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**HHS Lit Team Book Drive to Benefit Group Homes**

[KENNETH CITY, FLORIDA, December 1, 2023] The boys and girls of the Carlton Manor group homes will be the recipients of Hollins’ book drive sponsored by the Literacy Team and NEHS. The team expects to **collect approximately 1,000 books** which will be picked up by the group home on December 13th at 1:00 in front of Hollins High School located at 4940 62nd Street North.

The Literacy Team placed collection boxes around school requesting that students and teachers donate new and gently used books over the three weeks after Thanksgiving. They spread the word on their school’s Facebook and Instagram pages and placed decorated collection boxes around campus. Members are excited to get books into kids’ hands in time for the holidays.

Teresa Zemaitis, the faculty sponsor of the Literacy Team, told the team about one of her former students. “A student of mine who lived in a group home came to me and expressed that he liked to read books to the other, younger, kids but it was really sad because they kept having to read the same couple of books over and over again because they have very few books.” The team decided they could help and, in 2019, the book drive was born. The team had to skip the drive in 2020 due to covid, but reinstated it the following year and it is now an annual event.

This team is managed by students who are passionate about this cause. The president of the team is senior Sydney Merritt. Their goal is to encourage reading and writing on campus and within the community. The Literacy Team is thrilled to have donated thousands of books to a variety of organizations over the years, but are equally excited about returning to where they started and refreshing the book supply for the group homes.

You are invited to attend the book pick up/photo op on December 13th at 1:00 in front of Hollins High. If you would like more information, please contact Teresa Zemaitis at 727-410-6312.

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