



PRESS RELEASE

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Contact:

Michael Duggan, Executive Director
203.326.0424 or mduggan@domuskids.org

DONATION PROVIDES THOUSANDS OF NEW BOOKS *William H. Pitt Foundation gift fills empty shelves of charter school library*

Stamford, CT / Domus, a Stamford nonprofit that operates several schools for students who've been unsuccessful in previous schools, named its Trailblazers Academy Charter Middle School library in memory of local philanthropist and real estate developer William H. Pitt during a ceremony featuring student readings and remarks highlighting the impact of low literacy levels on a community's social and economic health.

The foundation's \$70,000 gift was used to purchase over 3,000 new books, which arrived pre-labeled with each book's reading level to enable Trailblazers teachers to easily find appropriate books for the students, regardless of reading ability. The school targets youth who need a different learning environment to be successful; most students arrive at the school reading far below their abilities, some as many as six grades below level.

Foundation trustee Pauline Pitt said of the gift: "I am thrilled we can provide thousands of new books to motivated students working hard to get back on track with their reading skills. My husband believed deeply in investing in young people, and I think he'd be as proud as we all are to see these shelves now full of inspiring books for young people."

Domus Executive Director Mike Duggan noted, "For years, our students had no library at all, but after [former] Mayor Malloy arranged for our school to move to this new location last year, we inherited a beautiful space. Hundreds of generous supporters have donated many nice used books, but this gift changes everything: Now we can get exactly what we need, including special books tailored for youth not yet reading on grade level."

Students presented original written works and musical numbers. The new library joins the many tools utilized by Trailblazers to entice reluctant readers in reading; the school also has two therapy dogs that help students gain confidence in reading aloud and a four-person team of literacy specialists who work with struggling readers one-on-one and in small groups to help them improve.

ABOUT THE WILLIAM H. PITT FOUNDATION:

The William H. Pitt Foundation is a private foundation started by real estate entrepreneur William Pitt, a Stamford native. The focus of the Foundation is to break the cycle of poverty through education. Over the years, the Foundation has invested heavily in scholarships and in Connecticut's charter school movement.

ABOUT DOMUS:

Domus helps over 800 children and their families experience academic and life success through a variety of educational, residential, and community programs. Domus ensures that the children in its care meet their full potential by building loving, trusting relationships in structured, respectful environments. The Domus vision: *No child shall be denied hope, love, or a fair chance in life.*

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