

## Quotes

### ***On Our Partnerships***

“Our partnership with Target allows us to elevate the level of our giving and reach thousands of additional students and volunteers across the nation. Reading is the key to success. And, to ensure students develop a strong foundation for continued learning, it is essential for every school library to be the heart of the school: inspiring and inviting. With the help of Target we are able to give that wonderful space to even more schools.”

— **Angie Halamandaris, The Heart of America Foundation**

“The library should be the heart of the school and the space that supports all of the learning that happens in the classrooms. By partnering with Target we're able to ensure schools across the nation are equipped with the resources students need to read, succeed and make a difference.”

— **Angie Halamandaris, The Heart of America Foundation**

“Through our partnership with Capital One, The Heart of America Foundation is excited to be one step closer to providing children in need everywhere with the tools to read, succeed and make a difference. Over the past nine years with the support of Capital One, our reach has been broader, our community relationships deeper and our impact made significantly greater.”

— **Angie Halamandaris, The Heart of America Foundation**

### ***On The Heart of America Foundation...***

“Fifteen years ago, we began what has become a magnificent odyssey, searching for the heart of America. Taking a lead from Albert Schweitzer, who observed, ‘Example isn’t the best way to teach, it is the only way,’ we began looking for people who represent the best instincts of being human, the best our society has to offer... We see in them the better part of ourselves. The quality of their lives is powerful testimony to the well of goodness at the heart of America. From The Heart of America Foundation’s inception, our goal has been to dig deep, draw from this well and provide avenues for its expression through all our activities and programs.”

— **Bill Halamandaris, The Heart of America Foundation**

### ***What Volunteers Are Saying About Us***

- ★ “What I liked most was seeing the kids’ faces when they received their books.”
- ★ “The most organized event ever.”
- ★ “I liked the entire experience – the excitement on the children’s faces when they were read to.”
- ★ “This experience made my day, week, month!”
- ★ “Well organized; high energy; great cause.”
- ★ “I would volunteer again because I felt what we accomplished was something that will bring enjoyment to the children for many years to come.”
- ★ “A HUGE congratulations to you and your team for successfully completing the 2009 Target Volunteers School Library Makeover season! Heartfelt thanks is truly not enough for what you have ALL contributed to the program and each individual project. [We] could not have wished for better partners. The HOA team amazes me on so many levels, from managing details regarding school selection to liaising with the school district, from assisting in

management of each individual project team to time and time again contributing to the execution of wildly successful celebrations! Thank you for your hard work, patience, enthusiasm, talent and more. YOU INSPIRE US!!!”  
 — **Target Community Relations**

### **What Schools Are Saying About Our Work**

- ★ “Never in my entire career in this wonderful field of education have I had the privilege of being part of something so grand.” — **Dr. Jessie Kerksey, Principal, John T. Hartman Elementary Magnet School**
- ★ “This event was a tremendous success due to your exceptional coordination, work of the volunteers, and generosity. Our students, faculty and staff will benefit immensely due to the wonderful efforts made by your team.” — **Dr. Beverly L. Hall, Superintendent, Atlanta Public Schools**
- ★ “The ‘new’ library is a bright, child-friendly, and engaging environment... The 2,000 books that were added to the library as part of the renovation and the books for each child’s home library will help our students to obtain information, learn, imagine, and dream. What a wonderful gift to give a child! The library renovation will also have an impact on the greater community.” — **Michael B. Cowan, Superintendent, Mesa Public Schools**
- ★ “We are most grateful to you for your support for W.W. Bushman. The time, energy and gifts of books and renovation have made a true difference in the lives of students and staff at the school.” — **Jane Didear, Partnership Coordinator, Dallas Independent School District**
- ★ “I have tried many times to phrase the words that express how the Library Makeover project has affected my school, but I become overwhelmed. The new Libraries are like gardens in the middle of a thorn patch, oases in the deserts. I still find myself sitting at my desk and just smiling for having my dream realized...Before this project I was a skeptic about corporate giving. I frequently shopped at Target where I saw signs promoting their generosity and I thought it was just propaganda. Was I wrong!! Target not only gives financial help, but they spend hours and hours personally volunteering in their community.” — **Media Specialist, Phillip D. Armour School, Chicago, Illinois**
- ★ “Unfortunately, many of our students do not have their own home libraries. Thanks to your generosity, we can now provide the students with books and technology to support their learning in a vibrant and engaging environment. Support from outstanding community partners such as...The Heart of America Foundation help us to give our students what they need in spite of budgetary challenges. I also was impressed with the sea of volunteers that came to build furniture, shelve books, plant flowers and even read to our students. This level of community service was truly inspiring...I applaud...The Heart of America Foundation for leading the way in this important effort.” — **Richard L. Miller, Ph.D., District Superintendent, Riverside Unified School District**
- ★ “The months we spent working with The Heart of America Foundation on this project were an absolute joy. Your staff was accessible and helped make the entire process easy for everyone involved. Principal Aline Phillips [shared], ‘This project is so much more than a new coat of paint. This space is the heart of our school.’” — **Jeffrey R. Spiegel, Superintendent, Ferguson-Florissant School District**
- ★ “All our students, staff and parents thank you for all the generous contributions of time, resources donations and support you have given our school district over the course of the several month project. From the selection and planning process to the prep work conducted over the summer months and finally to the finishing touches administered in time for the big unveiling, the effort was flawlessly implemented.” — **Jane A. Russo, Superintendent, Santa Ana Unified School District**

The Heart of America Foundation®

## What People Are Saying...

“I consider the work of the Heart of America Foundation to be very important. I send you my prayers and best wishes for the success of your humanitarian endeavor.”

—The Dalai Lama

“The Heart of America Foundation is making a wonderful difference!...A special thanks...for seeing critical needs and finding innovative ways to fill them...These acts and the many others you perform are restoring hope in the lives of children throughout the country. By giving children an opportunity to be leaders and givers, you reveal the compassion and community spirit that truly is the heart of America.”

—Laura Bush, Former First Lady of the United States

“There are no words to thank you all enough for the inspirations that will be part of our son forever. We see him relate to these experiences and the people he has met through the Heart of America daily.”

—Dave and Brenda Adamiec, Parents of David Adamiec, 14

“I commend The Heart of America Foundation for giving young people the opportunity to learn that it is better to give than to receive and that in giving and receiving there is a profound joy that enriches the world.”

—Archbishop Desmond M. Tutu, Recipient of the 1984 Nobel Peace Prize

“You do superb work.”

—Frances D. Ferguson, President, Vassar College

“You are doing such an enormously greatly needed job and truly making a difference!”

—Barbara Bush, Former First Lady of the United States

“Volunteering at all of the different places I talked about has kept me on the right track.”

—Vanessa Allen, Grade 10

“Once I started volunteering and found out that it was fun and helpful, I continued doing it, and plan to keep doing it in the future. This program helped me just as much as I helped the community.”

—Jennifer McAtee, 7thGrade

“I hope by me volunteering that I have affected someone else’s life the way these people have affected mine.”

—Ranada Bowie, 10thGrade

“It was beautiful to see the children feel as if their needs were recognized. That isn't something that the children [in this school] get to see very often. I am so happy to be a part of this project.”

— Asia, Volunteer

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“I had so much fun participating in this event, and am so proud that [my company] is involved in a project such as this one. I'm so glad that we were able to make such a positive influence in this area.”

— Janay, Volunteer

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“[What I liked most about the activity was] the outcome—volunteering to create a great environment for children to learn!”

— Matthew, Volunteer

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“[I really liked having a] chance to give back and get involved and the fact that we were able to help in making an educational experience worthwhile for the kids.”

— Volunteer

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“This event was a tremendous success due to your exceptional coordination, work of the volunteers, and the generosity of [the sponsor]. Our students, faculty and staff will benefit immensely due to the wonderful efforts made by you and your team.”

— Dr. Beverly L. Hall, Superintendent, Atlanta Public Schools

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“Never in my entire career in this wonderful field of education have I had the privilege of being part of something so grand.”

— Dr. Jessie Kerksey, Principal, John T. Hartman Elementary Magnet School

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— Jane Didear, Partnership Coordinator, Dallas Independent School District

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“The READesign of the library has been an upgrade for our school in many ways. It has had a positive impact on everyone's attitude. It has provided a homey, cheerful area for reading and learning. The students love it. The physical space is now welcoming, and most importantly, kid-friendly. One child commented, 'Can I live here...all day?' Another said, 'I want this to be my library FOREVER!'”

— Valerie Perez, Assistant Principal, Gentilly Terrace Elementary School

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“With their first look at the newly redesigned library, it was so apparent that the children felt valued and that literacy matters.”

— Elizabeth Aldonas, Principal, Glen Forest Elementary School

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