

GOVERNOR BUSH ANNOUNCES FAMILY LITERACY GRANT RECIPIENTS

~~Celebration at Governor's Mansion Focuses on Family Literacy~~

TALLAHASSEE - Governor Jeb Bush announced this year's Governor's Family Literacy Initiative (GFLI) grant recipients at the Governor's Mansion. In its fifth year of making grants to community literacy programs across the state, this year GFLI is giving \$555,000 to 21 organizations to build or expand their family literacy programs.

"I applaud the dedicated work of our family literacy providers. Together we are helping ensure children start school ready to learn and parents are better equipped to work with their student's teachers," said Governor Bush. "All programs include the important component of Parent And Child Together reading time, helping to nurture the love of reading together at home and reinforcing the important role education plays in improving lives."

Community providers compete annually for grants through an application process that is reviewed and scored upon by a panel of educators and business leaders. Applicants may apply for one-time mini-grants of \$5,000 to aid in startup of new programs, full grants of up to \$50,000 for program providers who have successfully established an operations base, and sustain ability grants of up to \$37,500 to help providers further develop their programs and broaden their funding base. The complete funding cycle to a provider through GFLI can span as long as three years. A list of the 2004-05 grant recipients is attached.

Additionally, First Lady Columba Bush today announced the donation of 15,000 sets of the best-selling and educational Baby Einstein videos for Florida families. The gift was made through the partnership of Walt Disney's Baby Einstein Company and First Artists, a non-profit organization that inspires creative expression by providing art supplies to children from low-income families.

"The gift of thousands of Baby Einstein videos to Florida's families is tremendously appreciated," said Mrs. Bush. "I am a firm advocate of arts in education, and it warms my heart to see the highly creative use of the arts in these videos, enhancing parents' efforts to be their child's first and very best teacher."

GFLI is funded through the generous support of corporations, individuals, and foundations, including the Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy and is managed by the nonprofit Volunteer Florida Foundation. Also, IKON Office Solutions has agreed to donate document processing services to GFLI.

The goals of GFLI are to establish literacy as a value for every family and reinforce the belief that home is a child's first school, parents are a child's first teachers and reading is a child's first subject. The Governor and Mrs. Bush were joined by Maureen Cestari, Comcast Cable; Jackie

Braswell, Florida Lottery; Lynda Keever, Florida Trend; Charles Bethel, IKON Office Solutions; Diane Busche, Scholastic; Dr. Jo Hewell and Buddy Hewell, ATAP Companies; Gwynn Virostek, Washington Mutual Bank; and Dr. Bonnie Marmor, Florida Department of Education, Division of Community Colleges and Workforce Education.

For more information on GFLI and other family initiatives, visit the Volunteer Florida Foundation website at www.VolunteerFloridaFoundation.org <<http://www.VolunteerFloridaFoundation.org>>.

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Governor's Family Literacy Initiative
2004-2005 Grant Funded Programs

Alliance for Families with Deaf Children
Plantation
Amount Funded: \$50,000

Daytona Beach Community College
Daytona Beach
Amount Funded: \$50,000

Hispanic Unity of Florida, Inc.
Hollywood
Amount Funded: \$50,000

Learn to Read St. Lucie County, Inc.
Fort Pierce
Amount Funded: \$50,000

Manatee Technical Institute
Manatee County Schools Foundation
Bradenton
Amount Funded: \$44,517

Children's Home Society of Florida
Marion County School Readiness Coalition, Inc.
Tavares
Amount Funded: \$45,037

Panhandle Area Educational Consortium, (PAEC)
Quincy
Amount Funded: \$50,000

Polk County Schools
Polk Education Foundation
Bartow
Amount Funded: \$50,000

Redlands Christian Migrant Association, Inc. (RCMA)
Immokalee
Amount Funded: \$50,000

University of Miami
Coral Gables, Florida
Amount Funded: \$50,000
2004-2005 Mini-Grant Funded Programs

Columbian American Service Association, (CASA) (P)
Miami
Amount Funded: \$5,000

DELTA Education & Life Training Alliance of Orlando (A)
Oviedo
Amount Funded: \$5,000

East Gainesville Development Corporation (A)
Gainesville
Amount Funded: \$5,000

ESTEEM for Florida Youth, Inc. (A)
Winter Park
Amount Funded: \$5,000

First Coast Family & Housing Foundation DBA FAMILIES FIRST (P)
Jacksonville
Amount Funded: \$5,000

Fun Time Child Development Center (A)
Naples
Amount Funded: \$4,702

Hippodrome State Theatre, Inc. (A)
Gainesville
Amount Funded: \$5,000

New Life Pentecostal Church of God of Tampa, Inc. (P)
Tampa
Amount Funded: \$4,950

Project Focus (A)
Tampa
Amount Funded: \$5,000

Miami Springs Middle School (P)
The Education Fund
Miami Springs
Amount Funded: \$4,952

The Community Learning Center of Pinellas County, Inc. (P)
Clearwater
Amount Funded: \$5,000