Help write the next chapter of literacy history!

Children are in need of after school tutoring.

Space is needed to train tutors to work with adult learners.

Tutoring teams need a place to meet and space is urgently needed to train AmeriCorps members, home visitors and reading partners.

All of these needs will be met when the Literacy Center for Training, Education and Outreach opens and becomes the hub of literacy activity for the entire county. The Literacy Center for Training, Education and Outreach will be located in Boynton Beach in Quantum Park.

We are excited to announce that the final construction bids are in and we anticipate that the Literacy Coalition will break ground on the property before the end of this year. Stay tuned as we are planning a unique groundbreaking event for the community.

To date, more than 440 literacy supporters have donated to our capital campaign to build the Literacy Center. Our initial gift of $1.8 million for the Literacy Center was given anonymously by an individual who is passionate about reading and wants to ensure that every person in Palm Beach County has the opportunity to learn to read.

We now have just $600,000 left to raise and we need your support. Every donation, no matter the amount, will bring us closer to making the Literacy Center a reality. Gifts of $1,000 or more will be included in a donor recognition “book” wall inside the Literacy Center. This can be a very meaningful way to honor the person who introduced you to the joy of reading or simply to honor someone very special in your life.

Significant naming opportunities are still available throughout the building in addition to naming the campus.

Bookmark your place in literacy history and help us to help those who need it most. To make a gift to the Literacy Center, see the contribution box on the back page of this newsletter. Or if you would like to discuss naming opportunities, please contact Literacy Coalition CEO Darlene Kostrub at (561) 279-9103 or DSKostrub@aol.com.

Our deepest gratitude is extended to all of you who have so generously supported this vital community project.

Save the date! March 8th • Love of Literacy Luncheon
Ann Patchett, author of Bel Canto, State of Wonder and other best sellers, will be our guest speaker.
**Mark Your Calendars**

**September 13**
Great Grown Up Spelling Bee
Harriet Himmel Theater
6 p.m.

**September 19**
Macy’s Literacy Luncheon

**September 22**
Tutor Training
Lake Worth
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

**October 23, 2013**
Loop the Lake for Literacy
Lake Okeechobee

**October 4**
Read for the Record

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**Miami Dolphins Player Speaks Out Against Bullying**

As part of the Literacy Coalition’s Pink Shirt Day on February 29, Jake Long, #77 of the Miami Dolphins, spoke to hundreds of children at Hughes Park in Boca Raton. He added great enthusiasm and excitement to the event and gave a clear call for kids to stand up against bullying whether they are the bully or the bystander. Pink Shirt Day is an international anti-bullying celebration that the Literacy Coalition coordinated in Palm Beach County at Hughes Park, Downtown at the Gardens and West Palm Beach City Hall. This special day was part of the Coalition’s Turning Bullies into Buddies Program sponsored by Prime Time of Palm Beach County with generous funding from the Children’s Services Council. The School District and the Center for Creative Education were also partners for Pink Shirt Day. Turning Bullies into Buddies is a literature-based program that uses outstanding children’s literature to teach anti-bullying strategies year-round in 11 after school programs.

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**West Palm Beach Employees Enhance Skills**

Courtney Moore has been working for the City of West Palm Beach for seven years. Recently, a state law mandated that water distribution employees must have their high school diploma or GED and pass the License 3 state test. Without these two qualifications, employees could lose their jobs.

Courtney and his wife had their first son while they were in high school. Courtney did not graduate and instead chose to work and support his family while his wife finished high school. In 2006, Courtney took an online GED course and received what he thought was a valid diploma. In January of 2011, when Courtney turned his paperwork in to the state to receive his Water Distribution License 3, he discovered that the state test would not honor the online diploma. Human Resources let Courtney know about its partnership with the Literacy Coalition’s Workplace and Community Education program. Courtney took advantage of the weekly on-site GED prep and Sharpening your Workplace Skills classes taught by Literacy Coalition teacher, Sheryl Wandelt. In June of 2011, Courtney earned his GED. He was also simultaneously attending the Water Distribution License preparation class and has passed the License 3 test. Court is not only a great role model for his two sons, but according to the human resources director, also an inspiration to his co-workers. He is currently researching grant and scholarship opportunities to begin attending college classes.

Since beginning classes offered through Literacy Coalition’s Workplace and Community Education program, Courtney, along with six other City of West Palm Beach employees have been promoted. Two students have earned their GED, and 22 employees have passed licensing exams.

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**In Memoriam**

The Literacy Coalition is saddened by the sudden death of Board Member and Campaign Committee Member and Capital Campaign Chair Geoff Neuhoff. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Beth, and his family as they go through this most difficult time. Geoff will be fondly remembered for his enthusiasm and dedication to the cause of literacy.

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**Join Us! Thursday, October 4**

The Literacy Coalition will join the national Read for the Record campaign to recognize the importance of early childhood education by reading Ladybug Girl and the Bug Squad by David Soman and Jacky Davis to children throughout the county. This is part of a national effort to break a world record for the most adults reading the same book to the most children on the same day across the country. Last year Lloma, Lloma Red Pajama by Anna Dewdney was read to more than 2 million children nationally and to more than 2,000 locally. Adults are encouraged to read the book to their children and grandchildren and also to volunteer to read the book at local child care centers. Each year public officials, members of civic organizations and many corporate partners volunteer to read. To be a volunteer reader, email mflmet@literacyco.org or call (561) 921-4714.

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**Charity Navigator 4-Star Rating to Literacy Coalition**

For the fourth consecutive year, the Literacy Coalition has earned a 4-star rating from Charity Navigator. Receiving four out of a possible four stars indicates that an organization adheres to good governance and other best practices and consistently executes its mission in a fiscally responsible way. Only 7% of the charities rated by Charity Navigator have received at least four consecutive 4-star evaluations, indicating that the Literacy Coalition outperforms most other charities in America.
Family Reading Night Promotes Summer Learning

During the 2003-04 school year, Literacy AmeriCorps members tutored Luciana Celestin afterschool as part of the Literacy Coalition’s Village Readers Family Education Program. This individual mentoring gave her a great academic start that has resulted in her being selected as Valedictorian at Village Academy from which she was recently graduated. Her favorite subject is mathematics and she plans to study pre-medicine at the University of West Florida with a goal of becoming a pediatrician. Luciana’s mother, Mercilia, who is a custodian at Village Academy, is also a student at the Village Readers Program working to improve her own reading and literacy skills. Mercilia’s youngest child, Wilgens, is currently being tutored at the program. He is an honor role student who passed the FCAT and will be entering the fourth grade in the coming school year. The Village Readers Program continues to transform the educational environment of many homes in the Delray Beach area.

Berenstain Bears Visit Back to School Bash

Through the generosity of Harper Collins, the family of Berenstain Bears, both parents and kids, delighted children and adults alike at the Community Back to School Bash held at the Palm Beach County Convention Center. This event was the result of partnerships among many organizations under the leadership of President Stephanie Molnar. Stuford’s youngest child, Wilgens, is currently being tutored at the program. He is an honor role student who passed the FCAT and will be entering the fourth grade in the coming school year. The Village Readers Program continues to transform the educational environment of many homes in the Delray Beach area.

Afterschool Literacy Enrichment Initiative, the Center for Creative Education and the City of Delray Beach Public Library,}

Village Readers Student Becomes Valedictorian

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Afterschool Literacy Enrichment Initiative, the Center for Creative Education and the City of Delray Beach Public Library,
Mayors’ Literacy Initiative Focuses on Grade-Level Reading

On Wednesday, September 19, mayors and city commission members from the 38 municipalities in Palm Beach County will gather at the Ritz-Carlton in Manalapan for the Fourth Annual Mayors’ Literacy Luncheon through the generosity of Comcast and in partnership with the Literacy Coalition and the Palm Beach County League of Cities.

The focus of this year’s luncheon will be on the national Campaign for Grade-Level Reading. Local leaders, nonprofits, and foundations in 124 communities and 34 states are uniting around the goal of having third graders able to read on grade level. The approach specifically works on school readiness, consistent school attendance and summer learning. The campaign was launched in Denver in July. Literacy Coalition CEO, Darlene Kostrub, attended the conference and participated with representatives of the City of Delray Beach.

Based on the community’s plan for addressing third grade reading proficiency, Delray was honored as one of the 32 cities selected out of 124 as finalists for the All-America City Award. The Children’s Services Council was also represented at the Denver meeting as it was recognized by the Campaign as a Community Solutions Pacesetter for the work that it already has underway, especially in the school readiness area.

The Literacy Coalition is also working with Boynton Reads, a collaboration of many partners in both the City of Boynton Beach, that is also addressing reading proficiency in Boynton’s schools and community.

Essays Describe Life Changing Experiences

Many important life changing experiences were related including wedding days, births of babies, the earthquake day in Haiti and graduations. Below is an essay that describes the lives of many adult learners.

Going back to school was the best time of my life. I always felt insecure and ashamed to not have finished school. Therefore, I decided to do something about it. A heavy weight was hovering over me and I felt very limited. Making this decision changed my life.

The day that I registered for school I was never more proud of myself. I had a son at eighteen and dropped out of school. So for many years, I’ve lived with an overwhelming insecurity and lack of confidence. I decided to go back to school to find myself. I have children, a husband, and a home, but I don’t have me. My goal for going back to school is to become a registered nurse. I also need to show my children that education is a power that they can possess. My goal is to give my family stability.

In conclusion, going back to school set the way to a profession where I can help heal people. I feel confident, unlimited, and determined to achieve my goals. It opened the window of opportunity that I had kept locked away from myself. It was a memorable day and a life-changing experience.

By Linda Moise, Delray Full Service Center

Local DJ Makes Story Time Come Alive!

Through a partnership with CBS Radio X102.3 in West Palm Beach, their DJ, Poet, entranced children at story times at Libraries in West Palm Beach, Boynton Beach, Lake Worth and Riviera Beach during July and August. The Literacy Coalition facilitated the story time arrangements and selected books for the DJ readings that were of high interest to the children. Jennifer McQuown, Youth Services Manager at the Mandel Public Library of West Palm Beach, related, “The DJ, Poet, was awesome with the kids. We talked with her about having her visit during our other reading programs, too. Thank you for including us. I really appreciate everything you do for us and the community.”

Honey Pot Sponsor

Save the Date: Saturday, February 23, 2013

Benefiting the programs of the Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County

Register today at www.LoopTheLakeForLiteracy.org.

ALPHABET LETTERS

A: AT&T
B: Bob and Diane Patterson
C: Kristin & Glen Calder
E: Gulf Stream Schools
G: Greenberg Traurig, P.A.
H: Christine D. Hanley & Associates, P.A.
M: Martin Luther King, Jr. Coordinating Committee
P: The Palm Beach Post
R: Ryan Patton, Capitol Lending Group
S: Secary Denney Scara Barnhart & Shipley, P.A.
Y: Young Boys: Daniel, Jack & Andrew

CO-CHAIRS
Kristin Calder
Bettina Young

BEE TEAMS
Cheney Brothers
Duffy’s Sports Grill
Florida Crystals Corporation
Friends of the Palm Beach County Library System
Greenberg Traurig, P.A.
Hailie, Shaw & Pfafferberger, P.A.
Lewis, Longman & Walker, P.A.
Lynn University
NextEra Energy
Northern Trust
Palm Beach Area Mensa
The Palm Beach Post
Palm Beach State College
Publix Super Markets Charities
SV Microwave
WPBF 25

Available letters will be displayed online.

Register online at: www.literacypbc.org/events/561/

In Palm Beach County, one in seven adult functions at the lowest level of literacy, meaning that they have difficulty filling out a job application, reading road signs and reading the dosage amount on a prescription bottle. Your support of the Great Grow-Up Spelling Bee will help provide a lifetime of literacy opportunities for thousands of adults, children and families in our community.

2011 1st Place Winner: Duffy’s Sports Grill
Funded by Scripps Research Institute

Great Grow-Up Spelling Bee
Thursday, September 13 at 6 p.m.
Harriet Himmel Theater at CityPlace

Can you spell F-U-N? Get your team of three ready to spell! Public attendance is free in the balcony and the public will have an opportunity to demonstrate their spelling skills! Doors open at 6:00 p.m.

Sponsor a Bee Team: $1,000

• Table for eight for your team of three and five additional guests, one mulligan that may be used in the first round to redeem one incorrect spelling and food and beverages. Includes recognition in event program and publicity.

Purchase an Alphabet Letter: $350

Available letters will be displayed online.

Register online at: www.literacypbc.org/events/561/

In Palm Beach County, one in seven adults functions at the lowest level of literacy, meaning that they have difficulty filling out a job application, reading road signs and reading the dosage amount on a prescription bottle. Your support of the Great Grow-Up Spelling Bee will help provide a lifetime of literacy opportunities for thousands of adults, children and families in our community.
Bookmark your Place in Literacy History with a gift for the Literacy Center for Education, Training and Outreach

There are numerous naming opportunities available for gifts of $15,000 or more. Gifts of $1,000 or more will be recognized on the donor wall.

- First Edition: $10,000
- Gold Leaf: $5,000
- Collectible: $2,000
- Classic: $1,000
- Any gift will help make the building a reality and is greatly appreciated. $________

Name

Address

City State Zip

Phone E-mail

Payment method:
I pledge to pay the gift over
- 1 year
- 2 years.

OR

I would like to make a one-time donation.

Please charge my donation to my:
- MC
- Visa
- AmEx
- Name on card

Credit card #
Expiration mm/yy
Security Code

Enclosed is my check made payable to:
Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County
551 SE 8th Street, Suite 505
Delray Beach, FL 33483

or visit www.literacypbc.org/donate

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