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## MSA DONATES BOOKS TO HELP STOP THE “SUMMER SLIDE”

RICHLAND, Wash. – Hanford contractor Mission Support Alliance (MSA) will be donating \$12,000 to The Children’s Reading Foundation of the Mid-Columbia to support the *Read Up* program. The funds will be used to purchase summer libraries for over 350 incoming third graders in the Tri-Cities who may not otherwise have access to books during that time period.

Children can lose two to three months of reading proficiency over the summer when they have limited access to books. This creates a literacy gap known as the “summer slide,” which accumulates year after year, creating a significant achievement gap compared to children who have greater access to books. Executive Director of The Children’s Reading Foundation of the Mid-Columbia, Sara Schwan, is thankful for the partnership with MSA. “We’re excited to be able to expand this program so that fewer of next year’s third graders will experience the summer slide, leading to greater and longer term reading proficiency, which will benefit our entire community.”

Bob Wilkinson, President of MSA, states that education is a cornerstone of MSA’s corporate giving program. “Ready access to books is something that many of us may take for granted, but unfortunately, it’s not a reality for everyone. We’re proud to be able to make summer libraries available for so many young people this year.”

MSA employees will be presenting a check and volunteering to label these books at an event on Friday, May 18 from 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. at The Children’s Reading Foundation of the Mid-Columbia offices (201 S. Fruitland Street in Kennewick).

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### About MSA

Mission Support Alliance, a team of [Leidos](#) and [Centerra Group](#), has responsibility for the Mission Support Contract at the Hanford Site. MSA provides a number of cross-cutting services to the DOE and other contractors at the Hanford Site to facilitate cleanup activities. MSA is responsible for areas such as site infrastructure, utilities, transportation, environmental integration, safety, emergency services and training, external affairs, information management and portfolio management. MSA: Partnering to move the mission forward. <http://msa.hanford.gov/msa>

### About CRFMC

The Children’s Reading Foundation of the Mid-Columbia promotes the vision that every child learns to read early and read well, thereby reaching his or her full potential in school and in life. CRFMC coordinates the READY! for Kindergarten and Team Read programs. Over 30,000 books are distributed annually in the Mid-Columbia through the First Teacher Libraries program, the READ Up Summer Slide prevention programs, our Books for Babies program and via many other avenues. Read together 20 minutes every day. <http://read20minutes.com>

