



NEBRASKA HUMANITIES COUNCIL

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N E W S R E L E A S E

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Prime Time literacy program goes to Lexington

Prime Time Family Reading Time, a Nebraska Humanities Council (NHC) family literacy program for low-literacy, low-income families, will be presented in Lexington with opportunities for both Spanish- and English-speaking parents and their children.

The Lexington City Public Library will host the award-winning series on six consecutive Saturday mornings from March 4 through April 8.

The six-week series of reading and discussion is designed for families with children ages six to 10. It includes sessions on fairness, greed, courage, cleverness, and determination. All books are read and discussed in both English and Spanish.

A discussion leader and a storyteller introduce parents to the benefits and pleasures of reading and discussing stories with their children, and a library representative introduces families to library resources and services. Younger siblings participate in separate pre-reading activities. Each program begins with a light breakfast and continues with storytelling and discussion based on award-winning children's literature.

Prime Time reinforces the role of the family in society, encourages parents and children to form bonds over reading and learning together, and teaches parents and children to read and discuss humanities topics. The program also encourages low-literacy, low-income parents to enter or continue their own educational programs to improve their employment opportunities.

"It is so important for children to learn the joys of reading early in life, especially when it involves reading and discussing books with their families. A love for learning through reading has a positive impact on how well a child does in school," said NHC Program Officer Erika Hamilton. "We're pleased to be working with the Lexington Public Library to bring this exciting family literacy program to the citizens of Lexington."

Initially developed by the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities, Prime Time has been held in Lincoln, Omaha, Scottsbluff, and other Nebraska communities over the last several years.

Bilingual Prime Time programs are sponsored by the NHC, the State of Nebraska, and the Nebraska Library Commission. Funders for Prime Time in Lexington include Home Federal Savings & Loan Association, Tri-County Hospital, Tyson Fresh Meats, Wal-Mart, KRVN 880 and The River 93.1, and Pinnacle Bank-Lexington. The NHC is a private, statewide, non-profit affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

For more information or to register to participate, contact Toné Mendoza, director of the Lexington Public Library, at (308) 324-2151.

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