

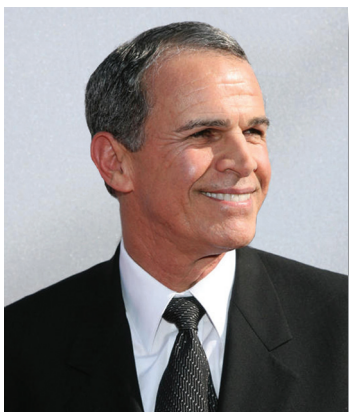
# LITERACY LEGACY

*Leading Through Reading*



Winter 2010

## Literacy Luncheon Features Actor and Literacy Advocate Tony Plana



On Friday, March 26, the Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County will hold its 19th annual Love of Literacy Luncheon at the Raymond F. Kravis Center for the Performing Arts - Cohen Pavilion in West Palm Beach. The Love of Literacy Luncheon raises awareness of our county's significant literacy needs and provides crucial support for literacy programs serving our community from Boca Raton to Jupiter to Belle Glade.

We are pleased to announce that the luncheon is made possible for the ninth year by support from Bank of America. We also are very pleased that the law firm of Haile, Shaw & Pfaffenberger, P.A. is again supporting the luncheon as our Platinum Sponsor.

Actor Tony Plana, our featured speaker for the 2010 luncheon,

currently stars as Ignacio Suarez, the widowed father of America Ferrera's *Ugly Betty* in the ABC hit series. Plana is the creator of an innovative literacy program called *Beyond Borders: Literacy through Performing Arts*. This unique program is designed to enable students to expand their educational horizons and academic achievements by moving beyond their personal, cultural and vocational borders. He also is the co-founder of the East L.A. Classic Theatre that is dedicated to providing educational outreach programs to minority youth.

Plana is known to a wide audience for his roles in films and television, and also for directing, writing and producing. He has starred in more than 70 feature films including *JFK*, *Nixon* and *An Officer and a Gentleman* and has appeared in popular television shows such as *Hill Street Blues*, *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine*, *Commander in Chief*, *CSI: Crime Scene Investigation*, *Monk*, *The Closer*, *The West Wing* and FOX's *24*. He has received numerous film and television awards. In 2005, he was honored with an Educator of the Year Award by Loyola Marymount University's Department of Education and in 2006 received the Humanitarian of the Year Award from the Millennium Momentum Foundation.

**Join these Luncheon sponsors:**

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Perry Borman, FL Department of Children and Families

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Samantha Vassallo, Junior League of Boca Raton

William Wood, Greater Delray Beach Chamber of Commerce

Florida Literacy Coalition and ProLiteracy member

# Mark Your Calendars

## January 7

### Read Together Palm Beach County

Partners Meeting

*The Palm Beach Post*, West Palm Beach

2 p.m.

## January 7 - February 5

### Read Together Palm Beach County

Voting to choose "the Book"

## January 30

### Tutor Training

Palm Beach Community College, Lake Worth

9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

## February 12

### Adult Essay Contest Deadline

## March 1

### Read Together Press Conference

10 a.m., West Palm Beach Library

## March 26

### Love of Literacy Luncheon

Kravis Center, West Palm Beach

11:30 a.m.

## March 26 - April 30

### Read Together Palm Beach County

Book Discussions

# Glades Families Pay it Forward

August was a sweltering month - especially in Belle Glade which doesn't catch the coastal breezes. But the humid, hot days didn't deter several students enrolled at Glades Family Education from volunteering to assist the program that is making such a difference in their lives.

Student Maricela Martinez and her husband worked in the stifling heat to sand and reseal an old wooden picnic table that had been used outdoors for years in the brutal weather elements of Florida. Students Gustave Mathieu and Joel Alfred gave it a second coat.

With a September record enrollment of 78 adults and 12 children, one picnic table on the porch was not enough to accommodate the students for their lunchtime breaks and academic activities for both children and adults. A second table was ordered and assembled by Gustave Mathieu and Joel Alfred with assistance from their classmates Thericin Charles and Ferdinand Charite. Now, the adult students and children are again enjoying eating outdoors and using the porch and tables for educational activities.



*Fathers and spouses of students volunteered to assemble a new playhouse for the children at Glades Family Education Program.*

Also assisting in various maintenance projects were Hilda Nunez and her son, Jorge Dueanas. They attached a new mail box to the front of the building, put up a new welcome bulletin board in the entry hallway and hung a new outdoor clock on the porch.

Preschool teacher Ana Alvarez encouraged her husband, Nelson, to volunteer his time to put up a holder for the outdoor hose that is used to clean the porch.

Our student pride is showing! The Glades students and their family members are proud of their school and are happy to volunteer their time and talents to make our building a wonderful learning environment.

# Budding Readers Program Expands to Serve Three Hundred Children



Through a U.S. Department of Education grant and the Children's Services Council, the Literacy Coalition's Budding Readers Program expanded in October to serve an additional 100 children at five new partnership sites. Reading Partners now engage 300 three-year-old children with one-to-one weekly sessions featuring interactive literacy activities in 13 child care programs. The sessions are designed to help the children develop their oral language and emergent literacy skills that are needed for future academic success.

The new partnership sites are already observing a change in their children. Ali Eger, director of Opportunity Inc., stated, "Many programs come and go without an impact. The Budding Readers program has already made a lasting impact for our children and their future education."

The Literacy Coalition is grateful for this opportunity to help more children blossom into life-long lovers of books, reading and learning.



## Parent-Child Home Program Increases Literacy Skills



Brando did not utter one word as he and his mother sat on top of flower pots during the intake visit from the Parent-Child Home Program's (PCHP) Site Coordinator. Two-year-old

Brando is the son of migrant farm workers and sibling to his four-year-old brother and newborn sister.

The family, including the newborn baby, was sleeping on a tile floor with no pillows or blankets. With the exception of two broken chairs and an old school desk, they had no furniture. Their home and cupboards were bare and the father was preparing to travel to work on farms in the Carolinas.

The Guatemalan-Maya Center was able to help out with diapers and some food but needed to find outside resources for the family. The PCHP Site Coordinator contacted the National Council of Jewish Women, and within two days the baby had a crib and the children had beds and clothing. Within three weeks, the parents had furniture for all of the rooms and kitchen necessities.

Once basic necessities were secured, the family became actively engaged in the Parent-Child Home Program. During the first few home visits made by PCHP Home Visitor, Juana Paiz, Brando spoke very little. However, as the home visitor shared books and educational toys with the mother and child, Brando began speaking more and more. The mother was shown how to use these books and toys to increase verbal interaction. Now Brando talks during the home visits and he enthusiastically shares what he has learned with his father by telephone, reciting the ABCs, numbers as well as names and sounds of animals. Brando tells his dad that he learns many things during the PCHP visits to his home.

*The Parent Child Home Program is coordinated by the Literacy Coalition in partnership with ASPIRA of FL, NOAH, Inc., Sickie Cell Foundation, Minority Development and Empowerment, Inc., and the Guatemalan-Maya Center. Funding is provided by the Children's Services Council.*





*Palm Beach County Fire Rescue read at child care centers throughout Palm Beach County.*



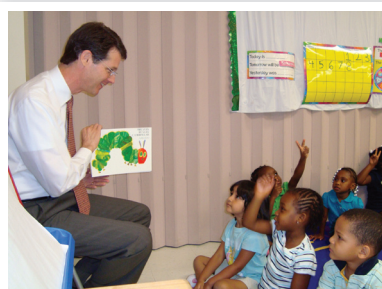
*Palm Beach Gardens staff and city officials read at Riverside Youth Enrichment Center.*



*Jo-Ann Golden, Lake Worth Vice Mayor, read at Lake Worth Head Start.*

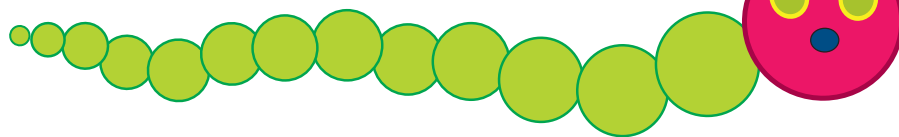


*Mo Thorton, City Manager of the City of Atlantis, read at the JFK Child Development Center.*



*Peter Elwell, president of Palm Beach Flagler Rotary Club and City Manager of Palm Beach, read at Opportunity, Inc. in West Palm Beach.*

# Local Read for the Record Celebration Reaches Thousands of Children

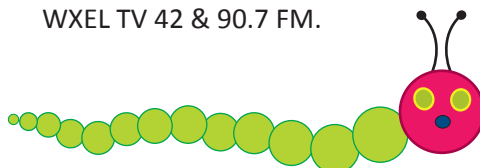


Thousands of parents, caregivers and other adults across the nation joined together for one special day in October to read *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle to children in their care. This was part of a national effort led by Jumpstart's Read for the Record campaign to raise public awareness about significant disparities in early education.

2,019,752 children around the world simultaneously experienced the joy of reading, making history yet again by setting a new world record! In Palm Beach County, 1,900 adults read to 24,500 children!

Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County held a focal event at Mounts Botanical Gardens Great Lawn on October 8. Children and parents gathered to hear *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* and other Eric Carle stories read by Felicia Rodriguez of WPBF News 25, Tania Rogers of WPTV NewsChannel 5 and Leslie Gray Streeter of *The Palm Beach Post*. As a finale, more than 200 butterflies were released into the Great Lawn and the children were given butterfly finger puppets.

The local campaign was coordinated by the Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County in partnership with Children's Services Council, Family Central, *The Palm Beach Post*, and WXEL TV 42 & 90.7 FM.



Adults from the listed businesses and services organizations went into child care centers to read the book:

Area Agency on Aging  
Board of County Commissioners  
District 3  
Boca Raton Fire Rescue Services  
Boynton Beach Fire Rescue  
Boys Town South Florida  
Children's Services Council  
City of Atlantis  
City of Belle Glade  
City of Boynton Beach  
City of Delray Beach  
City of Greenacres  
City of Lake Worth  
City of Pahokee  
City of Palm Beach Gardens  
City of Riviera Beach  
City of South Bay  
City of West Palm Beach  
Delray Beach Fire Rescue  
Early Learning Coalition of Palm Beach County  
Family Central  
Kiwanis Club of Jupiter-Tequesta  
Lake Worth Fire Department  
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Town of Jupiter  
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Town of Lake Park  
Town of Manalapan  
Town of South Palm Beach  
Velocity Community Credit Union



# AmeriCorps Member is Making a National Impact on Adult Literacy

**Megan Conners,** an AmeriCorps member with the Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County, was recently named an “America Learns Network Superstar” for creating an adult literacy teaching strategy that is now being replicated nationwide. Network Superstars are individuals who create and implement innovative, effective strategies that move students forward in a meaningful way. Twenty-three year old Conners is serving as an adult literacy tutor with the Coalition’s Glades Family Education Program in Belle Glade. Conners works with her students to improve their reading, writing and English skills. In October, Conners’ students finished a chapter in their text book that covered the use of superlatives (words like oldest, largest and smallest). “I was having trouble explaining the rules that would tell a learner when to say ‘the most’ and when to put ‘est’ on the end of an adjective,” Conners explains. “Even after working on these things for a full week, I did not feel like the superlatives were sticking in their minds.”

Conners developed an effective, engaging, easy-to-implement strategy that helped her students learn how and when to use

**“This domestic literacy Peace Corps contributes over 42,500 hours per year by tutoring and teaching.”**

superlatives. The strategy, called “Sentence Sequencing Cards,” involves engaging the learners in a series of pre-written question-and-answer based conversations. “Prepare to be amazed as they remember those questions and answers better than anything they saw in the textbook,” Conners said when describing her strategy.

“Other adult literacy instructors whom we serve across the country are already using Megan’s strategy,” said Gary Kosman, America Learns Founder and CEO. “I’m thrilled that we’re able to capture and share Megan’s smarts with the larger national service and adult literacy communities.”

Literacy AmeriCorps Palm Beach County is a service program that recruits nationally recent college graduates to provide literacy services to adults, children and youth. This domestic literacy Peace Corps contributes over 42,500 hours per year in Palm Beach County by tutoring and teaching, participating in community service projects and recruiting community volunteers. In return for their year of national service, participants in this program receive a modest living allowance, an education award and health insurance. Literacy AmeriCorps provides opportunities for leadership development, professional growth and resume building. Learn more at <http://www.literacypbcc.org/programs/literacy-ameri-corps/> or by calling (800) 273-1030.





# 2009 Spelling Bee Winners Celebrate!

**1st Place:** Duffy's Sports Grill fielded by  
The Scripps Research Institute in Jupiter, Florida



**2nd Place:** Florida Power & Light



**3rd Place:** Park Avenue BBQ & Grille



*The Bee was held on Thursday, September 17 at 6 p.m.  
at Harriet Himmel Theater at CityPlace in West Palm Beach.*

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## Which Book Will Be Chosen for the Read Together Palm Beach County 2010 Campaign?

**YOU CAN HELP MAKE THE DECISION!** Voting takes place January 7-February 5 at all public libraries and bookstores, at every Park Avenue BBQ & Grille and at all Starbucks stores as well as online at <http://readtogether.palmbeachpost.com>.

A press conference will be held March 1 at the West Palm Beach City Library to announce the winner. The official campaign kicks off at the Love of Literacy Luncheon on March 26 at the Kravis Center. Plan now to gather your colleagues at your business, chamber of commerce, neighborhood, book club or Starbucks to discuss "the Book" during April. A discussion guide will be available on the campaign web site during April.

Community leaders will summarize the content of the books on the campaign web site. You are invited to blog your own comments on the five books at [www.YourPBC.org](http://www.YourPBC.org) (the digital public square of the Palm Beaches).



## The Literacy Coalition Announces the Adult Literacy Student Essay Contest

Hundreds of adult learners throughout Palm Beach County are invited to submit essays on the topic,

*"If I had one day to change the world, what would I do and why?"*

The contest gives teachers and tutors the opportunity to encourage writing skills with their students. **The deadline for essay submissions is February 12.** For more information, contact Julie Tanner, Coalition Outreach Manager, at (800) 273-1030 or [jtanner@literacypbc.org](mailto:jtanner@literacypbc.org).

## Volunteer to tutor an adult



Upcoming Tutor Training Dates

**January 30, 2010**  
OR  
**March 27, 2010**

To register or for more information, please call:  
**(800) 273-1030**

To register online, please visit our web site:  
**[www.literacypbc.org](http://www.literacypbc.org)**

# Help others today!



Donate now at [www.literacypbc.org](http://www.literacypbc.org)

- ☐ \$250 provides dictionaries for use by 25 adults learning to read.
- ☐ \$100 provides new books for 33 children in poverty.
- ☐ \$70 provides a scholarship to take the GED exam for an adult student.
- ☐ \$50 provides handbooks for 10 adult literacy tutors.
- ☐ Other \$\_\_\_\_\_. Any gift is greatly appreciated.

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# Thank you!



Checks can be made payable to: **Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County**

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