



THE LITERACY PROJECT FOUNDATION

Literacy Project Foundation Launches Success - Raises \$25,000 for Orange County After School Programs

Newport Beach, CA (May 30, 2009)--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 inaugural luncheon was highly successful in making new friends with some 80 guests while raising \$25,000 to serve after school programs in Orange County school districts. Former California Secretary of Education and guest speaker David Long Ph.D. delivered a touching speech on the latest perils of today's educational system to drive home the importance of solving illiteracy in our country.

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 after school programs for struggling students to improve their reading skills. About 56% of students in California are performing below grade level and the *Get Set Read!* program administers a 10-week session that enhances literacy levels, teaches phonetic practice in all three learning modalities; tactile, visual and audio, and provides a fun, interactive social environment for students. Funds from the event enable LPF to serve additional after school programs with *Get Set Read!* and fund the teaching staff to administer the program at no cost to schools.

The afternoon began with teachers from the Literacy Project Foundation demonstrating the *Get Set Read!* literacy product to arriving guests. Once seated, guests were treated to a three-course lunch of sweet Boston Bibb lettuce with teardrop tomatoes, feta cheese and roasted tomato-balsamic vinaigrette, lemon grilled salmon with citrus whipped potatoes and fresh grilled vegetables of asparagus and baby carrots. Lunch was complete with a delicious chocolate box dessert of lemon custard and fresh raspberries.

The event program presented by David Long highlighted illiteracy facts amongst students in California and the great need to address budget cuts and its effects on our children's education. Three special students Dilan, Destiny and Janae from Project Hope School, which offers a unique educational setting and outreach to homeless students, joined Long on stage and read dreams cards about the careers they dream to have in their futures. The children's emotions and excitement to be a part of this special day filled the room leaving no doubt what the crowd had gathered to support. These children are among thousands in OC school districts that are victims of extenuating circumstances and their educational process suffers. LPF specifically services these children to give them the gift of literacy as a lifelong foundational tool to help ensure their success.

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Special guests and presenters included former California State Senator and Secretary of Education Marian Bergeson, Senior Counsel of the University of California Dan Aldrich III, Ph.D., OC Department of Education Supervisor Bill Habermehl, *Get Set Read!* Co-developer Steve Tucker, and emcees Ann Pulice and Rick Reiff from KOCE-TV. Also in the crowd were Liz Merage, Debbie Bridges, Doug Freeman, Lee Hausner, Janet Ray, Kelly Roberts, Casey Reinhardt, Betty Moss-Politivo, Linda Yellin, John Stahr, Valerie Whiting, Robyn Grant, Laurie Rodnick, JoAnn Fanticola, Virginia Mangione, Rebecca McLarand, and Wally Gayner. Guests in attendance pledged more than \$7,000 to help fund additional programming at Project Hope.

The event's success was made possible by major sponsors consisting of the Frome Family Foundation, Daranne & Paul Folino, The Argyros Family Foundation, Liz Merage, Lee Hausner, Marta Bhathal, Deborah & Larry J. Bridges, Cindy Galardi, Jeannie Lawrence, Fred Davis, Janet & James "Walkie" Ray, Casey Reinhardt / The C.A.S.E.Y. Foundation, and Kelly Roberts among others.

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