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**LAYC Family of Organizations**

**LAYC YouthBuild Public Charter School**  
 3014 14<sup>th</sup> Street, NW  
 Washington, DC 20009

**Next Step Public Charter School**  
 1419 Columbia Road, NW  
 Washington, DC 20009

**Art & Media House**  
 3035 15<sup>th</sup> Street, NW  
 Washington, DC 20009

**Ward 4 - Petworth**  
 801 Shepherd Street, NW  
 Washington, DC 20011

**Maryland Multi-cultural Youth Centers**  
 1320 Fenwick Ln, Suite 600  
 Silver Spring, MD 20910

7411 Riggs Road, Suite 418  
 Langley Park, MD 20783

6200 Sheridan Street  
 Riverdale, MD 20737

January 10, 2010

Dear Sir or Madam:

MacFarland Middle School students are poised to learn. This DC public school has hard-working teachers, enthusiastic coaches, and energetic students. Unfortunately, they lack one key resource essential for learning: **a school library.**

MacFarland has one dusty room devoted to reading. Its metallic shelves are only partially filled and hold mostly high-school level books published before 1990. An inadequate, out-of-date library hinders learning at any school, but is a major impediment at MacFarland, where only **8% of students last year scored proficient in reading.** MacFarland students need access to quality, level-appropriate books to help them regain their footing.

For 4 years, LAYC's AmeriCorps program has helped MacFarland students succeed academically by serving as in-class tutors and providing afterschool clubs and homework assistance. We will continue to provide those services. But we need your help.

The **MacFarland Book Drive** has a lofty goal: get 1,000 books before the end of February. To reach this goal, we need the support of every friend, family, community member, and organization that cares about helping youth succeed.

There are four ways to support the **MacFarland Book Drive**:

- **DONATE** through our secure website. \$5 buys one book. [www.layc-dc.org](http://www.layc-dc.org), Donate Now; designate donation to Book Drive.
- **MATCH** another donation. We aim to match all donations made by MacFarland parents, teachers, and students. Contact Galen at [macfarlandbookdrive@gmail.com](mailto:macfarlandbookdrive@gmail.com), subject "Matching."
- **PURCHASE** items from our Wish List at [www.layc-dc.org](http://www.layc-dc.org).
- **DONATE** books, using these book donation guidelines:
  - Elementary and middle school reading level (1st - 8th grade);
  - 50-100 pages in length printed after 1999; maximum 300 pages;
  - Particular interest in science, historical fiction, and basic Spanish or French;
  - Audio books and updated encyclopedias accepted;
  - No books in poor condition or above 9th grade reading level.

Donations are fully tax deductible. Please give generously and pass this on to others.

Sincerely,

*Lori M. Kaplan*

Lori M. Kaplan  
 Executive Director

*Galen D'Amato*

Galen D'Amato  
 Program Coordinator  
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