



September 15, 2009

Dear Elementary School Parents,

Did you know that many children in the Kansas City area have never had a book to call their own? Today we are asking for your help with a special project that is making a difference in the lives of thousands of Kansas City area children. The Junior League of Kansas City, Missouri's *Hooked On Books* is a metro-wide book drive, which puts new and gently used books in hands of children with low reading skills.

We are very pleased that your school will be participating this year in the ***Hooked on Books Elementary School Challenge***. The project is simple – collect new or gently used books appropriate for children age 0-14. The school that collects the most books between September 29<sup>th</sup> and October 31<sup>st</sup> wins a visit by Kansas City Chief Sean Ryan! Your school's efforts & hard work collecting books also counts towards the President's Volunteer Service Award.

*Hooked On Books* was started in 1998 by *The Kansas City Star* as a response to an in-depth investigation of the Kansas City, Missouri Public Schools. The Junior League of Kansas City, Missouri has been managing the program since 2003. Since the program began, nearly 720,000 books have been collected and distributed to children throughout the metropolitan area (on both sides of the state line).

The Junior League of Kansas City, Missouri (JLKCMO) is a charitable organization of over 1,400 trained volunteers who have been serving the Kansas City community for over 95 years. The organization is in its tenth year of a ten-year commitment to children's literacy efforts in the Kansas City area. *Hooked On Books* is one of a dozen local literacy programs that Junior League volunteers will commit time and money to this year.

We hope you'll agree that this is a worthy cause and one worth supporting. Please collect new or gently used books and send them with your children to school. We'll take care of the sorting and distribution. Know that your books will be well used and well loved.

Many thanks for your support.

Best regards,

Yvette Miceli  
Junior League President, 2009-2010