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## **JUDITH'S READING ROOM RETURNS TO GOOD SHEPHERD TO BENEFIT PATIENTS WITH NEW MOBILE LIBRARY DONATION**

After establishing its first ever library with Good Shepherd, Judith's Reading Room provides the rehabilitation network's Allentown hospital with a customized mobile library to help recovering patients.

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Bethlehem, PA (September 14, 2012) – Judith's Reading Room, a nonprofit literacy organization based in Bethlehem, donated a custom library today to Good Shepherd Rehabilitation Hospital's Recreation Therapy Room. The Therapy Room, based in its Allentown campus, aims to return its patients to their highest possible level of function and independence. Today's donation is comprised of 300 hand chosen books and a mobile cart, with a total value of \$7,562.

The Recreation Therapy Room serves over 200 individuals daily, including patients in the Rehabilitation Hospital, residents of the supportive independent living apartments on campus, and all of their respective families. Good Shepherd recreation therapists will be available during regular working hours to help individuals find books and provide adaptive equipment for patients and residents to make their reading more independent and enjoyable.

"Because of the gift, our patient's rehabilitation process will be greatly enhanced. Reading has so many benefits that can complement a patient's journey through rehabilitation," said Frank Hyland, Vice President of Rehabilitation Services. "On behalf of Good Shepherd Rehabilitation Hospital, I would like to express our heartfelt appreciation to Judith's Reading Room for this generous donation of books. I know that it will greatly benefit our patients."

The Judith's Reading Room mobile library cart includes a variety of books that accommodate the wide patient population, from 18 to 80 years of age. Patients and their families will be able to benefit from a mix of new fiction, nonfiction, and coffee table books that have been obtained through book publishers and from a generous donation by Mr. and Mrs. Larry Gerhard in honor of their daughter, Kristen. In honor of the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Banned Books Week this year, the library also contains several banned books, including *The Lovely Bones* and *Twilight*.

After establishing its first library at the Pediatric Unit of Good Shepherd's Bethlehem campus in February 2010, Judith's Reading Room is thrilled to continue its partnership with Good Shepherd. "Giving these patients literature, which will help not only their

therapy but help pass the time, corresponds perfectly with our mission at Judith's Reading Room," said Scott Leiber, Co-Founder, Judith's Reading Room."

Judith's Reading Room promotes "Freedom Through Literature" by providing custom libraries to organizations that serve people who, for any reason, have limited or no access to literature. The organization was established in 2010 to honor the memory of Judith F. Krug, a champion of the First Amendment's guarantee of free speech. "Judith's Reading Room is our interpretation of spreading freedom through literacy by providing custom libraries, at no cost to organizations, with the goal to enrich lives through the simple act of reading," said Leiber. Including today's donation, Judith's Reading Room has donated 32 libraries: 24 mobile and 8 permanent libraries in five states and in four countries. The 32 Judith's Reading Room permanent or mobile libraries contain 36,830 books valued at \$404,676.

For more information, please visit [www.judithsreadingroom.org](http://www.judithsreadingroom.org) and/or to reach Cathy Leiber by email, contact her at: [info@judithsreadingroom.org](mailto:info@judithsreadingroom.org).

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