

# PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS**, Kiwanis is a global organization with over 7,300 clubs across 85 nations. Kiwanis consists of volunteers dedicated to changing the world, one child and one community at a time. The organization believes that no problem is too big or too small, including that of ensuring child literacy; and

**WHEREAS**, research shows that children who do not read in the summer can lose two to three months of reading development, and children that read four or more books over the summer perform better on reading comprehension tests in the fall than their peers who read one or no books over the summer; and

**WHEREAS**, the Kiwanis Club of Ormond Beach hosts multiple projects throughout the year, with most of them focusing on helping children learn to read. The Kiwanis Club's signature project is Kiwanis READS! Backers 4 Books. The award-winning program's three pillars include building home libraries, building classroom libraries, and building a culture of independent reading across Ormond Beach; and

**WHEREAS**, Kiwanis READS! challenges students to read a minimum of 20 minutes a day over the summer break; and

**WHEREAS**, each year the Kiwanis Club sponsors over 300 students from Ormond Beach Elementary School through the summer program. Since 2019, Ormond Beach Elementary School has finished top ten in the State of Florida in minutes read; and

**WHEREAS**, to sustain the program and continue providing books to students all year long, the Kiwanis Club partners with Givebacks to power "Backers 4-Books." Givebacks is a free app that donates funds for books when Kiwanis READS "Backers" (consumers) dine and shop at hundreds of local restaurants and online retailers. Kiwanis READS! donates a new book to an Ormond Beach Elementary student for every new Backer. Great things happen when you give a child a chance to learn, experience, dream, and succeed.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bill Partington, Mayor of the City of Ormond Beach, Florida, do hereby declare May 22, 2023, as the

## Kickoff of Kiwanis READS! 2023

in the City of Ormond Beach and urge all residents to engage in activities that aim to promote ongoing literacy support for elementary aged school children.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I hereunto set my hand and cause the seal of the City of Ormond Beach, Florida, to be affixed this 16<sup>th</sup> day of May in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty-three



  
**BILL PARTINGTON**  
Mayor