

For Immediate Release

**Boeing Employees Help Library Foundation
Get Kids Ready to Read**

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(St Peters, MO – August 1, 2013) The Employees Community Fund of Boeing St. Louis made a generous donation to support the St. Charles City-County Library Foundation’s Ready to Read literacy initiative. Ready to Read is a new program that seeks to ensure that every child is equipped with the tools necessary to successfully learn to read by the time they begin kindergarten. Boeing’s recent \$12,000 gift allows the Library Foundation to:

- Provide literacy kits to every new mom that gives birth in St. Charles County and to pre-readers served by partnering youth agencies.
- Place mini libraries in organizations that serve parents and children.
- Provide information on the vital role a parent plays as their child’s first teacher and the role that reading plays in a child’s success throughout life.
- Share details on free programs and resources available through the St. Charles City-County Library District to allow children to become lifelong learners.

“Children who are strong readers perform better in school and become lifelong learners. Yet studies show that nearly 40 percent of fourth grade students are not proficient in reading. With Boeing’s Employee Community Fund support, we can change that,” said Kristin Williams, Executive Director of the Library Foundation.

Two-thirds of children living in poverty have no books at home; others have no one to read to them and encourage them to learn. Through the Ready to Read program, the Library Foundation will work to educate the community in the importance of reading and specifically seek to touch fragile families. Corporate partnerships, individual donors and community volunteers are key to making Ready to Read a success.

“These are the first steps to closing the literacy gap in St. Charles County. It is our goal that over time these outreach efforts will increase kindergarten readiness and standardized test scores for the county and ultimately foster more productive adults,” said Williams.

For additional details about the Library Foundation’s Ready to Read literacy initiative, to make a donation or get involved visit the Foundation online at www.stchlibraryfoundation.org or contact Kristin kwilliams@stchlibrary.org or call 636-441-2300, extension1582.

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**READY
TO READ**