

The Centre for Family Literacy is dedicated to helping families grow and prosper.



The Centre for Family Literacy Centre Page

March 2008

Help Your Child to Read and Write

Rebecca was eight years old and in Grade 3, and her spelling and reading skills were falling behind the rest of her class. She was becoming frustrated and acting out in class and at home.

That is no longer the case thanks to the Centre's program, Help Your Child to Read and Write. Rebecca's mother says there has been a big improvement not only in her daughter's reading level but also in her self-confidence. No more tantrums and no more tears, Rebecca happily packs her knapsack and heads off to school.

According to her teacher, Rebecca is putting up her hand to answer questions, something she never did before. The school librarian says Rebecca is borrowing books and is eager to talk about the story she has just read.

Continued on next page



FACT

The 2006 Survey of Canadian Attitudes toward Learning revealed that 64% of Canadian parents feel they do not have enough knowledge to help with their children's homework.

2008 Lois Hole Memorial Literacy Award Winners Recognized



Dave Chorney reads to daughters Rebecca, 6, and Alyssa, 2.

Dr. Ruth Hayden, the 2007 recipient of the Lois Hole Leadership Award, gave the keynote address at the Centre's annual Leading with Literacy Breakfast. Over 200 people attended the breakfast where the Lois Hole Memorial Literacy Awards winners were announced.

Dave Chorney won the Lois Hole Adult Learner Award for his determined effort to improve his reading skills. Dave came to the Centre because his wife thought it was time for him to learn to read. At 32 years of age with a full time job and a young family, Dave struggled with words like "mother" and

Continued on next page

Contact us

201 11456 Jasper Ave.
Edmonton, AB Canada
T5K 0M1

T 780.421.READ (7323)
Toll free 1.866.421.7323

F 780.421.7324

E info@famlit.ca

W famlit.ca

Help Your Child *Continued from page 1*

Help Your Child to Read and Write works with students like Rebecca and their parents in a 6-week program. Together they learn new strategies, practice them and then use them at home to lessen stress and improve school success. “The program helped both of us—made it more fun”, commented one parent.

The program is currently offered in partnership with Edmonton Public and Catholic Schools, and is delivered in inner city or high-needs elementary schools at no cost to the families. The program is aimed at parents and their children in grades 1–6. Some parents attend with more than one of their children.

We are piloting a Saturday session of the program at the Centre to try and accommodate more parents. The session began on February 23 and will run until March 29. If the pilot proves a success, we will try to offer the Saturday program on a quarterly basis.



Lois Hole Award Winners *Continued from page 1*



Jim Hole presents the Lois Hole Leadership Award to Pat Hutchinson of the Edmonton Journal.

“our”. He didn’t know how to spell his wife or daughter’s name and he couldn’t put a sentence together.

For two years, Dave worked with his volunteer tutor Deanna Emberg. Deanna described him as a very determined learner, often arriving early for their session and staying late. Dave was recently reassessed and the results were impressive. He had gone up 2 levels in reading in 80 hours of work – an accomplishment that usually takes more than twice that amount of time.

Today, Dave can write a full paragraph and knows when he has misspelled a word. Most importantly, he now reads to his two little girls every day bringing him closer to his family and teaching them the joy of reading.

The Edmonton Journal was the recipient of the Lois Hole Community Leadership Award for their Raise-a-Reader program. Raise-a-Reader is a unique project designed to raise awareness and raise money for family literacy programs throughout Edmonton and area. The Edmonton

Journal’s annual fund-raising campaign culminates on Raise-a-Reader Day when more than 200 volunteers take to the streets to raise awareness of the importance of literacy and to seek donations in exchange for a newspaper.

The Journal commits extensive promotional and editorial support as well as staff resources to Raise-a-Reader Day. They provide a variety of ads using local celebrities as the hook to attract attention to the campaign. The initial campaign, in 2002, raised \$18,000 - last year, more than \$100,000 was donated to a wide variety of family literacy programs. Hundreds of children and families have benefited from the Raise-a-Reader campaign and the promotional and editorial support that the Edmonton Journal provides is an invaluable resource in building public awareness of the importance of family literacy.

Aboriginal Issues and Teachings in Family Literacy

Over 150 family literacy practitioners from across Alberta attended the Food for Thought professional development opportunity held in Edmonton, February 12–16. The first day of the conference had an Aboriginal focus with two separate sessions.

In the session *All we Have are Our Stories: Literacy for Our Children and Their Future*, Narcisse Blood and Cynthia



Diane Steinhauer presenting at Food for Thought.

Chambers used stories, photographs and video to share their research. They emphasized the importance of storytelling in Aboriginal culture and the unique place that geography plays as part of stories.

The afternoon was a fun-filled session **Cree-ativity in Family Literacy** with Dr. Leona Makokis, Steve

Andreas and Diana Steinhauer. They focused on practical ways to incorporate the Cree language into family literacy programs. The participants learned the four skills essential to mastering a language: listening, speaking, reading and writing. They practiced these new skills by listening to stories, playing games, singing songs, using puppets and creating dramas. Who said language learning can't be fun!

Food for Thought is organized by Centre for Family Literacy with funding from the Parent-Child Literacy Strategy of Alberta Advanced Education and Technology.

Correction: In the article *Fathers, Fun and Family Literacy* in our December 2007 issue, we neglected to mention the crucial role that the Capital Health Early Intervention Program (EIP) plays in the innovative and successful Me and My Buddy program. Staff from Capital Health EIP deliver this program in partnership with KARA Family Resource Centre and Clareview Headstart. Our apologies for this oversight.

Learning Together Program Begins

This program will be starting again this fall, running September to June 2009 at St. Gerard Catholic Elementary School. This 36-week program is for parents and their 3 – 5 year old children. Parents and children attend the program together two afternoons a week. Parents upgrade their own skills and learn how to support their children's literacy while their children attend a preschool program. For more information or to register for the program, please call 421-7323.

International Connection for Centre's Work

UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning and the Family Literacy Project, South Africa are editing a book on family literacy and intergenerational projects in Africa. We have been invited to submit a chapter on our work and include information on the C.O.W. Bus programs, as this concept would work well in Africa.

An Evening of Wine and Words – March 27

The Centre launched a new fundraising event - An Evening of Wine and Words – to tremendous response. Within days of announcing the guest speaker, Blue Rodeo's Jim Cuddy, the event was close to sold out. The proceeds from this evening will support the local Classroom on Wheels (C.O.W.) program.

Online donations to the Centre can be made through CanadaHelps.org



The Centre for Family Literacy gratefully acknowledges the ongoing support of the following:



Edmonton & Area
Child & Family Services Region 6



C.O.W. gets support from HOG®

Stephen Rebus, Chapter Director of the Old Strathcona Chapter of HOG®, wanted to present his chapter's donation to the Centre in a more dramatic way. He thought driving out to the C.O.W. bus on his Harley would attract a little interest. Unfortunately the weather on January 23 didn't cooperate, so Stephen had to settle for the traditional cheque presentation at the Centre.



Stephen Rebus presents cheque to Maureen Sanders.

The Harley Owners Group (HOG®) was established in 1983 in response to a growing desire by Harley-Davidson riders for an organized way to share their passion. There are now over 1,100 chapters worldwide and a membership of over half a million.

The Old Strathcona Chapter of HOG® annually raises money for charitable organizations and this year selected our local Classroom on Wheels (C.O.W.) program as the recipient of these funds. Stephen hopes that when the weather improves they can make a visit to the C.O.W. so their members can see their donation in action.

Leaving a Legacy

In the years ahead, over one trillion Canadian dollars will be transferred nationally from one generation to the next by means of individual estates. This transfer of wealth will provide Canadians with an opportunity to make a difference in their communities by including their favorite charities in their wills or estate planning.

According to the Canadian Association of Gift Planners, "Canadians will make these decisions for many different reasons: for some it is a way to ensure their memory lives on, for many it's a way to ensure that their favorite charity is able to continue its important work, while for others it represents a way to facilitate the tax implications that come with the transfer of one's estate to surviving relatives."

The Centre established an endowment fund at the Edmonton Community Foundation in 2004 to provide an opportunity for donors to include the Centre in their estate plans. The Legacy for Literacy Club was created to recognize and honour individuals who make a contribution to our endowment either through a direct gift today, or through a future gift.

We currently have 24 members in our Legacy for Literacy Club. If you are interested in finding out how you can leave a legacy to support the ongoing work of the Centre, please call us today. You can make a difference.

If you would prefer to receive the Centre Page newsletter via email rather than by mail, please send us an email at info@famlit.ca. Please reference Centre Page in the subject line.

Literacy Develops in Families First

The Centre for Family literacy is dedicated to helping Alberta grow and prosper. Our innovative programs, training and research help Alberta families achieve what they imagine - improved education, jobs and health.

Privacy Policy

If you do not wish to receive Centre Page or information about the Centre for Family Literacy, you may call, write or e-mail us. A copy of our privacy policy can be found on our website at www.famlit.ca

