasm, interest and passion for the education system in Berwyn. More information is available online at www.berwyncares.org.