

NEWS

VOLUNTEER CENTER OF BERGEN COUNTY, INC.

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BVC HOLDS FIRST EVER BIG BOOK GIVEAWAY

Bergen County--The Northern New Jersey Business Volunteer Council (BVC) recently sponsored a “Big Book Giveaway” to benefit the families enrolled in the Volunteer Center of Bergen County’s two mentoring programs: **Volunteers in Protective Services (VIPS)**, in which caring men and women provide guidance, friendship and support to abused and neglected children ages 2 to 18; and **Mentoring Moms**, who are women making a difference in the lives of isolated and overwhelmed mothers of all ages. The volunteers spend time with mothers who have difficulty coping with parenting, managing households, providing for their children or overcoming other obstacles.

The **BVC** is a coalition of 30 businesses that work year round to provide assistance to needy children and families, to address such issues as hunger, literacy, education and well being. “Children who can’t read, can’t succeed,” says Tess Tomasi, BVC Coordinator. “A home environment rich in books and inhabited by people who love to read is an early indicator for a child’s future success in the classroom and life.”

More than 3,000 books, valued at over \$30,000, were donated by employees of Reader’s Digest, the Hertz Corporation, Heritage Point of Teaneck, and United Water in Harrington Park and Pearson Education in Upper Saddle River. Volunteers from United Water helped to set up the displays of books.

The families and mentors were able to choose from a great assortment of books, at reading levels from pre-school through adult. “Lots of schools have book fairs,” says

Cindy Andrade, Mentoring Moms Program Director, "But most of the families in our programs can't afford to purchase books. We were delighted to see book bags filled to overflowing and excited youngsters, adults and mentors chattering animatedly about books they couldn't wait to read."

For more information on membership in the BVC, call Tess Tomasi at 201-489-9454 Ext. 114 ; e-mail BVC @bergenvolunteers.org. or visit www.njibvc.org.

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CAPTION: (1425)

Employees from United Water in Harrington Park helped set up the “Big Book Giveaway” in which needy families enrolled in the Volunteer Center of Bergen County’s Mentoring Programs were able to choose as many books as they liked to foster love of reading. United Water is a member of the Northern New Jersey Business Volunteer Council, which sponsored the event.

L to R: Mel Mann, Hackensack; Pat Bogosian, Park Ridge; Sonja Clark, Hackensack; Gladys Amin, Teaneck; Simone Reeves, Hackensack; Carol Lauretta, Kearny.