



THE CITY OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
OFFICE TO COMBAT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**MAYOR'S OFFICE TO COMBAT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CELEBRATES
GRADUATION CEREMONY FOR THE CHILDREN AND PARENTS ATTENDING
THE CENTER'S FIRST BROOKE JACKMAN LITERACY PROGRAM AT THE
NEW YORK CITY FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER, QUEENS**

*For children of domestic violence victims, the wonder of getting lost in a good book is
immeasurable*

Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence Commissioner Yolanda B. Jimenez today hosted a graduation ceremony for domestic violence victims and their children who completed the first Brooke Jackman Family Literacy Program at the City's Family Justice Center in Queens.

"Domestic violence affects the entire family—especially children who witness it," said Commissioner Jimenez. This inspiring program brings domestic violence victims and their children together in a safe place so that they can learn, grow, and heal as a family."

The program is funded by the Brooke Jackman Foundation, a non-profit organization established in October 2001 in response to the September 11 World Trade Center attacks that claimed the life of Brooke Jackman, age 23. The foundation honors Brooke's legacy, her deep love of reading and a profound interest in helping children. The program is also made possible by the Books for Kids Foundation through the Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City.

"We are honored to have had the opportunity to witness the transforming effect that these families experienced through the literacy program and the supportive relationships that developed as a result," said Erin Jackman.

The Program is provided at the Center in three languages, English, Punjabi and Spanish. For eight weeks, parents and children find a safe, colorful, fun and enriching refuge filled with the magic of books. The Program provides families with a nutritious dinner, reading of bilingual books and arts and crafts activities. Children of domestic violence victims often accompany

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their parents as they receive counseling, and legal, educational and job training assistance at the City's Family Justice Center, Queens. The one-stop domestic violence services Center houses on-site staff members from 13 nonprofit organizations and six City agencies, who collectively speak over 20 languages.

To date, the New York City Family Justice Center, Queens has assisted over 8,000 victims and their children logging nearly 20,000 client visits since its opening in June 2008.

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The Brooke Jackman Foundation mission is to create and support programs enhancing the literacy and self-esteem of disadvantaged children and their families in the New York area. The Brooke Jackman Family Literacy Programs are designed to engage parents (and guardians) and their children in literacy-based activities. At each session, participants receive take-home literacy packages, age-appropriate books, and concrete strategies in order to support their child's learning experience during the workshops and at home. It is the foundation's hope that the magical world of books will promote parents and children reading aloud together each night.

The Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence operates three New York City Family Justice Centers in the Bronx, Brooklyn and Queens. The New York City Family Justice Initiative reduces barriers faced by domestic violence victims seeking help by giving them easy access to comprehensive services by placing dedicated domestic violence prosecutors and essential community and City services under one roof. The Initiative is a public-private partnership coordinated with the help of the Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City, a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization established to promote partnerships between the City and the private sector.

For more information, visit www.nyc.gov/domesticviolence or call 311.