

Link Community School
120 Livingston Street
Newark, NJ 07103
Serving Newark's Youth for 40 Years

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**TOWNSEND PRESS DONATES MINI-LIBRARIES TO 130 STUDENTS
AT LINKCOMMUNITY SCHOOL**

Newark, NJ (March 12, 2009) - Students at Link Community School received the gift of books from Mr. John Langan, president of Townsend Press and the non-profit Townsend Foundation in West Berlin, NJ. Each student was presented a boxed set of 15 young adult novels from Townsend Press' Bluford Series, to read and share at home as well as use in the classroom.

Mr. Langan was motivated to donate a mini-library to each of Link's 130 students after seeing Link Principal Marnie G. McKoy on the recent MSNBC special documentary, *A Father's Promise*. He wanted to provide the books "in acknowledgment of the great work Link Community School is doing." The books he chose to donate were those that he, as a former developmental reading instructor, commissioned to meet a need of providing relevant and appealing reading materials to urban youth, particularly the reluctant reader.

Of the gift, Link Vice Principal and Director of Studies Keisha Cleveland-Baptiste says, "The gift couldn't have come at a better time. Given the current economic climate, we are forced to do more with less. Ironically, a month before we received word of the donation, we had to delay an order of books we had planned to purchase from Townsend Press. Now, here they are."

Eighth grader Taylor Jones was thrilled with the gift. "I had read two of the books at Link already. I had hoped to continue with the series, but Link didn't have any more. I am so

excited to have the entire set now. This is a special gift and I am very grateful to the donor.” Cyrus Crayton, 7th grader, was also very pleased to receive his own set of books, and said he’d be very happy to share them with his older brother.

Link has actually already introduced many of the books from the Bluford Series to students through the school’s Book Club, a 35 minute class period that meets twice each week to encourage students to read. Ms. Cleveland-Baptiste stated, “The books were chosen by Link because students find them to be a compelling read. The books combine the exciting elements of mystery, romance and action which appeals to youth; are age appropriate; and appeal to both genders.”

Link Community School is an independent middle school in the Central Ward of Newark which offers an outstanding education to youth of all academic abilities from families with limited means. Established after riots devastated Newark in the late 60’s, Link is now celebrating its 40th anniversary serving the youth of the city and the surrounding urban areas.



Photo attached.

Photo caption: Dean of Students Devon Jackson distributes boxed sets of young adult novels donated by John Langan of Townsend books to students at Link Community School in Newark.