

## FLORIDA LITERACY COALITION PRESS RELEASE

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### FLORIDA LITERACY COALITION RECOGNIZES CITRUS COUNTY RESIDENT AS OUTSTANDING LITERACY VOLUNTEER

ORLANDO, Florida (May 21, 2010) – The [Florida Literacy Coalition](#) recently recognized Cherie Byrnes with an Outstanding Literacy Volunteer Award for her extraordinary efforts and commitment to adult and family literacy. The award was presented at a special banquet held during the annual [Florida Literacy Conference](#) in Captiva, Fla.

In all, six awards were presented during the State Literacy Awards banquet. Nominated by the Citrus County Library System, Byrnes was recognized for her overall support and involvement with the library's literacy program.

Wearing many hats – volunteer tutor, tutor trainer, public speaker and advocate – Byrnes is an invaluable asset to the library's Adult Literacy Education Program. Her involvement in literacy began many years ago in New York and when she learned of the program in Citrus County she jumped at the chance to participate in a tutor training. She was then matched with a learner she was uniquely qualified to help; the learner was deaf and Byrnes communicated using various methods including American Sign Language. Since then, Byrnes has furthered her tutor training and is now a ProLiteracy nationally certified tutor trainer.

Her efforts don't stop with tutoring. Byrnes is sited as being instrumental in launching the library's first English language classes and has assisted in developing

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literacy curriculums. She also holds leadership roles as the president of the Friends of the Homosassa Public Library and publicly speaks to groups about literacy including the local board of commissioners.

“We are pleased to recognize Cherie for her outstanding work as a literacy volunteer,” said Greg Smith, executive director of the Florida Literacy Coalition. “She has clearly made a tremendous difference to literacy efforts in Citrus County.”

Smith and Zelda Rogers, Senior Program Director for Adult Education with the Florida Department of Education, presented the award to Byrnes.

### **About the Florida Literacy Conference**

The 26<sup>th</sup> annual [Florida Literacy Conference](#), “Open Books Open Minds,” took place May 5-7, at the South Seas Island Resort in Captiva, Fla. The conference offered a diverse selection of interactive workshops led by literacy experts on a variety of topics including adult basic education, literacy, English for speakers of other languages and family literacy. Sponsors of the 2010 Florida Literacy Conference included the Florida Department of Education, Dollar General Literacy Foundation, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida, Publix Super Markets Charities, Florida TechNet and Walmart.

### **About the Florida Literacy Coalition**

Established in 1985, The [Florida Literacy Coalition](#) (FLC) promotes, supports and advocates the effective delivery of quality adult and family literacy services in the state of Florida. As a statewide umbrella literacy organization and the host of Florida’s State Adult and Family Literacy Resource Center, FLC provides a range of services to support more than 300 adult education, literacy and family literacy providers throughout Florida. Special emphasis is placed on assisting community-based literacy

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organizations with training and program development needs. For more information about the FLC call (407) 246-7110 or visit [www.floridaliteracy.org](http://www.floridaliteracy.org).

**Photography**  
Cherie Byrnes

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