

Pi Beta Phi, alumnae donate 500 books to preschools

By Matthew Dutton
Review Atlas

Posted Mar. 31, 2015 at 6:00 AM

ROSEVILLE — Monmouth College's Pi Beta Phi sorority recently received a grant to purchase and donate 500 books to preschools across the county as part of its Fraternity Day of Service.

Monday was the final day of book drop-offs for the sorority and the Monmouth Alumnae Club, who were working in conjunction to hand-deliver each of the 500 books, which were then signed to show who donated them. The name of the child being gifted the book was also written on the inside cover.

"With this grant, we are able to give them books they will own forever. If a kid has a book of their own, they are able to go to their parents and have them read it to them, until they can read it themselves," said Marcia Parrish, president of the Monmouth-Roseville Education Foundation. "The Pi Phi's went around on Dr. Seuss' birthday, reading to the kids, but this is the first time they have gotten a grant so kids can have books of their own."

The teacher of Tiny Titans Monmouth-Roseville Pre-K in Roseville, Jennifer Dean, emphasizes reading within her class on a daily basis. As she teaches students ages 3 to 5 all in the same classroom, her students are at drastically different stages of development.

"This is great. My kids love reading, so we are always looking for books. Kids this age need to be reading, so I have them reading at least 15 minutes at home each night," Dean said. "This teaches them how written and spoken word correlates. We also like to make reading interactive in our class. We are always acting out what we read. It is all about teaching them to learn from each other, so the goal is to have the 3-year-olds learning from the 5-year-olds."

While Monday saw the volunteers travel to Alexis and later Roseville, the first day of the Warren County Book Drop-off kept them in town. The Pi Phi's and other volunteers went around delivering books to all the preschools within Monmouth on March 2.

"We chose to give these books to preschoolers, because that is where reading begins," said Joyce Patterson, president of the Monmouth Pi Beta Phi Alumni Club. "This is very rewarding, seeing how excited they get. The looks on their faces make this all worth it."

Volunteers from the Pi Beta Phi chapter included:

- * Kalin McKean
- * Halley Courtois
- * Sofia Garcia
- * Carley Interrial

* Raegan Pinkerton

Alumnae volunteers included:

* Karen Angotti

* Jo Ellen Dollinger

* Lee Patterson

Zac Brand from Zeta Beta Tau also volunteered.