

UNESCO Awards ROR Confucius Prize for Literacy

The ROR National Center is pleased to announce that Reach Out and Read has received a 2007 Confucius Prize for Literacy, one of the five UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) Literacy Prizes awarded this year. The selection was made by the Director-General of UNESCO, Koïchiro Matsuura, on the recommendation of an international jury.

The award recognizes Reach Out and Read's work reaching low-income children in the U.S. who are most at risk of school failure by offering literacy guidance to their families and promoting a reading culture.

The theme for this year's prize was "Literacy and Health," in particular, literacy related to general health care, nutrition, family and reproductive health, and health-related community development. Other projects recognized are located in China, Nigeria, Senegal, and the United Republic of Tanzania. To learn more about the prizes and UNESCO's literacy work, please visit: <http://portal.unesco.org/education>

The ROR National Center extends a special word of gratitude to all medical providers and supporters who make their work possible.



Lisa Fricke and her son, Justin Bollig, make the most of the new bean bag chairs at the KC Developmental Disabilities Center.

Bean Bag Chairs Give Clinics A Family-Friendly Feeling

Children head straight for the bright new bean bag chairs when they come to ROR-KC clinics. Thanks to the generosity of donors attending our breakfast event in March, twenty-two bean bag chairs now occupy reading corners at many of our clinics.

"The kids love the bean bags. They're drawn straight to them when they come in the door," says Sara Harris, ROR Site Coordinator at Grundmeier Pediatrics. "Many parents also come in and plop right down in them."

"The bean bag chair at our Independence Well Child site gives the siblings of our clients a place to sit and look at books," says Sara Walz, RN, ROR Site Coordinator, Jackson County Health Department.

Our goal is for all waiting rooms to be family-friendly and "literacy-rich," which may include used books, book shelves, reading tables, reading areas with rugs/chairs for readers, and literacy posters.

Save This Date

Thursday, October 4, 2007: Join us for ROR-KC's Recognition Luncheon celebrating 10 years! We are excited to have the talented **Jenny Whitehead**, local children's poet and illustrator, as our guest speaker. This year is an exciting milestone for ROR-KC as we reflect and celebrate our accomplishments of the past 10 years.



ROR-KC's junior volunteers not only like to read but enjoy bringing the love of books to children. Megan Montgomery (l) and Abbie Krause from St. James Academy joined 30 other volunteers this summer reading to children, sorting and labeling books and working in the ROR-KC office.



Anthony Meyer, who has been reading to children at Children's Mercy Hospital since 2003, received their Volunteer of the Month award in July. Presenting the certificate to Anthony is Marcia Tammeus, CMH Volunteer Coordinator.

Anthony Meyer: Children's Mercy Volunteer of the Month

Anthony Meyer, chosen Volunteer of the Month in July by Children's Mercy Hospital, "makes books come alive for the children," says Marcia Tammeus, CMH Volunteer Coordinator.

Seeing Anthony arrive at CMH with his special bag of reading material is always a joy, the CMH staff agrees. In July 2003, Anthony started reading to children in the Pediatric Care Clinic every Monday, Wednesday and Friday during his lunch breaks from his job at nearby Transystems Corporation.

"He brings a positive, sincere attitude," says Marcia. "The hours he volunteers each week give a little extra attention to our patients and their siblings. He knows how to engage children and encourage them when it comes to reading. Our Monday-Wednesday-Friday noon hour wouldn't be the same without him."

CMH has two waiting rooms, so Anthony makes sure he reads to the children in each one. Often he has them read to him and if they struggle he takes time to help them. A hearty congratulations and thank you to Anthony!

Thank you, Borders Books!

A big thank you to Borders Books, Inc. for their book drive in August. The final total is not in yet, but many new books were collected through Borders' outstanding efforts at their nine local stores.

Saluting Our Generous Donors!

We are grateful to the following wonderful donors who have contributed both dollars and books:

Financial Donations

- | | |
|---|--|
| Jim Abel
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<i>in honor of Jan McConnell</i>
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Includes donations
through 8/8/07

Reach Out and Read Kansas City

In Memorium

GRANDMA ELLEN HARDIN 1924 - 2007

Ellen Hardin, long time Foster Grandparent and ROR volunteer reader at Children's Mercy Hospital, died quietly at KU Medical Center, Saturday, June 16th, after a long battle with cancer.



Grandma Ellen, as everyone called her, began volunteering at the Pediatric Care Center in 1995, where she continued until March 2, 2007. When she started volunteering, she spent a good portion of her day at the PCC and then finished the day at her second job, riding the school bus as a bus

monitor. She loved the Pediatric Care Center. It was her family in many ways.

She was often the grandparent to look up to when a child didn't have one. She was quick to smile and showed her enthusiasm and love for children as soon as she spotted them. The children always came first.

Over the years, the CMH staff has shared their thoughts and feelings about Grandma Ellen:

"She treats each child as an individual deserving love, care and respect...It is not unusual to see children emerge from the elevator and instantly go in search of Ellen, remembering her from their previous visit."

"She always leaves you feeling as though she was the one who benefited from your presence, when in reality we are blessed to have her."

Services for Grandma Ellen were held on June 24 at Emmanuel Baptist Church in Kansas City, where she was a member for 47 years, and was lovingly known as Mother Ellen.

Each of us has been blessed by her presence whether it is 12 years, 47 years, or more. She will be greatly missed by all who knew her and came to love her.

Thank you, Grandma Ellen.

Correction to Summer KC Reader

We regret these ROR-KC staff physicians and nurse providers were inadvertently omitted from the Summer issue of The KC Reader. Our heartfelt thanks to all of you.

Children's Mercy Hospital & Affiliates

Lily Nguyen, MD

Kerri Wade, PNP

KU Medical Center & Affiliates

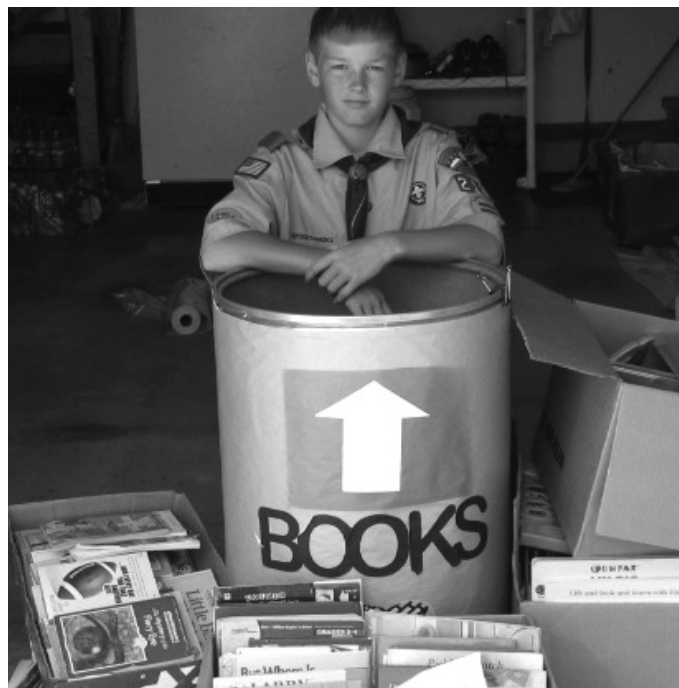
Steven Allen, MD

Sunny Fenikle, MD

Swope Health & Affiliates

Gladesia Tolbert, PNP

Abiye Okah, MD



Many thanks to Brian Junge for his hard work collecting and sorting books for ROR-KC for his Eagle Scout project.

Francis Family Foundation Awards \$50,000 to ROR-KC

Reach Out and Read Kansas City is pleased to announce that it is the recipient of a \$50,000 grant from the Francis Family Foundation for the program year 2007-08.

Through its grants, the Francis Family Foundation seeks to encourage lifelong learning for people of all ages and socioeconomic backgrounds and provides support to organizations, programs and initiatives that give parents and family members the skills to instill lifelong learning in all children.

This reflects the Foundation's belief that parents, family members and other caregivers are instrumental in creating a healthy setting for quality early childhood development. This belief also forms the cornerstone of Reach Out and Read Kansas City's mission of making literacy promotion a standard part of pediatric care so that children grow up with books and enter school ready to learn.

A similar grant from the Foundation for the 2006-07 program enabled us to distribute more books to more children and deliver more literacy advice to more parents. We are excited and grateful for the opportunity to partner with the Francis Family Foundation again in 2007-08 to ensure that the children of Kansas City, especially those at highest risk for reading and school failure, will enter school with the skills needed for reading and school success.

Reach Out and Read Kansas City

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Friends of Reach Out & Read KC

Holiday Tea: Get in the holiday spirit by attending the Friends first annual Holiday Tea featuring children's author Christine Taylor Butler. Join us on Sunday, December 2 from 3-5 p.m. at the Oak Street Coffee Shop, 63rd & Oak, near Brookside, for coffee, tea, and delicious baked goods, including Oak Street's famous scones. You'll be the first to hear Ms. Butler read her Christmas story written especially for ROR!

Friends' Membership: We're moving to an annual renewal system for Friends and will be sending invitations in September of each year. If you have already renewed for the 2007 year, then your new renewal will be in September, 2008. We hope you'll continue to help make a difference in the lives of Kansas City's children. Look for your letter in the mail this month!

Welcome to These New Volunteer Readers!

We're pleased to welcome the following new volunteer readers: Rebecca Bradley, Lindsay Bunker, Patsy Campos, Erika Dickey, Abby Dickson, Malori Fournier, Ashley Graber, Ashley Gunter, Holly Haywood, Lily Holbrook, Rachel Kautz, Jennifer Kellen, Abbie Krause, Jamin Landreth, Caleb Lind, Maribel Magana, Kathleen Mamuric, Amanda Marnett, Lauren Marnett, Irazema Mendoza, Andrea Miranda, Haley Mize, Susan Mize, Megan Montgomery, Alex Nickel, Robert Nickel, Peter Nickel, John O'Grady, John Owen, Mackenzie Patchin, Kaylen Peltier, Navid Rafizadeh, Jaclyn Reilly, Michelle Rickel, Lynn Schultz, Marla Schweisberger, Alex Severns, Kellyn Smith, Constance Tinoco, Tori Utz, Molly Wholey, and Meagan Wilderson.

The KC Reader

Fall, 2007

A publication of
Reach Out and Read Kansas City,
a not-for-profit program.

How to Contact Us:

To volunteer or make book
donations, please call
(913) 588-2793.

For financial gifts,
make checks out to
Reach Out and Read Kansas City
and mail to:
3901 Rainbow Blvd.,
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