

“We’re doing what Brooke never got a chance to do in life.”

Erin Jackman

The Brooke Jackman Foundation

Every few months Erin Jackman, 33, attends a very special graduation ceremony in a disadvantaged neighborhood in New York City. As she hands out diplomas to elementary school children and their parents, who have completed a six-week reading workshop together, she knows she’s getting much more in return—smiles, hugs, kisses, bouquets and, most of all, the knowledge that her sister’s death was not in vain. Brooke Jackman was only 23 when she died in the attack on the World Trade Center. But Erin takes comfort in the fact that the foundation her family created in Brooke’s name has bestowed some 1,000 literacy diplomas to grateful fami-

lies. “Brooke was my best friend, and I miss her every day,” says Erin. “One woman in our reading program told me that Brooke lives on in each of the children we help. And I believe her.”

Nothing could make Brooke happier than spreading the joy of reading, especially to needy children. “She was never without a book—she read one a night,” says Erin, a New York City elementary school teacher, recalling her sister’s daily visits to her neighborhood bookstore, where she was instantly recognizable with her backpack and water bottle. Though Brooke had been an



Erin, with one of the foundation’s “Brooke Packs,” says her baby sister (inset) cared about children and reading, not money.