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http://familieslearning.org/health

From the National Center for Families Learning, this site provides resources on family-oriented health activities such as healthy eating/ menus, healthful daily routines, healthy activities for the whole family, and community organizations that promote and ensure healthy lifestyles.

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**ON THE HORIZON**

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Garfield East, a 10-year-old boy, is a volunteer tutor at the Northside Regional Library. Garfield is a rising fourth-grader and an incredibly talented and confident young man. He tutors a third-grader named Dublin. Dublin is a 9-year-old second-grader who has been tutored by Garfield since November 2016. Garfield and Dublin collaborate to prepare a presentation on the history of African American literature. They research their topic, practice their presentation, and share their knowledge with Garfield’s colleagues and the wider literacy community.

Susanna Foster – Richland Community College's Project READ, (Cont. from pg. 3)

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2017 Spotlight on Achievement and Spotlight on Service awards

In May, Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White hon-ored adult learners and volunteer tutors with the Spotlight on Achievement and Spotlight on Service awards ceremony at the Illinois State Library in Springfield. The Spotlight on Achievement Awards are presented to adult learners who have demonstrated extraordinary accomplishments as they work toward improving their reading, writing, and math skills or learning the English language. These awards are also presented to adult literacy volunteer tutors who display outstanding dedication in assisting adult learners as they achieve their educational goals.

“I am honored to congratulate these outstanding students for their hard work and determination to attain lifelong reading and learning skills,” said White. “Many have had to overcome great difficulties and personal obstacles to reach this level of achievement. I am also proud to recognize our outstanding volunteer tutors for their gen-erous effort and encouragement in helping literacy students achieve their utmost potential.

At the ceremony, Illinois State Library Deputy Director Greg McCormick presented winners with a $500 check for their liter-acy program, a commemorative plaque and a personalized “Illinois Blue Book.” The following are highlights of the winners’ stories, which are available online at www.cyberdriveillinois.com.

Adult learner winner highlights:

Jose Acebedo – PODER Learning Center, Chicago. In 2014, Jose and his family first arrived in Chicago from Honduras as a result of a medical emergency involving his youngest son. He always had a desire to learn English, but with his son’s condition, it became essential for him to be able to communicate directly with the doctors. In 2015, Jose found PODER Learning Center’s program online and enrolled immediately. Despite the few opportunities Jose seemed to have to advance his life in the United States, he flourished and became an inspiration to fellow students and his family. Jose was determined to succeed regardless of the adversity he faced and desired to give back to the community that helped him when he most needed it. He is dedicated to assisting other stu-dents who are struggling with English and hopes to make a positive impact on their lives.

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Rose Hotchkins – YWCA, Peoria. For Rose, getting her GED was something she wanted to accomplish her whole life. She lacked a high school education which proved to be a significant barrier to establishing a career. She wanted the GED certificate for her own self-improvement and due to her desire to begin a career in early childhood education. With her tutor, she began by improving her basic computation skills with whole numbers, fractions and deci-mals. Next she went on to master geometry and slowly built an understanding of algebra. By the time she attempted the GED math test, she demonstrated the ability to solve two-step equations. Although Rose often desparked over it she would relearn alge-bra, she kept working hard. When the time came to take the GED Ready test, she failed not once, but three times, yet she kept work-ing hard and refused to stop working toward her goal. She finally passed the test with a score of 145 and continues her ambitious journey of furthering her career.

Shawn Wheeler – Richland Community College’s Project READ, Decatur. Shawn has endured adversity her entire life. She was a high school dropout and a single mother of three. When her mother died suddenly, Shawn’s world collapsed. Laping into a deep depression, Shawn found herself barely able to function. Ten years later she was working as a janitor and needed education and credentials to keep her job, but had low skills and very little self-esteem. She then encountered Project READ and together with tutors they began to build Shawn’s foundational knowledge, which allowed her to experience success on a daily basis. As her academ-ic skills improved, her growing confidence overcame her feelings of futility. Now the student, she finds joy and purpose from mistakes and cel-ebrates her progress. She recruits prospective students for Project READ and speaks with prospective tutors. Her goal is to obtain her GED and then go on to give back to the community in her message that reading and Project READ have changed her life for the better.

George Wright – Literacy Chicago. George has faced many challenges in his life: growing up without a father, a head injury as a youth, the lack of a high school diploma, incarceration for four years and the death of his wife. While incarcerated, George resolved to never return to change his life when he was released. One day in a Family Dollar store, he saw a sign advertis-ing an program at Literacy Chicago. He called, and even thought he was embarrassed to admit his inability to read, he was welcomed by people who understood and respected him. At the outset his skills were at an elementary level, but, slowly with the help of his tutors, he increased his reading, writing and comprehension abili-ties. At the same time, his confidence increased to the point that he became a leader amongst his fellow students. He is now a men-ter to other students for Literacy Chicago, teaching the importance of basic literacy and adult educa-tion. A leader in the classroom and adult education advocate, George has totally transformed his life.

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**Family Reading Night 2017**

“Family Reading Night” (FRN) is sponsored by the Illinois Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White and the Illinois Center for the Book in cooperation with iREAD and Illinois Reads, a proj-ect of the Illinois Reading Council. This year the Secretary of State continues the partnership with iREAD, a program of the Illinois Library Association, to continue the “Reading by Design” summer reading theme through FRN. This annual celebration of families reading together is held on the third Thursday of November. Schools, libraries, youth and literacy organizations throughout the state will host a variety of FRN programs on Thursday, Nov. 16, which highlight the “Reading by Design” premise.

"As always, I encourage libraries, literacy programs and fami-lies to participate in this annual event," explained Secretary White. "The importance of not only reading but reading together as a family is immeasurable. You will be creating positive memories that will last forever and hopefully continue on through future family generations."

In June, librarians and friends joined the Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White in welcoming author Leslie Parry as guest speaker for the Illinois Library Foundation luncheon. As attendees enjoyed a meal at Maggiano's, Parry read an excerpt from her work, “The Hidden Children” about the children’s novel, a suspenseful tale set in New York in the 1980s, inter-twines two stories involving a missing woman, a circus fire, a founding and a corrupt asylum. Parry generously donated her time for the event in order to help raise awareness for the Illinois Library Foundation and its mission. She graciously signed copies of her book for the attendees. Please visit www.theilslibraryfoundation.org to view the full account of this session from the luncheon and learn additional informa-tion about promoting and supporting literacy among Illinois residents.
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More literacy event information is available at www.pbedev.com/illinois-literacy/calendar (Click Calendar of Literacy Events).

Celebrating the achievements of adult learners remains one of the greatest joys I experience as Secretary of State and State Librarian. I had the pleasure of attending the Night of 1000 Stars event in Chicago on its 20th anniversary. Learners shared original poems that illustrated the remarkable strides they have achieved in their educational journey. As a former educator, I know the importance that recognition provides in building confidence and self-esteem in learners. In this edition, I am honored to congratulate the Spotlight on Achievement and Spotlight on Service award winners. Featured are the inspirational stories of these adults and the citizens who volunteer their time to help adult learners succeed.

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The night’s performances included original poems in both English and Spanish written by the learners. Mina Parmar, a student from the Indo-American Center in Chicago’s West Side, performed a song in Hindi and translated into English.

The event was hosted by the North Side, South Side and West Side literacy coalitions. It marked the first time that these three advocacy groups joined together as hosts of the Night of 1000 Stars. The Chicago Citywide Literacy Coalition, Chicago Public Library and Dollar General Literacy Foundation sponsored the event.

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Illinois Literacy is a publication of the Secretary of State, Illinois State Library Literacy Office. Jesse White, Secretary of State and State Librarian. To subscribe to Illinois Literacy, call 217-785-6921 or 800-665-5576 (Illinois only), #3.

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[Image 542x341 to 568x461]
[Image 705x58 to 810x131]