

**DHS COMMISSIONER, SCHOOLS' CHANCELLOR, AND NYC SERVICE PARTNER
WITH SCHOLASTIC TO LAUNCH LITERACY PROGRAM IN 20 DHS SHELTERS,
SERVING OVER 4,000 CHILDREN**

Scholastic Inc. donates hundreds of books to 20 DHS shelters for the use of school-age residents

*Four external literacy organizations and the New York Public Library have partnered
with DHS and DOE to implement and support the pilot program*

New York, NY – Department of Homeless Services Commissioner Gilbert Taylor, Department of Education Chancellor Carmen Fariña, and NYC Chief Service Officer Paula Gavin today launched a pilot literacy program making available reading materials for school-age children living in 20 DHS shelters. The program includes books donated to each shelter from Scholastic Inc., and seeks to serve over 4,000 children. Scholastic has donated 170 books per shelter, including bilingual books.

To further enhance the initiative, NYC Service and DHS have formed partnerships with Jumpstart, Literacy Inc., Read Aloud, and Literacy Partners to help implement the project. NYC Service has been working to recruit volunteers to assist in the shelters' libraries. Additionally, DHS has partnered with the Queens, Brooklyn, and New York Public Libraries to support the participating pilot shelters in each borough.

This afternoon at HELP Crotona shelter, a Bronx families with children facility, city agency officials, public library representatives, and Scholastic gathered to unveil and introduce the library space. They were joined by special guest, "Clifford the Big Red Dog," who greeted and interacted with the children. Commissioner Taylor was joined by HELP USA President and CEO Dr. Tom Hameline, and HELP Crotona Shelter Director Ana Sanchez.

"We at DHS strive to foster the development and education of the children living in our system. That includes ensuring educational continuity, connecting them to afterschool programs, and of course, promoting literacy," said **DHS Commissioner Gilbert Taylor**. "The generosity of Scholastic Inc. has greatly assisted us in this launch, as we make strides to our shared goal of fostering literacy in children, regardless of circumstances."

QUOTE FROM SCHOOLS' CHANCELLOR

QUOTE FROM SCHOLASTIC

QUOTE FROM NYC SERVICE

QUOTE FROM HELP USA

NYC DEPARTMENT OF HOMELESS SERVICES

The mission of the Department of Homeless Services is to prevent homelessness when possible and to provide emergency shelter for individuals and families who have no other housing options available to them. DHS employs a variety of innovative strategies to help families and individuals successfully exit shelter and return to self-sufficiency as quickly as possible.

Collaborating with other public agencies and non-profit partners, DHS works to prevent homelessness and assist New Yorkers in their transition to permanent housing. Furthermore, DHS remains committed to meeting its legal mandate to provide temporary, emergency shelter to those experiencing homelessness, while effectively creating neighborhood based partnerships.

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