



Dear Community Leader,

With your help we can make a difference in the lives of 60 students (K-8th) in the Holman United Methodist Church community!

HERE'S HOW: Our program builds our students' self-esteem, increases their love of reading and introduces them to various activities not provided by the traditional school system. In six weeks of learning, scholars will read over 80 books that are developmentally appropriate, reflect children's own images, relate their authentic history, culture, and heritage through the eyes of children, introduce children to adults and children who make a difference in the lives of others, offer encouragement to become involved in community service, help children explore fundamental issues related to self-esteem and expand their capacity to dream and to believe they can make their dreams reality.

HOW YOU CAN HELP: The classroom is the heart of our program; where we spend over 13 hours a week reading and exploring new books. Our students learn best when we match the inspiration of the books we read with the classroom environment. Help us transform 1 of our 6 classrooms into a magical summer by sponsoring a classroom with contributions of art supplies and decorations and/or \$150.00. In appreciation of your classroom sponsorship classrooms will bear the name of the donor(s).

Your donation supports: classroom supplies, decorations, and lesson enhancements. In-kind donations are also welcomed. Attached you will find our supply "wish list".

RESEARCH SHOWS: Literacy is recognized as a critical building block for success in school and in life, and summer learning loss in reading has been identified as a primary source of the widening achievement gap between lower- and higher-income children and youth. Summer learning loss is defined as a loss in academic skills and knowledge over the course of summer vacation. Research studies have shown that low income students generally lose approximately two months of reading achievement during this time.

For some children, summertime is full of opportunity: camp, visits to museums, parks, and libraries; and access to a variety of fun and enriching activities. But for many low-income children, the reality of summer looks nothing like this ideal. When the school doors close for the summer, too many children are set loose to play on the streets unsupervised or, because of safety concerns, are forced to stay indoors, isolated and lonely. Instead, let's give them a freedom schools experience this summer.

Financial contributions, donate @ www.readlead.org

For in kind donations and item drop off, please contact Joy Masha, with your donation at: (310) 704-9362 or joy@readlead.org

LITERACY + LEADERSHIP = COMMUNITY CHANGE

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