



THE LITERACY PROJECT FOUNDATION

For Immediate Release

June 1, 2010

Contact: Sue Tucker

(949) 721-1319

Literacy Project Foundation's Second Annual Luncheon Benefit **Showcases Five Student Super Stars**

LPF event highlights kids they serve and what dreams of literacy mean to them

Newport Beach, CA—The scenic panoramic view from the Grand Ballroom of Big Canyon Country Club was the perfect setting for The Literacy Project Foundation (LPF) to discuss future dreams and a vision of success for young at-risk kids. The second annual luncheon was highly successful in making new friends with some 100 guests while raising some \$20,000 to serve classrooms and after-school programs in Orange County school districts with their literacy program, ***Get Set Read!***

The objective of the “*What Dreams Are Made Of*” event was to raise awareness of LPF’s mission to provide their literacy product, *Get Set Read!* to classrooms and after-school environments so struggling students can improve their reading skills. Newly appointed President/CEO Sue Tucker announced, “We are very proud to be recording an average of a 54% increase in reading skill levels with students that complete our program!” Funds from the event enable LPF to provide *Get Set Read!* and the teaching staff to administer the program at no cost to schools.

The event program began with dramatic illiteracy statistics from LPF Chairman Doug Freeman illustrating the great need for kids to master reading skills at a young age. Former California Secretary of Education Dave Long, introduced Chauncey Veatch, keynote speaker and former National Teacher of the Year. Veatch delivered a touching and passionate speech about his journey in teaching and reminded the guests that especially students of hardship circumstances cannot be left behind.

Another major highlight of the afternoon was the presentations by five students from Project Hope School, which offers a unique educational setting and outreach to homeless students. These kids were accompanied by their Role Models; adults who represented the career they dream to have in their future. Equipped with “Dream Cards” and illustrations of their perfect job, students bravely took center stage to dazzle the crowd with their confidence and aspiring dreams. Role Models helped with the kid’s speeches by speaking first and telling their own stories of how they selected their careers and became accomplished. Dr. Bill Manclark represented a veterinarian for Salice; CEO Lee Ann Canaday represented a CEO for Jordan; Dana Freeman represented a violist and music teacher for Jennifer; Deputy Dee Dee Kurimay represented a sheriff for Danielle; and Dr. Deba Bhattacharyya represented a paleontologist for Brandon. The children’s emotions and excitement to be a part of this special day filled the room leaving no doubt of the purpose of event. LPF specifically services the most at-risk children to bring the gift of literacy as a lifelong foundational tool to help ensure their success.

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The event's success was made possible by major sponsors consisting of Douglas and Lynn Freeman, Ernest and Irma Rose Foundation, Sue and Stephen L. Tucker, Mary and Walter Frome Family Foundation, Liz Merage, Catherine and James Emmi, Mabel and David Wheeler, Jeannie Lawrence, JoAnn and Anthony Fanticola, and Virginia Mangione among others.

Other special guests included former California State Senator and Secretary of Education Marian Bergeson, former California Secretary of Education Dave Long, Senior Counsel of the University of California Dan Aldrich III, Ph.D., and OC Department of Education Supervisor Bill Habermehl.

ABOUT LITERACY PROJECT FOUNDATION

The Literacy Project Foundation will bring the gift of literacy to children as a foundational learning element to help achieve their personal dreams. Our mission is to enable at-risk and disadvantaged youth to achieve grade level reading fluency. Visit www.literacyprojectfoundaiton.org.

ABOUT "GET SET READ!"

The Regents of the University of California has co-developed an after school literacy product of exceptional merit to help students improve their English skills. After five years of extensive research with leading specialists in over 40 pilot programs across California, the *Get Set Read!* product is now yielding unprecedented success in increasing reading skills of students performing well below grade level. Like none other, this product is a powerful practice tool which parallels the State's curriculum standards in the classroom and eliminates confusion for students learning the basics of the English language. The 10-week program provides nonreaders with the ability to improve their encoding and decoding skills of the English language in all three learning modalities; auditory, visual, and tactile. *Get Set Read!* provides a fun, interactive social environment for students while developing and advancing personal literacy.

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