



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **2013 Michigan Reads! Presented by Target launches statewide tour at East Lansing Public Library with Author and VIP Guest Julie Calley**

The Library of Michigan in collaboration with the East Lansing Public Library, the Library of Michigan Foundation and with the sponsorship of Target, began the ninth annual statewide Michigan Reads! tour today at the East Lansing Public Library. Special guest Julie Calley, a champion for child literacy and wife of Lieutenant Governor Brian Calley, read this year's featured book *Woolbur* to a crowd of preschoolers and was joined by several local Target Team members and "Bullseye", the Target mascot. Michigan Reads! features a 12-stop statewide tour promoting the value and benefit of reading to preschoolers.

*Woolbur* is a richly illustrated children's book about a lamb who has very creative and different ideas and helps others embrace diversity, and was written by author Leslie Helakoski who joined Mrs. Calley at the East Lansing event. *Woolbur* will be read by Helakoski at similar Michigan Reads! events scheduled on the tour listed below:

- Monday, September 16th - Putnam District Library (Nashville)
- Wednesday, September 18th - Loutit District Library (Grand Haven)
- Monday, September 23rd - Branch District Library (Coldwater)
- Tuesday, September 24th - Buchanan District Library
- Wednesday, September 25th - Grand Rapids Public Library
- Tuesday, October 8th - Westland Public Library
- Wednesday, October 9th - Genesee District Library - Fenton Branch
- Thursday, October 10th - Harper Woods Public Library
- Tuesday, October 15th - Crawford County Library (Grayling)
- Wednesday, October 16th - Charlevoix Public Library
- Thursday, October 17th - Superior District Library - Engadine Branch

"Julie Calley was a great VIP reader/guest for our statewide kick-off of the Michigan Reads! tour," said Carolyn Sparks, executive director of the Library of Michigan Foundation. "Mrs. Calley is a parent and dedicated to public service, and she read *Woolbur* with great passion to the crowd of children. They loved it!"

Michigan Reads! raises awareness of the intergenerational nature of literacy and the value of sharing books with children during their critical developmental stage between birth and age 5. Michigan Reads! promotes early-childhood literacy and engages teachers, librarians, caregivers and parents in reading and sharing books with children ages birth to eight. Five thousand kits including the book, resource guide, stickers, posters and bookmarks were sent to Michigan public and private schools with a K-2 classroom, and every state public and tribal library, Headstart Program and Great Start Readiness Program also received the kit. For more information about Michigan Reads! and the Library of Michigan Foundation, go online to:

[michigan.gov/libraryofmichigan.com](http://michigan.gov/libraryofmichigan.com)

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