



FLORIDA LITERACY COALITION, INC.

The Literacy News

Florida's Newsletter for Literacy Tutors, Teachers, Learners, and Supporters

Number 98

March-April 2002

Free Fundraising Institute May 16-17, 2002

See page 7 for details

Travel scholarships are currently available for all Coalition workshops. If your organization needs training, contact Leah Takacs at (800) 237-5113 or email to ta-kacsl@floridaliteracy.org

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2002 Florida Literacy Awards

Each year the Florida Literacy Coalition recognizes award recipients across the state for making a significant commitment to addressing literacy issues. The Florida Literacy Awards are a great opportunity for members to nominate those they feel have made a commitment to literacy. It's also a way to say thank you to someone you admire for their dedication to helping others. We would like to thank this year's Awards Dinner sponsor, Verizon Communications, for its generous support.

The Mary J. Brogan Leadership Award recognizes a Floridian whose support of literacy exhibits the highest standards of excellence, dedication, leadership, creativity, and accomplish-

ment. There is no other way to explain the achievements of this year's recipient, **Sister Teresa McElwee**.

Sr. Teresa has made a lifetime commitment of addressing the education issues of her community. During her journey she has created LIFE (Learning Is For Everyone), to teach basic reading and writing skills; initiated two women's groups including SMILE (Single Mothers In a Learning Environment), to address the struggles of women in poverty. She is also the founder of a non-profit, self-help center in the rural/urban areas of Central Florida, and has served as an instrumental board member of the Florida Literacy Coalition.

From serving literacy, to involvement in community service, every waking moment of Sr. Teresa's day is spent sharing and teaching others. Her leadership, motivation, and commitment have earned the respect and admiration of those around her. Congratulations Sr. Teresa, you work behind the scenes and we want to shout it out—you have made a positive difference in so many lives.

The Outstanding Business Partner Award honors a company or business partner for leadership and/or significant contributions in



Sister Teresa McElwee, winner of The Mary J. Brogan Leadership Award, with Renee Hotes (Florida Literacy Coalition Immediate Past President).

2002 Florida Literacy Awards

(Continued from page 1)

support of literacy. As a business leader, **Verizon Communications** recognizes literacy as a fundamental building block of communication. That is why it has embraced the effort to promote a more literate Florida. Through partnerships with local and national organizations, promotional activities, and fundraising, **Verizon Communications** encourages the support of literacy efforts.

In an effort to partner with their customers, **Verizon** launched the 411 Literacy Connection in Florida in Spring 2001. They have also created numerous other literacy efforts. In all, **Verizon** and the Verizon Foundation invested more than \$2 million to support literacy programs in Florida. Verizon is working toward a future when all people can enjoy the gift of literacy.



Marion County Literacy Council accepts their Excellence in Education Award. From left to right: George Glenn, Charlotte Hearn, Ora Lee Braawn, and Barbara Woodson.

The **Excellence in Education Award**, given this year to the **Marion Literacy Council**, honors an organization demonstrating achievement, innovation, leadership and/or organizational excellence in support of literacy education in Florida. What started in a home den in 1999 has grown in to a true example of achievement.

Noticing a lack of adult literacy services in their area, this group has accomplished great

things in the time they have been together. With a "never give up" approach and a "don't take no for an answer" stance, the Council has addressed a broad range of literacy issues; including one-to-one tutoring, workplace literacy, English literacy, and GED preparation—just to name a few. Among the difficulties and challenges they encounter, the **Marion County Literacy Council** has been the main source of adult literacy services in their area.

The **Outstanding Literacy Volunteer of the Year Award** honors a literacy volunteer who has demonstrated exceptional service and commitment in either tutoring or program operations. **Betty Hastens** is a volunteer tutor with the Literacy Volunteers of Washington County. Betty was certified as a Laubach Tutor in March of 2001 and is more than just a dedicated volunteer, she is a model and a leader to the adults she works with.

In September of 1999 Betty enrolled in a GED program, and in 2000, became our State's oldest GED graduate. Volunteering twenty-four hours a week at the Washington-

Holmes Technical Center; Betty has embraced the concept of lifelong learning, and often steps beyond the role of literacy tutor to that of a mentor, providing guidance and support. Says **Betty Hastens**, "They lack the learning to learn, and I can help. I wish to give these people the gift that has been given to me."



Betty Hastens accepts the Volunteer of the Year Award at the annual Florida Literacy Awards

2002 Florida Literacy Awards

The Flight for Freedom Award honors an adult student who has demonstrated exceptional performance and accomplishment in attainment and/or improvement of his/her literacy skills.

This year's award recipient, **Tony Nichols**, an adult learner at the Jacksonville Public Library's Center for Adult Learning since 1997, has been an outstanding student as well as an exceptional peer leader to his fellow students. The confidence and support that Tony shares with his classmates has spread throughout the program, inspiring students with his enthusiasm.

Many of Tony's classmates attended to see him accept his award and show their support for his accomplishments. Also in attendance to help Tony accept his award were Tony's wife; Pastor; and Anthony Shack, Tony's best friend and partner-learner leader.

Tony still attends class twice a week, and before each class meeting, he will greet his fellow students and tell them he is glad they came. Tony's personal progress is also exemplarily. He obtained his driver's license, reads work orders with greater ease, and reads to both his grandson and new baby daughter.

Since beginning his learning odyssey, **Tony Nichols** has become a spokesman for adult learning.



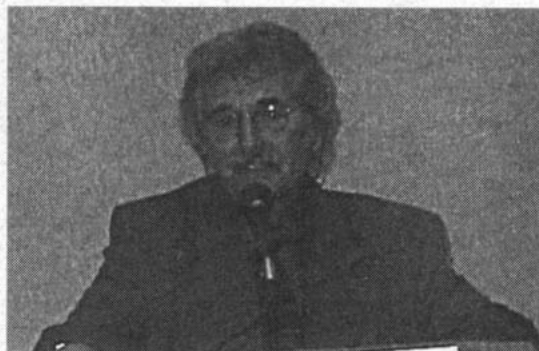
Tony Nichols, Flight for Freedom Award Winner, during his moving acceptance speech.



Guest Speaker, Deborah Gianoulis, WJXT's Channel 4 Anchor and Reporter.

Tony was also featured in a documentary entitled, "When Mommy Can't Read." As a supervisor at his job, he was infinitively concerned about losing the respect of his employees. However, Tony felt so strongly about reaching out to thousands of adults in need of assistance that he and his children appeared in the documentary.

Tony felt that having the opportunity to express his joy at now being able to read would stress to others the importance of doing the same.



Florida Literacy Awards Master of Ceremonies, Joe A. Perez



Florida Literacy Coalition Program News

The Governor's Family Literacy Initiative

Governor Hosted Second Annual "Celebration of Reading" Event to Support Statewide Family Literacy Initiative

The second annual "Celebration of Reading" event was held March 15, 2002 at the Registry Resort in Naples. Florida Governor Jeb Bush, along with his parents, former President Bush and Mrs. Bush and several distinguished authors gave their time to help raise funds for the *Governor's Family Literacy Initiative*.

Created in 1999 with support from the Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy, the Florida Initiative supports both existing and new family literacy programs. The initiative expanded statewide last year, thanks to proceeds from the first *Celebration of Reading* event. Since its inception two years ago, \$2.25 million dollars has been raised and 45 programs funded. This year, over \$1 million dollars was raised to continue this innovative program.

"*Celebration of Reading*" drew over 1,000 people by having notable authors read and discuss their selected works. This year's guest authors were best-selling mystery writers **Mary Higgins Clark** and **Carol Higgins Clark**, Presidential historian **Michael Beschloss** and **Art Smith**, personal chef to Oprah Winfrey. Attendees heard from the authors as well as from the Bush family. The Governor and former President both read from their personal letters and e-mails, while Mrs. Bush talked about her family and her dedication to literacy. The mother-daughter Clark team epitomized family literacy as they shared stories of their collaborative writing process and read passages from their recent work. Michael Beschloss treated the audience to archival audiotapes of Presidents Truman and Johnson and First Lady Ladybird Johnson. Art Smith discussed how family traditions and food are so intertwined.

A special moment in the program came when **Marie Nadine Mathurin**, a recent immigrant from Haiti, spoke to the audience about how she learned to read with the help

of the Initiative. She received a standing ovation for her moving testimonial.

"Family literacy incorporates the reading mothers and fathers must do with their children, and the learning children must do to succeed," said Governor Jeb Bush, "By improving literacy, we help the individual, the family and ultimately, society as a whole."

Organizations are chosen annually by the Initiative to receive up to \$50,000 each in grants for family literacy programs in counties across Florida. Grant recipients are a diverse blend of community and school-based organizations -- including charter schools, libraries, housing authorities, local education foundations and faith-based institutions.

Private businesses and individual donors support the Initiative, including: Verizon Communications, Washington Mutual, Cooper HMS, Publix Super Market Charities, Comcast, Carnival Cruise Line and Walt Disney World. The **Florida Literacy Coalition** serves as the fiscal administrator and provides technical assistance to funded organizations. For more information please call (800) 237-5113 or email Lesa Kramer at kramerl@floridaliteracy.org.



The Bush family reads together at the Celebration of Reading.

Literacy in Florida

MARCH-APRIL 2002

Florida Literacy Conference 2002

The Florida Literacy Coalition would like to thank the following sponsors for their generous support of the 2002 Florida Literacy Conference in Jacksonville, FL:

Anheuser Busch Companies

Steck-Vaughn

Verizon Communications

Please support these businesses who support literacy and the Florida Literacy Conference!

Tutor Tip!

Rubber Bands and Vowels

It is often difficult to teach ESL students how to lengthen vowels on the stressed syllable. Use a rubber band, and have the student stretch it as he speaks. The student can feel it stretching before he goes on to the next syllable.

Example: "I always go to the sore in the morning"

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Family Literacy Success Story

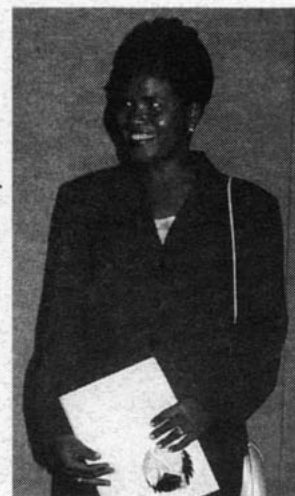
With the behind the scenes help of Dee Siemianowski and Anicca Pierre Fils of the Collier County Housing Authority, Marie Nadine Mathurin bravely climbed the podium at Celebration of Reading. Before an audience of 1,000 she shared her personal story of joy as both an adult learner and a teacher to her children.

"Before enrolling in this program, I had never read a book to my children, but now I have to read to them every day because my daughters will not let me get away with[out] that. Because of this program, I am learning every day how, as a parent, I am important in my children's education. The program helps me with my English. As a parent, I now know that I am my children's first and most influential teacher. Reading to my children while they are little will help them succeed in school." ---Marie Nadine Mathurin

Marie's Story:

Marie Nadine Mathurin has only been in the United States for seven months. She entered the **Collier County Housing Authority Family Literacy Program** within days of arriving in Immokalee, FL. She progressed quickly through their English for Speakers of Other Languages classes and applied to become a VISTA worker with the local Even Start Program. Marie Nadine has completed her National VISTA training and now works with other Haitian families in need of Family Literacy services. The Farmworkers Village Family Literacy Program includes English and Basic Skills classes for adults, children's literature and activities for families, after school Satellite Library homework assistance and literature activities, home visitation, and family counseling. Marie Nadine has worked with a number of English instructors, but her Home Visitor, **Anicca Pierre Fils**, has been her constant mentor and supporter. Anicca attended **Celebration of Reading** with Marie Nadine. Together, they proudly presented how Family Literacy programs are changing lives.

Marie Nadine Mathurin at the
Celebration of Reading.





How to Get Your Materials on LINCS

The Florida Literacy Coalition is proud to be the Florida representative for the Literacy Information and Communication System (LINCS). LINCS is a one-stop gateway to information and resources for literacy practitioners, researchers, policy makers, and adult learners.

Materials to be considered for LINCS must be original material and can be submitted electronically to sparkss@floridaliteracy.org. Samples of printed/audio-visual material may be mailed to: Florida Literacy Coalition, Inc. 934 North Magnolia Ave., Suite 104 Orlando, FL 32803 Attn: LINCS.

To access LINCS, visit www.floridaliteracy.org and click on the LINCS Search.

We hope through this collaborative effort, we can reach out to every tutor, educator, and student with the materials they need to meet Florida's literacy goals.

If you have any questions about getting your materials on LINCS, contact Samantha Sparks, Literacy Resource Specialist, at sparkss@floridaliteracy.org or (800) 237-5113.

What is a Discussion List?

Like all successful Internet services, mailing lists are based on a simple idea. When you mail a message to someone, you specify an address. If you want to mail a message to more than one person, you can set up a special group name that represents a list of email addresses.

Any message sent to the group name will be automatically sent to everyone in the group. People can talk, help one another, discuss problems, share information, and so on.

So far, as the State Literacy Center, the Florida Literacy Coalition has set up two public discussion lists:

Florida Discussion Groups

famlit-fl@cls.coe.utk.edu

For discussion of family literacy issues, new resources, grant opportunities and news in Florida.

literacy-fl@cls.coe.utk.edu

For discussion of issues, news, grant opportunities, and new resources for all of Florida's literacy providers and stakeholders.

Join the Coalition and Make a Difference for Literacy in Florida!

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Annual Membership \$20 | <input type="checkbox"/> I want to increase my impact of membership: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Organizational Annual Membership \$40
(please indicate primary contact person) | <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting Donation: \$5—\$99 |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining Donation: \$100—\$499 |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Patron Donation: \$500—\$999 |

Name _____ Title _____ Email _____

Company/Organization _____

Address _____ ☐ Home ☐ Business

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone (____) _____ Fax (____) _____

Please make your tax-deductible check payable to the Florida Literacy Coalition.

A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the division of consumer services by calling toll-free within the state, 1 (800) 435-7352. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval, or recommendation by the state.

Free Upcoming Workshop From Florida's Literacy Resource Center

Fundraising Institute

May 16-17, 2002

Sheraton World Resort, Orlando



**FLORIDA'S
LITERACY
RESOURCE
CENTER**

A Program of the
FLORIDA LITERACY
COALITION

Learn to place your efforts where the dollars are!
During this 2 day event you will learn valuable information,
including:

- Locating and negotiating with your prospective funders.
- How to ask for anything!
- How to write proposals.
- Identifying and recruiting board members.
- How to think like a funder.
- Plus much more!

For a registration form, go to www.floridaliteracy.org
or call (800) 237-5113.

A limited number of travel scholarships are available,
call Leah at (800) 237-5113 for more information.

Save
the
Date!

SYMPOSIUM: LINKING LITERACY AND FAITH-BASED COMMUNITIES

MAY 15, 2002 10 A.M.-4 P.M.
Sheraton World Resort, Orlando, FL

PURPOSE: To provide a forum where literacy organizations/advocates can dialogue with state and national leaders of faith-based organizations to discuss ways that further partnerships can be forged.

Keynote Speaker: Rev. Skip Long, Executive Director, National Jobs Partnership

Participants will:

- Discuss ways to recruit volunteer tutors
- Formulate ways to reach adults in need of literacy assistance
- Have an increased awareness of literacy needs and programs
- Seek solutions to addressing the basic needs of those hardest to serve
- Identify assets faith communities bring to literacy needs
- Explore ways to share resources such as space, materials, talent and funds

For more information,
e-mail: dskostrub@aol.com
or call Darlene Kostrub,
at the Palm Beach County
Literacy Coalition, at
561-273-9103.



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Executive Director	TBA
<u>Literacy News</u> Editor	Leah M Takacs

Looking for Good Books for Adult Learners?

WEB RESOURCES:

The Public Library Association
keeps a list:

[http://www.pla.org/
newread.html](http://www.pla.org/newread.html).

Also, the OLRC maintains a da-
tabase of tradebooks:

[http://literacy.kent.edu/
Oasis/Resc/Trade/](http://literacy.kent.edu/Oasis/Resc/Trade/)