

Media Release

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JPMorgan Chase Puts Dollars & Time Behind Literacy

Chase volunteer readers working to spark student interest in reading

JACKSONVILLE, FLA. – Volunteers from JPMorgan Chase, in partnership with Communities In Schools of Jacksonville, held a kick-off reading celebration at Hogan Spring Glen Elementary School Oct. 19 to launch the business' efforts to inspire and support student literacy in Duval County.

JPMorgan's support for Communities In Schools' literacy programs includes a significant financial contribution as well as hands-on volunteer time from employees during special reading days. The kick-off reading event was the first of several monthly reading days being held at various Duval County schools served by Communities In Schools' literacy program over the next eight months. There will be more reading days in October, November and December during which Chase readers will volunteer their time reading to students.

JPMorgan recently awarded Communities In Schools with a \$30,000 grant in support of their literacy program, Duval Reads! The grant provides more than 500 struggling students with necessary resources to improve their reading abilities and succeed in school. JPMorgan has backed this financial support with a personal investment, as each reading day will give more than 60 JPMorgan employees the chance to volunteer and read to students involved in Communities In Schools' literacy program.

Students dressed up as their favorite book characters to attend a fun-filled celebration of reading before heading back to the classrooms with JPMorgan reading volunteers to listen to stories. Local leaders, including Jacksonville Education Commissioner Dr. Donnie Horner, DCPS Elementary Education Cluster Chief Debbie Maynard, JPMorgan Chase Bank Executive Greg Beliles and 2011 Arena Bowl Champion Jacksonville Sharks mascot "Chompy" took part in talking to the kids and getting them excited about reading.

Photo Caption: (1) Leaders from JPMorgan Chase, Communities In Schools of Jacksonville, Duval County Public Schools and Jacksonville Shark's mascot "Chompy" helped inspire students to get excited about reading. (2) A JPMorgan Chase volunteer reads to students at Hogan Spring Glen Elementary as part of the business' efforts to support student literacy in Duval County.

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Communities In Schools operates America's most successful dropout prevention program. Established in 1989, the Jacksonville affiliate serves more than 7,000 students in 60 schools annually with nationally-recognized mentoring, scholarship, literacy, enrichment and after-school programs.

