



December 3, 2008

## Nonprofit gives 9,000 books to Yonkers K-3 pupils

*Ernie Garcia*  
*The Journal News*

YONKERS - A nonprofit delivered 9,000 donated books to 292 of the city's public school classrooms yesterday as part of a children's literacy program.

Children in the Yonkers public schools' kindergarten through third-grade classes were given a package with a book and other materials for parents about the importance of reading with a child.

YonkersReads! is the latest Yonkers Partners in Education initiative in the public schools. The charity also funds SAT preparation courses that have raised some students' scores by hundreds of points.

The group's executive director, Wendy Nadel, said at a news conference that YonkersReads! is essential to improving literacy among the public schools' low-income students, who represent a majority of the district's population.

"In middle-income families there are 13 books for every child. In low-income families there is one book for every 300 children. You can see the disparity," said Nadel, citing national statistics on children's access to books.

The charity aims to raise money to buy 100,000 books for Yonkers schoolchildren. The books cost \$4 to \$8. The public can donate by logging on to [www.ypie.org](http://www.ypie.org).

Parent Yahaira Solognier has a third-grade son at School 21 and praised the literacy campaign.

"Kids need to read because TV is not good for them," Solognier said.

---