

# NEW ORLEANS PUBLIC LIBRARY

## PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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### **“Books to You” Donates 5,000 Books to St. Mary’s Academy With the Help of Wynton Marsalis**

(New York, NY) When Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans last fall, Dr. Ken Mask, President of the non-profit “Books to You” and Wynton Marsalis (Honorary Board Member) had a vision to build libraries in the homes of those affected by Hurricane Katrina. Both still hold that vision, and will continue to hold book drives across the country. As a first step, next week “Books to You” will donate 5,000 books to St. Mary’s Academy in New Orleans, a private, Catholic college preparatory middle/secondary school for young women.

“Books to You” which partnered with New York’s leading Storage Company, **Storage Deluxe**, for its book drive received a 5,000 books to donate to those affected by Hurricane Katrina. **Storage Deluxe** has stored the books in their Wilton, CT facility and will be turning those books over to the hands of the **Katrina Foundation for Recovery** and the **KenTenn Relief Team** to be shipped Tuesday, April 18<sup>th</sup> utilizing a 26-foot truck donated by **U-Haul**. Kathy Reeg, President of the Katrina Foundation for Recovery says *“As an organization we are honored to be able to help transport these books to the children of New Orleans. Our hearts go out to them as they endeavor to rebuild their lives. We are here to raise funds through donations for the “Blueband for Katrina” (a tangible statement of support and a reminder to pray for the individuals affected by Katrina) to enable non-profit organizations who are willing to aid in the rebuilding and restoration of the Gulf Coast.”*

Once in New Orleans, the books will be housed by the New Orleans Public Library until St. Mary’s Academy is ready to accept the books before the start of their new year in a new location. Wynton Marsalis and Dr. Ken Mask will personally thank the organizations that participated in this book drive at a public press gathering held in Hall I of the Ernest Morial Convention Center, 900 Convention Center Blvd., New Orleans LA 70130 on Friday, April 21<sup>st</sup> 2006 at 1:00pm.

*For photo ops, interviews, and media queries, contact April McClemmy at 347.453.6270, or [april@bookstoyou.org](mailto:april@bookstoyou.org).*

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