

MY OWN BOOK Awarded \$10,000 Grant from the BJ's Charitable Foundation

Third Graders in 3 Queens Public Schools To Benefit

New York, NY—April 25, 2014. My Own Book, the nonprofit that works with NYC public schools in economically disadvantaged communities to foster the love of reading and pride of book ownership, recently received a \$10,000 grant from the BJ's Charitable Foundation. My Own Book will use the grant to benefit third grade classes at PS 45, PS 105, and PS 166 in Queens.

My Own Book provides in-classroom preparation and field trips to local bookstores where each child is given a \$50 allowance to purchase his or her own books. "For most students, this excursion is their first visit to a bookstore, the books purchased are the first they have owned, and a significant encouragement to build their own home libraries" reports Dan Greenburg, a volunteer with the program at the Queens schools for 9 years. " Teachers tell us that for many students it's their favorite trip and the program has a positive impact on students' reading. When we tell them that BJ's is providing the funds to make it happen they get even more excited, expounding on their shopping experiences at their local BJ's."

Said Burt Freeman, the organization's founder: "Studies show an important link between having books in the home and a child's chance of future success. We're delighted that the grant enables our continuing partnership with dedicated principals, teachers, and children who will benefit from the program. My Own Book is very fortunate to receive support from foundations such as the BJ Charitable Foundation, and from corporations and individuals who support child literacy."

"The BJ's Charitable Foundation is dedicated to supporting hunger prevention, self sufficiency, healthcare and education in the communities surrounding our Clubs," said Jessica Newman, Executive Director of the BJ's Charitable Foundation. "BJ's Charitable Foundation donated a total of \$431,000 to 70 nonprofit charitable organizations across our footprint during this grant cycle, and we hope these donations benefit the incredible efforts of our partners working to impact the lives of individuals and families and enable them to continue to provide crucial services to those in need."

About My Own Book (MOB)

The My Own Book program was established by the Freeman-Harrison Family Foundation in 1999 to support child literacy and foster a love of reading among the most disadvantaged of New York City's public school children. Today, more than 70 volunteers work with more than 5,000 students in 55 schools throughout the five boroughs to help children discover and purchase books that are "just right" for them. For more information, please visit www.mobf.org.

About BJ's Charitable Foundation

BJ's Charitable Foundation was established with the mission to enrich every community BJ's Wholesale Clubs serve. The Foundation supports nonprofit organizations that primarily benefit the underprivileged in the area of basic needs (hunger prevention, self-sufficiency, education and health). For more information, please visit www.bjs.com/charity.

