



Howard Area Community Center
www.howardarea.org

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April 23, 2009
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**HOWARD AREA COMMUNITY CENTER AWARDED ONE OF 10
2009 BARBARA BUSH FOUNDATION FOR FAMILY LITERACY GRANTS**

Chicago, IL (April 23, 2009) — The Barbara Bush Foundation announced today that it has awarded a \$64,086 grant to the Howard Area Community Center (HACC) in Chicago, IL to fund the development of the **Family Literacy Project**, which increases the capacity of low-income, low-literacy parents to support their children's development and learning. The Howard Area Community Center was one of ten grant recipients chosen from nearly 400 applications. Since its inception in 1989, the Foundation has awarded over \$30 million to more than 700 family literacy programs in all 50 states including our nation's capital.

“Reading aloud to children, early and often, is the single most important thing that a parent can do to help a child start school ready to learn,” said Barbara Bush. “And, parents who are able to read, write, and comprehend can get better jobs, improve their families' lives, and participate more fully in their communities as well. That's why the projects we fund must provide literacy instruction for parents as well as their children.”

The Family Literacy Project is a component of Howard Area Community Center's Adult Education & Employment Program. The project offers an integrated approach to improving the literacy and language skills of low-income, low-literacy adults and their young children ages 6 months to 5 years. It includes instructional and supportive services, including adult education, early childhood education, parenting skills, and parent and child together time. About 70 individuals in more than 30 families will benefit from the project this year.

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“We are thrilled with this prestigious award,” HACC Executive Director Pamela Barnet says. “It will allow us to strengthen the quality of services we already provide. More professional development, up-to-date books and learning materials, and more outdoor and indoor equipment for our children will make a huge impact on the hands-on learning of children and their parents.”

This year’s grant recipients will be announced at the Foundation’s fifteenth annual fundraiser, A Celebration of Reading, which will be held at the Hobby Center for the Performing Arts in Houston on April 23rd. The evening will be hosted by George and Barbara Bush and star authors: Ted Bell, Cherie Blair, Christopher Buckley, Sara Gruen, Jon Meacham, and Julia Reed as well as other surprise guests.

The nine other grant recipients are: Cambodian Association of America, The Family Place, Mary’s Center for Maternal Child Care, Inc., Union Mission, Inc., Whiteside County Regional Office of Education, ISD 281 Robbinsdale Area Schools Early Childhood Family Education, Crossroads Rhode Island, Middle Tyger Community Center, and Madison Metro School District.

About Howard Area Community Center:

For over 40 years, Howard Area Community Center has been committed to helping Rogers Park residents in need break the cycle of poverty and forge a path toward stability and independence. HACC’s comprehensive network of innovative, dynamic programs empowers people of all ages to become agents of positive change within their own lives. Our clients can participate in a variety of programs that include: solutions for immediate crisis situations, community health services, early childhood care and education, innovative out-of-school youth programs, a charter high school, adult education, and employment readiness training.

For more information on HACC, visit www.howardarea.org or call 773-262-6622.

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