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## NEWS RELEASE

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## **Indianapolis, IN, June 29, 2009 – Assistance League of Indianapolis receives a donation of books from The Molina Foundation**

Assistance League® of Indianapolis is pleased to announce that it has received a donation of 2,913 books from the Molina Foundation for distribution to over 2,800 students served through the Operation School Bell® Program during the 2009-2010 school year. The grant is provided through the Book Buddies™ Literacy Program that provides books to children and adults that have been identified at high risk for low literacy, primarily due to poverty or prevalence of English as a second language. Books Buddies has partnered with literacy programs and designated 501(C)(3) organizations such as Assistance League to support their efforts in distributing these books.

Since its inception in 1984, more than 29,000 children have received clothing and school supplies through Operation School Bell. The goal for the 2009-2010 year is to reach 2,835 disadvantaged children from Indianapolis Public School System and the Metropolitan School Districts of Washington, Lawrence, Warren, and Pike Townships. Children are referred to the Operation School Bell by school personnel and meet financial qualifications at or below the poverty level.

The children are brought to Operation School Bell by school buses and under the guidance of an Assistance League member, personally choose their new items in a store-like setting. Each child receives a duffel bag – they may choose from three different colors, an important ownership factor for children of large families who may have several siblings also selected for Operation School Bell. The child fills their duffel bag with their new clothing and school supplies which include: a winter jacket; a hat, scarf and gloves set; 6 pairs of socks, 6 briefs or boxers, a belt, a sweatshirt, 2 pairs of navy or khaki pants, jumpers, or skorts and 2 shirts, school supplies, hygiene supplies, 2 age-appropriate books. The retail cost for these same new items would be approximately \$200 per child. School personnel have reported that children that are properly clothed and have the necessary school supplies have improved self esteem and success in their academic pursuits, despite enormous obstacles.

**About Assistance League of Indianapolis**

Assistance League of Indianapolis, with the support of approximately 200 all-volunteer members, serves more than 6,000 children and adults in the greater Indianapolis area each year through Operation School Bell, ALI Bears, Assault Survivor Kits® and ALI Friends. During the 2007-2008 fiscal year, 90 cents of every dollar spent by Assistance League of Indianapolis was returned to the Indianapolis community through its philanthropic programs. To learn more about membership, programs or make a donation visit [www.alindy.org](http://www.alindy.org) or call 317-872-1010.

Assistance League® of Indianapolis is a chapter of National Assistance League. Through the gift of service to their communities, over 120 chapters of Assistance League across the nation returned approximately \$35 million to local communities through their local chapter philanthropic programs.

***Assistance League of Indianapolis—putting caring and commitment into action  
through community-based philanthropic projects.***

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