

LITERACY LEGACY

Leading Through Reading

LITERACY COALITION OF PALM BEACH COUNTY



www.literacypbc.org • Summer 2013

Reach Out and Read to Serve Thousands of Additional Children

The William R. Kenan, Jr. Charitable Trust has awarded a three year grant of \$675,000 to expand Reach Out and Read in four states. The grant will provide new, developmentally-appropriate books and early literacy guidance during regular pediatric checkups to an additional 26,270 children living in poverty in North Carolina, Kentucky, New York and Palm Beach County, Florida. Locally, this grant will assist the Literacy Coalition in serving an additional 13,000 children over the next three years.



The Reach Out and Read program welcomes the Health Care District of Palm Beach County as its new partner in pediatric literacy at the four C.L. Brumback Primary Care Clinics.

Through the strong support of the Children's Services Council, the Literacy Coalition has been serving families with Reach Out and Read for more than a

decade. The model provides a book for each child to take home at every well-child checkup from 6 months through 5 years. Along with the free book, doctors and nurses offer guidance to parents about the importance of reading aloud with their children daily. During the past year, the Literacy Coalition served more than 18,000 children in 29 pediatric clinics and distributed 36,813 books.

The Coalition's Reach Out and Read program also welcomes the Health Care District of Palm Beach County as its new partner in pediatric literacy at the four C.L. Brumback Primary Care Clinics. The Health Care District is the new provider of adult and pediatric primary care services at the Lantana/Lake Worth, Delray Beach, West Palm Beach and Belle Glade clinics.

Reach Out and Read is a proven intervention supported by 15 independent, published research studies. During the preschool years, children served by Reach Out and Read score three to six months ahead of their non-Reach Out and Read peers on vocabulary tests, preparing them to start school on target. For more information, visit www.literacypbc.org or call Molly Felmet at 561-767-3364.



2013 Read for the Record

Thursday, October 3

Join this annual event in which thousands of adults nationwide will read *Otis* by Loren Long to children in child care centers and elementary schools.

Share *Otis* with the children in your life.

A free story time celebration will be held at 10 a.m. at the Everglades Farm Equipment Co. 13295 Southern Boulevard in Loxahatchee, followed by a visit next door with animals at the Farmer's Daughter Produce Market.

Volunteer to read at a child care center. Contact the Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County: (561) 767-3359

bkeays@literacypbc.org
www.literacypbc.org

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Darlene Kostrub

Florida Literacy Coalition and ProLiteracy Member

Mark Your Calendars

September 8

International Literacy Day

September 18

Mayors' Literacy Luncheon

The Omphoy Ocean Resort and Spa

Palm Beach

September 24

Immigration and Citizenship

Information Workshop

Lake Worth Community High School

7 p.m. - 9 p.m.

September 28

Tutor Training

The Blume Literacy Center

3651 Quantum Blvd., Boynton Beach

9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

October 3

Read for the Record

Everglades Farm Equipment Company

13295 Southern Blvd., Loxahatchee

10 a.m.

October 17

Great Grown-Up Spelling Bee

Harriet Himmel Theater

CityPlace, West Palm Beach

6:00 p.m.

November 16

Tutor Training

The Blume Literacy Center

3651 Quantum Blvd., Boynton Beach

9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

February 22

Loop the Lake for Literacy

Lake Okeechobee

March 7

Love of Literacy Luncheon

Kravis Center for the Performing Arts

West Palm Beach

11:30 a.m.



We are pleased to announce that the Literacy Coalition has received Charity Navigator's fifth consecutive four-star evaluation for sound fiscal

management and commitment to accountability and transparency. Only 4% of the charities rated by Charity Navigator have received at least 5 consecutive 4-star ratings, indicating that the Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County outperforms most other charities in America. This "exceptional" designation from Charity Navigator differentiates Literacy Coalition from its peers and demonstrates to the public it is worthy of their trust.



Plan to Participate in Read Together Palm Beach County 2014

January 13-February 7

Public voting on a choice of five books

February 24

Press Conference to announce "The Book"

March 7

Official kick-off at the Love of Literacy Luncheon

April

Book discussion groups all over the county

April 28

Finale event



2002



2004



2006



2008



2010



2012



2014

Thank You for Giving Literacy a Permanent Home in Palm Beach County!

On Monday, June 17, the last of the moving boxes arrived at 3651 Quantum Boulevard, the new home of the Literacy Coalition. Staff members worked very quickly to unpack and get their offices ready for the June 20 Grand Opening Celebration of The Blume Literacy Center on the Brenda and C.P. Medore Campus. More than 300 people toured the building that evening. They were greeted by 10 violinists from Peggy Everett's Classic Kids String Ensemble in the Resource Library and then were given tours of the various offices and programs by Literacy AmeriCorps members. The entire group gathered in the Training Center at the end of the evening for refreshments and introductions of the major donors, the Capital Campaign Committee and the Building Committee. Margaret Blume, the building donor, spoke elegantly about her commitment to literacy and the work of the Literacy Coalition.

The Blume Literacy Center is the culmination of many months of planning and fundraising. More than 520 donors contributed to the Capital Campaign.



C.P. & Brenda Medore (Campus Donors), Darlene Kostrub (CEO), Margaret Blume (Building Donor), Gale Howden (Campaign Chair) and Laurie Gildan (Building Chair) cut the official ribbon.

A number of children did fundraising and have their names on the donor wall having contributed from \$1,000-2,500. The Literacy Coalition thanks everyone who gave energy, creativity and funding to the new center. And now the most exciting part of the journey begins as we utilize all elements of the new building to further expand the outreach of the Coalition in serving adults, children, youth and families in our community whose lives are impacted by limited literacy skills.



Reflections on Service...

By Darlene Kostrub, Chief Executive Officer

On Friday, July 12, 40 young adults from 20 states graduated from our Literacy AmeriCorps program after serving a year with the Literacy Coalition doing full-time teaching and tutoring. Eight of them will return to do a second year of service with us. Others are off to graduate school or to begin a new career. Several will remain in our community to take jobs in the non-profit community and a number will serve a year in other AmeriCorps programs in other states.



Two months ago, we asked AmeriCorps members to reflect on what person, event or experience motivated them to give a year of their lives, as recent college graduates, to live in poverty as AmeriCorps members to tutor children, youth and adults. I spent a weekend reading their essays that answered this question and I often had tears rolling down my face as I read their responses.

- One talked about her step dad John, a Harvard graduate, who ended up in prison for nine years. What he did when he left prison to help others in homeless shelters and rehab facilities was her motivation. "I can never fully put into words how much he has influenced me. His constant care for others and dedication inspires me."
- Another wrote about volunteering in college to pass out meals to the homeless in Indianapolis and getting to know personally Harold, one of the homeless. As he learned his story, he couldn't understand how Harold could be so positive. The member relates, "I was frustrated with myself and for all the things I take for granted... AmeriCorps provided a platform for me to give back in a big way."
- One of the members was motivated by a career counselor who told him that he had considered pursuing a service program like AmeriCorps, but changed his mind at the last minute to pursue other ventures. The counselor said this was his biggest regret in life.
- Another member talked about volunteering in a home for terminally ill cancer patients during winter break. She and her friends went to sing and bring cheer and met Felicia who was 15. The member relates, "This is where my heart first broke for someone else."
- One member wrote about the death of his brother, shot in the streets of Detroit, at age 21.
- Another related about tutoring sixth graders in Sacramento who could hardly read at all and being challenged to find a way to instill a passion for reading in these students.

Their reflections made me think back to my own life and the events and people that inspired me to serve. How about you?

What has been the motivating person or factor that moves your heart and life to serve others?

Share your experiences at facebook.com/LiteracyPBC

IMPACT OF AMERICORPS MEMBER SERVICE DURING 2012-13:

- **702** adult learners were assisted with reading, English and employability skills
- **83** adult learners were assisted in gaining employment
- **360** children received tutoring and literacy enrichment to improve reading skills
- **582** children received homework help
- **1,215** at-risk youth were coached, tutored and mentored for academic success

Our Community's Happily Ever After Begins with Reading

The Literacy Coalition and Children's Services Council of Palm Beach County, in partnership with many others, are on the verge of launching a major public education campaign to encourage reading at every turn—at home, in school and in the community. The goal is to raise the community's awareness around the vital importance of grade-level reading and the issues that affect it: school readiness, school attendance and summer learning loss. Without giving too much away, the campaign will launch Sept. 23, involve thousands of Palm Beach County school children and incorporate all manner of media. Further details will be available on the campaign website, www.PBCReads.org, when it goes live at the end of September. So stay tuned!



Must be Present to Win!

September is Attendance Awareness Month across the nation as schools, parents and communities focus on encouraging regular attendance and reducing chronic absenteeism. Attendance is one of the three key strategies of the national Campaign for Grade Level Reading in which the Literacy Coalition and the Children's Services Council are vitally involved. To celebrate Attendance Awareness Month, the Literacy Coalition has invited Hedy Chang, director of the national organization, Attendance Works, to be the keynote speaker at the September 18 Mayors' Literacy Luncheon to be held at the Omphoy Ocean Resort and Spa. Mayors



and city commissioners of the 38 municipalities in Palm Beach County are invited to attend. The event is hosted by the Literacy Coalition and the Palm Beach County League of Cities and is sponsored by Comcast. Travel expenses for Ms. Chang are provided by the Children's Services Council. The Coalition is also facilitating a meeting with Ms. Chang on September 18 with area superintendents and other key school district administrators to discuss how to further involve local schools in reducing chronic absenteeism. Superintendent Wayne Gent has signed the Attendance Works Call to Action indicating the support of the School District to focus on attendance solutions.

Did you know?

- One in 10 kindergarteners nationwide misses a month of school every year.
- By sixth grade, chronic absence can predict high school dropout rates.
- By ninth grade, missing 20% of school can predict dropout better than eighth-grade test scores.

Thoughts of an Adult Literacy Tutor

By Nick Brusca, Volunteer Tutor



This is my second time volunteering with the Literacy Coalition. Prior to coming here, there was some hesitation surrounding, "Am I qualified to be a mentor? What if I make a mistake?" But I have to say the program is amazing. They truly do an excellent job preparing us to assist with students. My grandparents came from Italy, not knowing the English language and had to learn to acclimate to this country and culture. I'm sure they would have appreciated having this literacy program as a resource and I'm honored to be a part of this program.

Change a Life...Volunteer to Tutor an Adult

The greatest gift that you can give is the gift of reading. No previous experience is required as training is provided in a one day workshop that gives you an overview of strategies for tutoring adult learners. Some sites allow you to begin tutoring without attending training. All sites will give you follow up training once you are matched with their site.

At the training, the Coalition will give you information on sites, convenient to you, that are seeking adult literacy tutors. Tutors and

students meet in public places such as libraries and schools. Tutoring in a classroom or small group setting is also available. A six month commitment is preferred.

The next training workshop is scheduled for **Saturday, September 28, from 9 a.m.-4 p.m.** at The Blume Literacy Center in Boynton Beach. If you can commit at least two hours of time per week and you are a friendly, patient person who loves reading, email jheavilin@literacyabc.org or call 561-767-3366 today!

The next training workshop is scheduled for **Saturday, September 28, from 9 a.m.-4 p.m.** at The Blume Literacy Center in Boynton Beach. If you can commit at least two hours of time per week and you are a friendly, patient person who loves reading, email jheavilin@literacyabc.org or call 561-767-3366 today!



Graduates of the Glades Family Education Program are prepared to enter kindergarten ready to succeed!

About the Program

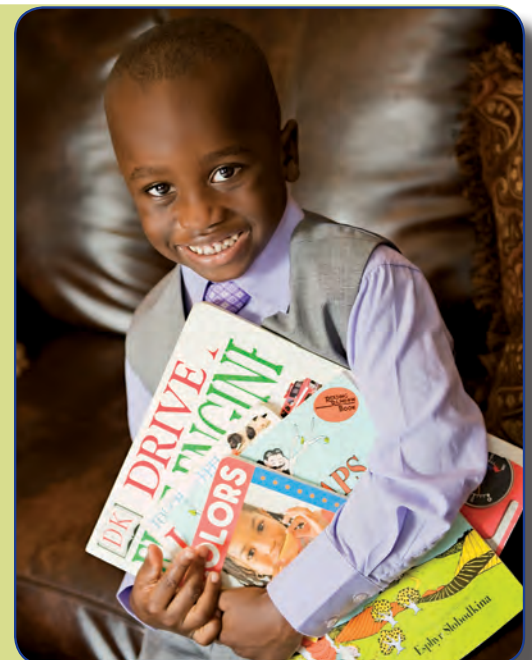
The Glades Family Education program serves adults and children from the Belle Glade, Pahokee, South Bay and Clewiston area. Adults are taught to speak, read and write in English. In addition, our learners receive computer, parenting, cultural and life skills education along with health and basic financial literacy. Adults who attend the Glades program also receive career guidance.

- **24** children were served at the Glades Family Education's Early Childhood program this year.
- **100** percent of the children demonstrated improvement in their language, cognitive and early reading skills including print and phonological awareness.

Parent-Child Home Program Helps Children Soar into Learning and Language

Eliezer was nearly two years old when he enrolled in the Coalition's Parent-Child Home Program (PCHP). At that time he could speak only a few words that were uttered very softly and were difficult to understand. His mother was concerned about his language development and learning. Once enrolled in PCHP, he began to soar! Not only was his vocabulary increasing, but his speech became clearer and more audible. His PCHP Home Visitor came to his home twice a week

for two program years bringing him a new book or educational toy each week. She role-modeled for his parents how to encourage language and learning through the books and toys. Today Eliezer has graduated from PCHP, has a large vocabulary and his family is confident that he is ready for kindergarten. His mother credits the Parent-Child Home Program with her son's growth and learning and says she is forever grateful.





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Bee Part of the Fun on October 17!

Join the Literacy Coalition for an evening of fun and competition on Thursday, October 17 at 6 p.m. The Harriet Himmel Theater will be filled with cheering as teams compete for the coveted Bee title and trophy! If you want to support literacy and “bee” part of the action, there are various ways you can show your support. You can participate by spelling at the event. For \$1,000 you can have a spelling team of three and five table guests. This includes food, beverages and recognition in the event program and publicity. A little bit shy? How about an alphabet letter for \$350? You don’t have to get on stage for that. The letter gets you into the event program and in a scrolling slideshow throughout the span of the Bee event. Advertisements in the program and other sponsorships are also available! Visit www.literacypubc.org/events/561/ for more details!

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Circle the Date!

Can you hear the whirring of the wheels on the bike go round and round? Can you hear the sound of the chains against the gears? Those sounds are helping our community! Join the Literacy Coalition and Florida Crystals Corporation for the fourth annual Loop the Lake for Literacy on **Saturday, February 22**. Your participation can help the mother who can't read a letter sent home by her daughter's teacher. You can help the preschool child who lives in a home that doesn't contain a single book. Mark your calendar today and enjoy the wonderful scenery of Lake Okeechobee while making a difference!





What Your Gift Means

Denise and her children Keisha and Schneider attend the Coalition's Village Readers Family Education Program. **Your donation helped Denise improve her literacy skills** so that she can better communicate with her boss, co-workers and children's teachers. You helped Keisha and Schneider receive one-to-one tutoring. They finished the school year reading on grade level and were promoted to the next grade.

Will you please help more families learn to read?

Amount: ☐ \$5,000 ☐ \$2,500 ☐ \$1,000 ☐ \$500 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$50 ☐ Other _____

Any gift will help our neighbors improve their literacy skills and is greatly appreciated.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Phone _____

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*To make a tax-deductible donation, please visit **www.literacypbc.org/donate** or send a check payable to:*

Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County • 3651 Quantum Blvd. • Boynton Beach, FL 33426

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