



**FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **YMCA to Host 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Book Fair, Tradition for Book Lovers and Collectors**

*Event will benefit the Y's youth and literacy programs*

**St. Louis, MO (August 5, 2014)** – Book lovers looking for great deals can head to the YMCA of Greater St. Louis' 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Book Fair! This end-of-summer tradition will take place August 15-20 at the Kennedy Recreation Center in South County. The Fair, featuring a large variety of gently used books, CDs, magazines and records, benefits the Y's youth and literacy programs, which provide reading tutoring and free books to hundreds of adults and children in the area each year.

"Funds raised from the Annual Book Fair help positively impact lives of St. Louisans through literacy," said Caroline Mitchell, director of Y Community Literacy. "The adults and children who participate in our programs gain more than reading skills; they gain self-confidence and self-esteem. Through their purchases, Book Fair patrons are really helping to change lives and strengthen our community."

Y Community Literacy offers a variety of opportunities for children and adults to better their lives through literacy. In fact, the Y Read program, which provides one-on-one tutoring for children who are reading below their grade level, has been shown to improve reading levels by two grades! An average of 125 children received free reading tutoring through the program per year.

The Book Fair will feature items priced from \$.50 to \$6. In addition, there will be a rare books collection, featuring a set of four A.A. Milne books from 1950, Batman Comics and rare books about the St. Louis Blues, Elvis Presley and Elizabeth Taylor. Visit [www.ymcabookfair.org](http://www.ymcabookfair.org) for a complete list of the rare books that will be available.

Preparation for the Book Fair began in March, when Y branches began collecting books, CDs, magazines and records. Volunteers have invested countless hours collecting, sorting and pricing books items.

The 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Book Fair begins Friday, August 15 at 4pm with a "Preview Night." There is a \$10 admission fee for Preview Night, however there is no admission fee for the remainder of the Fair. The Bookfair will be open 9am to 9 pm on Saturday, August 16, through Wednesday, August 20. Special pricing begins on Tuesday with "half price day" and on Wednesdays, shoppers will be able to pay \$10

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1528 Locust Street, St. Louis, MO 63103

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per bag or box. Kennedy Recreation Center is located at 6050 Wells Road, near highway 55 and Meramec Bottoms Road.

For additional information, visit [www.ymcabookfair.org](http://www.ymcabookfair.org), [www.facebook.com/YMCABookfair](https://www.facebook.com/YMCABookfair) or call 314-353-4960.

### **About the YMCA of Greater St. Louis**

The YMCA of Greater St. Louis is a nonprofit organization dedicated to youth development, healthy living and social responsibility. Featuring 17 traditional Y branches and two Campus Y student leadership facilities on the Missouri side of the St. Louis Metro Area, our Y also includes YMCA Camp Lakewood and Trout Lodge in Potosi, Missouri. The Carondelet Park Rec Complex and O'Fallon Park Rec Complex are owned by the City of St. Louis and operated by the Y. Our Y is a proud member of the United Way. For more information, please visit [www.ymcastlouis.org](http://www.ymcastlouis.org) or call 314-436-1177.

### **About Y Community Literacy**

YMCA Community Literacy provides parent education classes and book distributions to agencies serving families of low-income in St. Louis. Each year, the Y's Community Literacy programs help about 300 youth improve their reading and math skills; and more than 125 adults learn to read and/or speak English proficiently.

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