In many homes that are experiencing financial difficulty, a book is a luxury that is often unattainable. In a recent book giveaway, a student in a local school asked, “is this my forever book?” Owning books helps to support and build a love of reading. Bookmarks can be used to encourage reading and also serve as an extra fun item to receive when getting a book at a book drive or other event.

Facts:

• According to the 2016 PARCC Assessment, 21.6% of third graders in Baltimore City are reading below grade level—a figure that is twice the state average.
• An academic study from 2014 found that books in the home have a positive payoff in improved test scores throughout the world.

Consider this quote:

“Education means teaching a child to be curious, to wonder, to reflect, to enquire. The child who asks becomes a partner in the learning process, an active recipient. To ask is to grow.”

- Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks

Discussion questions:

• What do you love most about books?
• Why do you think reading is important?
• What impact do you hope these bookmarks will have on the children who are receiving them?
• How does the ability to read impact a person’s livelihood?
• What is the connection between curiosity and growth, according to Rabbi Sacks? How can you help build curiosity in students throughout the Baltimore area?

This year, JVC challenges our community to engage in 100,000 acts of volunteer and leadership service to commemorate 100 years of The Associated. Learn more at jvcbaltimore.org/100K.
SOURCES

1https://psmag.com/social-justice/books-home-strongly-linked-academic-achievement-82144