



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Lead to Read KC and Entrepreneur Chris Goode Announce Partnership *Families are invited to attend the October 26 Kick-off Story Time*

Kansas City, MO, October 14, 2024—Lead to Read KC will kick off a new partnership with entrepreneur and Ruby Jean’s Juicery founder Chris Goode at a story time on Saturday, October 26, 11 a.m. at Ruby Jean’s Patio, 3000 Troost Ave, KCMO, 64109. Goode will read his brand new children’s book, *Ruby Jean’s Garden*, an uplifting tale of his grandmother growing and sharing fresh food in the community.



Through this partnership, Goode will present *Ruby Jean’s Garden* during interactive read-alouds at Lead to Read KC partner schools and every student in attendance will receive a copy of the book. Goode’s passion for community building and providing healthy options make him an important addition to Lead to Read KC’s author program, which promotes physical and mental life skills for youth. Additionally, Goode’s participation will inspire young readers to explore their own creativity and potential.

“It has been a 5 year journey to deliver our youth this reinvigorated account of my grandmother’s journey. An account I wish was the ultimate outcome for her life,” said Goode. “I have long thought our babies are worth our time and our nourishment. It’s a great blessing that these words have made their way through my soul onto the pages of *Ruby Jean’s Garden* and now into the ears of our children. Lead to Read KC’s mission is so harmonious with my life’s work and has proven to provide access to many more uplifted young minds. I’m grateful and excited to embark on this journey alongside them!”

“We are honored to welcome Chris Goode as a member of our author team,” said Rhea M. LeGrande, Executive Director of Lead to Read KC. “His inspiring journey and dedication to community, wellness, and literacy truly connect with our mission to uplift young readers. We’re excited for the impact this partnership will have, encouraging students to not only embrace reading but also explore the possibilities within themselves.”

[Chris Goode](#) is a passionate entrepreneur and the founder of Ruby Jean’s Juicery restaurants which focus on healthy living. The company is named in honor of Goode’s grandmother Ruby Jean. Goode is a respected community leader and collaborator on youth education and projects that celebrate Kansas City.

[Lead to Read KC](#) is a children's literacy nonprofit dedicated to transforming Kansas City into a community where all students thrive academically and personally through unparalleled access to reading resources, mentorship and support.

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