



## Literacy Works, Inc.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

CONTACT: Caryn Sagal at 410-363-9583

### LITERACY WORKS, INC. RECEIVES \$120,000 GRANT FROM THE HARRY & JEANETTE WEINBERG FOUNDATION TO LAUNCH ADULT LITERACY PROGRAMS IN PIMLICO/COLDSRING

**BALTIMORE** (Jan. 3, 2008) – **Literacy Works, Inc.** has received a \$120,000 grant from **The Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Foundation** to provide individualized, computer-assisted instruction and counseling – over the next two years – to undereducated and often unemployed adults residing at Greenspring Overlook Apartments: a 189-unit, Section 8 housing development in Baltimore’s Pimlico/Coldspring community.

Each year, approximately, 50 to 75 students will receive instruction to improve their reading, writing, math and computer skills, as well as to acquire life skills and receive counseling for family and personal issues. They also will have assistance with job readiness and employment opportunities.

Students will be 16 years of age and older and will not have obtained a high school diploma. Most will enter at an eighth grade or below skill level. Their income also will be below poverty level. Program goals are to improve the possibilities that these adults may become independent and self-sufficient by:

1. Improving their academic skills in the hopes of obtaining a GED.
2. Eliminating barriers to attending class and obtaining regular employment.
3. Increasing their opportunities to obtain jobs or advance in employment.
4. No longer needing federal subsidies.
5. Serving as positive role models to their children with the ability to encourage them to succeed in school.

Beginning this month, both ABE (adult basic education) and GED instruction will take place: two-and-a-half hour ABE classes three mornings a week for 36 weeks, two-and-a-half hour GED classes three mornings a week for 36 weeks, and a two-and-a-half-hour ABE/GED combined class three afternoons a week for 36 weeks.

The curriculum includes:

1. Individualized assignments to improve reading, writing and math skills.
2. Use of the computers for reinforcement of skills and for proficiency of its operations and Microsoft Office programs.
3. Group discussions and projects on specific subject areas and life skills (i.e. financial fitness, using the newspaper, emergency preparedness, current events, science, history, social studies, community services and health issues).
4. Preparation for the GED test.

Each week, a counselor/case worker will provide assistance and referral information to help with personal and family issues. S/he also will assist with employment readiness skills (i.e. resume writing, interviews, work ethics) and obtaining employment and/or post-secondary opportunities).

(more)

## Literacy Works, 2

At the end of each academic year, most students will have increased their test scores and retained their jobs. Many will have advanced an entire skill level and will be more equipped to help their children's school work.

"By offering both education and counseling, Literacy Works will provide a holistic approach to helping Greenspring Overlook population to become better educated, employed and more self-sufficient," said Literacy Works Executive Director Helene Waranch.

"We thank The Weinberg Foundation for their continued support of our organization and programs," she added, noting that the foundation previously provided grants for Literacy Works to launch computer-assisted adult literacy classes in two Baltimore County senior centers. The Weinberg Foundation also funded the opening of Literacy Works' Community Technology Center in the Randallstown library.

Founded in 1990, Literacy Works, Inc. serves to improve adult and family literacy. With a philosophy of, "Teach the parent, reach the child," the organization serves approximately 400 students and trains more than 125 volunteers in conjunction with The Community College of Baltimore County (CCBC). It operates seven adult learning centers in Baltimore City and County. For more information, contact 410-887-2001 or [www.literacyworksinc.org](http://www.literacyworksinc.org).

# # #

MEDIA: TO ATTEND A LITERACY WORKS CLASS AT GREENSPRING OVERLOOK,  
CONTACT CARYN SAGAL AT 410-363-9583.