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Words Alive Partners with the Harry Potter Alliance to Bring Thousands of Books to San Diego

San Diego, Calif. (April 3, 2017) — Words Alive, a leading nonprofit literacy organization that inspires a commitment to reading and develops shared reading experiences for children, youth, and families, has partnered with the Harry Potter Alliance for their annual international book drive and literacy advocacy campaign: Accio Books!

Founded in 2005, the Harry Potter Alliance (HPA) is a nonprofit organization that uses the power of story to engage millions of fans in the fight for equality, human rights, and literacy. Over the past twelve years, the HPA has conducted campaigns on a range of social issues including income inequality, ethical sourcing for Harry Potter brand chocolate products, LGBTQ+ rights and much more but every spring turns its focus towards literacy with Accio Books.

Since 2009, members of the HPA have donated over 315,000 books to communities in need around the world through Accio Books. During this campaign, HPA supporters and chapter members host book drives in their local communities and either donate those books to libraries, schools, or organizations in need in their own communities or donate their books to the HPA's official recipient site for the year.

Words Alive is proud to have been chosen as the official recipient site for this year's Accio Books campaign! We can expect that 7,000-10,000 books will be sent to Words Alive throughout the campaign. These books will help combat the lack of book ownership in the underserved communities of San Diego. Many of the children in the Words Alive programs do not have any books of their own and the donations received from Accio Books will give them an opportunity to start their personal home libraries and may be among the first books they ever possess.

Words Alive is also planning on hosting the Apparating Library (the event where the donated books will be distributed back out into the community) at Golden Hill Elementary School before the end of the school year as a way of bringing awareness to and preventing the "Summer Slide." This is the idea that students tend to lose achievement gains that they made throughout the school year over the summer, and this trend is compounded for low-income families for reasons exactly like lack of book ownership. Studies have shown that having access to books over the summer prevents the "Summer Slide" when it

comes to reading skills. With the support of the HPA and Accio Books, children in San Diego from underserved communities will be better equipped to avoid the “Summer Slide” this year.

Words Alive is thrilled to be the recipient site for this year’s Accio Books campaign. We can’t wait to see all of the advocacy, positivity, and books that this partnership brings!

If you would like to learn more about Accio Books and the Harry Potter Alliance, please visit www.thehpalliance.org/accio_books. To learn more about Words Alive, visit www.wordsalive.org.

About the Harry Potter Alliance

The Harry Potter Alliance (HPA) is a non-profit organization that uses the power of story to turn fans into heroes. Using inspiration from stories like Harry Potter, the Hunger Games, and more, they strive to make the world better through activism and community engagement. Through HPA campaigns, young people have donated 315,000 books to libraries and literacy organizations worldwide, organized over 20,000 Youtube video creators and fans to advocate for net neutrality, made over 3,000 phone calls for marriage equality, send 5 planes full of life-saving supplies to Haiti, and compelled Warner Bros to switch their Harry Potter chocolates to Fair Trade or UTZ-certified sources. There are over 200 chapters in 30 countries on 6 continents as well as countless individuals who engage with the HPA online. Anyone who wants to be a wizard activist can get their start at thehpalliance.org.

About Words Alive

Founded in 1999, Words Alive is a nonprofit organization that helps underserved, low-income, at-risk children, teens and families discover how books and reading can add meaning to their lives. Words Alive engages its program participants in developing a connection to reading with innovative programs and initiatives with the goal of creating lifelong readers and learners. For more information about Words Alive, its programs, volunteer opportunities and sponsorship opportunities, visit www.wordsalive.org.

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