

PRESS RELEASE

#15-16

**NYC EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT EMERGENCY SUPERHERO
VISITS ST. JOSEPH'S SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF**

Ready Girl makes her first sign language presentation with Certified Deaf Interpreter to teach students about emergency preparedness

April 15, 2016 — NYC Emergency Management superhero Ready Girl took her superpowers to the Bronx today to teach students from St. Joseph's School for the Deaf about emergency preparedness. She teamed up with Certified Deaf Interpreter Jon Lamberton to teach first, second, and third graders at St. Joseph's School for the deaf how to become their own preparedness superheroes. The students learned how to make their own emergency plans, how to identify emergency contacts, and how to pack their own Go Bags. Ready Girl also revealed her emergency superpowers – she can write emergency plans at lightning speed – and gave away backpacks stacked with emergency kids' guides, flashlights, and coloring books.

“Ready Girl brings fun and innovation to emergency preparedness. She connects with the kids in a way that gets them excited about learning how to prepare,” said **NYC Emergency Management Commissioner Joseph Esposito**. “Our aim is to reach every New Yorker in as many ways possible, so we thank Executive Director Arles for the opportunity to help educate the students about emergency preparedness.”

“I am proud to invite Ready Girl to St Joseph's School for the Deaf to teach our students about preparedness,” said **St. Joseph's Executive Director Debra Arles**. “Deaf children, like all children, need to know what steps they need to follow in an emergency. A trained instructor and a Sign Language Interpreter will make it clear to the students all the steps they must follow to be safe as possible in given situations. Thank you Emergency Management for this outreach service to the children of St. Joseph's.”

Who is Ready Girl?

Ready Girl is a superhero and emergency manager who teaches kids about emergency preparedness. She is part of the Ready New York for Kids' program, an initiative dedicated to helping educate young students about the importance of emergency preparedness. Since she burst onto the superhero scene back in October 2015, Ready Girl has taken her message all over New York City, visiting dozens of schools, community centers and youth organizations, and dropping in on local fairs. She has trained thousands of kids throughout the five boroughs, getting every New York City kid ready for any emergency. She focuses on three key messages:

- **Get Ready: *Make a Plan*** – Have at least two phone numbers – one local and one out-of-state number – you can call in an emergency and practice the plan with adults in your home.
- **Get Set: *Prepare a Stay-at-Home Kit*** – During emergencies that require you to stay at home, have extra food and water for all family members and a battery-operated radio for news updates.
- **Get Ready to Go: *Pack a Go Bag*** – During emergencies that require you to leave your home, have a Go Bag with emergency supplies.

To keep up-to-date with Ready Girl’s every move as she prepares kids for emergencies, visit her [blog](#), and visit nyc.gov/readyny to learn more about the Ready New York program.

CAPTION: Ready Girl – Katelyn James of NYC Emergency Management – alongside Certified Deaf Interpreter Jon Lamberton talking to students from St. John’s School for the Deaf on how to be prepared for emergencies in NYC.

-30-

MEDIA CONTACT: Nancy Greco Silvestri/Omar Bourne (718) 422-4888

STAY CONNECTED: Twitter: @NotifyNYC (emergency notifications)
@nycoem (emergency preparedness info)
Facebook: /NYCemergencymanagement