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Book Harvest Joins Forces with New Hope Elementary School To Tackle Summer Learning Loss

Orange County, NC - Every student at New Hope Elementary School ended the school year with their very own tools and resources to preserve the gains they have made during the 2016-2017 academic year.

Book Harvest collaborated this spring with New Hope Elementary and with a variety of community partners and donors to provide every student with 10 books to read for the summer and to keep forever. Every student also received literacy tips and summer reading resources to help support their summer learning.

This book-based approach to the threat of summer learning loss is informed by rigorous research. According to Dr. Susan Neuman, Professor and Chair of the Teaching and Learning Department at NYU, "Access to books and educational material is the single biggest barrier to literacy development in the United States and beyond. If we can solve the problem of access, we will be well on the road to realizing educational parity – a goal which has eluded this country for generations."

Rachel Stine, Education Partnerships Manager at Book Harvest, said that Books on Break at New Hope Elementary was a superb example of collaboration, adding that "We are grateful to community members, Family Success Alliance, and the Friends of the Orange County Public Library for partnering with New Hope Elementary and Book Harvest to make Books on Break 2017 a great success!" She also gave special recognition to Hillsborough residents Steve Smith and Harry Kavros, who spearheaded a special fundraising campaign to make Books on Break at New Hope possible.

Books on Break at New Hope Elementary is part of a larger effort that is reaching a total of 9,763 elementary school students with free books at 44 schools in Durham, Orange, and Chatham Counties and Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools this spring. The program is a community-wide collaboration of volunteers, parents, administrators, teachers, students, foundations, and philanthropists who come together with a shared commitment to ensuring that every child in our community has the tools to succeed and is able to return to the classroom in the fall having preserved the academic gains from the year before.

For more about Durham-based Book Harvest and its Books on Break program, visit www.bookharvestnc.org.

About Book Harvest: Book Harvest provides books to Triangle children and families who need them. Growing up in homes that are rich with books helps children start kindergarten ready to learn, combat summer learning loss once they are in school, and fall in love with reading. Since 2011, children have harvested more than 600,000 books to take home and keep for their very own, forever.

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