



NEBRASKA HUMANITIES COUNCIL

215 Centennial Mall South, Suite 330
Lincoln, NE 68508
Phone: (402) 474-2131 Fax: (402) 474-4852
E-mail: nhc@nebraskahumanities.org
Website: www.nebraskahumanities.org

N E W S R E L E A S E

For release: March 14, 2007

Contact: Erika Hamilton, (402) 474-2131 ext. 104

Prime Time literacy program returns to South Omaha

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

The South Branch of the Omaha Public Library will host the series on six consecutive Monday nights from March 19 through April 23. Each program begins with a light dinner and continues with storytelling and discussion based on award-winning children's literature.

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

Discussion leader Joel Gajardo and storyteller Linda Garcia will introduce parents to the benefits and pleasures of reading and discussing stories with their children. Families will also learn about library resources and services. Separate pre-reading activities will be available for younger siblings.

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 Omaha Public Library to continue offering this exciting family literacy program to the citizens of Omaha."

Initially developed as an English-only program by the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities, bilingual *Prime Time* sessions have been held in Lincoln, Crete, Grand Island, South Sioux City, Norfolk, Scottsbluff, and other Nebraska communities over the last several years. This will be South Omaha's seventh bilingual *Prime Time*, having held its first in the spring of 2004.

Bilingual *Prime Time* programs are sponsored in Nebraska by the NHC, the State of Nebraska, the Nebraska Library Commission, and TierOne Charitable Foundation. Funders for *Prime Time* in South Omaha include the H. Lee and Carol Gendler Charitable Fund and an anonymous donor. 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 Norma Pountney, branch manager, at (402) 444-4850.

###