



Literacy Works, Inc.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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LITERACY WORKS, INC. RECEIVES \$50,000 GRANT FROM BARBARA BUSH FOUNDATION FOR FAMILY LITERACY

*Non-profit to use the money for family literacy programs
at its Lansdowne Community Technology Center*

BALTIMORE (June 26, 2007) –The Maryland Initiative of the **Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy** has given **Literacy Works, Inc.** a \$50,000 grant. Literacy Works will use the funding to strengthen family literacy programs and services offered at its Lansdowne Community Center (2934 Lakebrook Circle, Apt T-4).

The Need

Literacy Works' Lansdowne Community Center is located within Circle Terrace Apartments, a 300-unit Section 8 housing facility. Only 130 households at Circle Terrace Apartments have someone employed. Furthermore, there are 127 children age three or younger. Statistics show that children of parents participating in literacy programs are more likely to improve their academic skills.

For that past eight years, Literacy Works and its partners, the **Community College of Baltimore County** (CCBC) and **Housing Opportunities Unlimited** (HOU), have operated an adult education program at Circle Terrace Apartments. The program includes ABE and GED preparation, pre- and post-testing to track academic progress, case management, and financial literacy classes.

While the center has seen high enrollment rates since its inception, many participants have had difficulty attending classes because they have no safe place for their pre-school children. This ultimately limits their ability to improve their lives and obtain jobs.

The Program

The Barbara Bush Foundation grant enables Literacy Works and its partners to add a parent education program with employment preparation and placement services. It also will offer a child development program for pre-school children run by **EvenStart**. Additionally, the program will include planned family activities such as parents and children reading together.

"We are excited to receive this grant from The Barbara Bush Foundation and look forward to expanding our services to families who really need the assistance," said Literacy Works Executive Director Helene Waranch.

Beginning in September, Literacy Works will operate "Teach the Family" for approximately 30 to 50 Circle Terrace families. Each week, the adult literacy classes will occur Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. EvenStart will provide a comprehensive child development program four mornings a week for 40 weeks from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. to children 18-36 months of age of parents attending the adult program.

EvenStart also will provide Monday morning parenting classes, addressing such topics as: parent effectiveness, family relationships, problem solving, and family activities including field trips and "Family Finances."

(More)

Parents must spend at least five hours per week reading with their children, and reporting on the time spent and material read. To encourage families to build better relationships and address any barriers to successful participation in the program, EvenStart will conduct home visits.

Overall, Literacy Works expects the program to accomplish the following:

- At least 50 percent of adult learners will enroll their children aged 18-36 months in the EvenStart program.
- Adults and their children will attend an average of 75 percent of the time.
- Parents and children will demonstrate improved learning skills.
- At least five hours of weekly family reading activities will occur.
- Parents and children will have more regular interaction.

Based on comparisons of pre and post-test scores and teacher observations at Literacy Works classes, the following academic results are expected to occur:

- 88 percent will obtain at least one new competency,
- 83 percent of the students will increase computer skills, and
- 79 percent of those who take the post-test will increase scores.

Additionally, based on Maryland State Department of Education outcomes, 80 percent of preschool children will increase test scores from the pre-test to post-test.

The Organization

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 200 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.

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