



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Ten-Year-Old Holds Book Drive for Florence Crittenton's Teen Moms and Their Babies

Amanda Komoczi Seeks to Give Back and Earn Karate Black Belt

DENVER – Sept. 21, 2010 –

The 10-year-old daughter of a teen mom from Lakewood is staging a book drive to benefit the pregnant and parenting teens who attend the Florence Crittenton School and their children.

Amanda Komoczi, a fifth grader at Prospect Valley Elementary School, has already collected 572 books – both board books for babies and toddlers and young adults books for their teen mothers attending the DPS alternative school in southwest Denver, which serves about 280 teen moms and 120 babies each school year.

Amanda is working to earn her black belt in karate at Mile High Karate in Lakewood, where one of the criteria is to perform a community service project. "Because books are so important to me and my mom was a teenage parent," says Amanda, "I thought Florence Crittenton would be a good place to donate the books."

Amanda's mother, Ellie Gibbons, was 15 when she gave birth to her daughter. She always stressed the importance of education to Amanda, and is now a research assistant at the University of Colorado after earning her degree in psychology. Amanda will officially receive her black belt at a ceremony in November.

Anyone wishing to donate books to Amanda's drive can bring them to Florence Crittenton Services at 55 South Zuni, Denver, CO 80223 (off Alameda). Cash donations can be sent to the same address.

Florence Crittenton Services, formerly Parent Pathways, provides a high school curriculum, counseling and parenting support for teen mothers at the Florence Crittenton School; a Qualistar-rated Early Learning Center for their babies; and a Family Engagement Center offering a comprehensive array of integrated services to help young fathers and family members support the young mother. Learn more at www.florencecrittentonco.org.

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