



NEBRASKA HUMANITIES COUNCIL

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N E W S R E L E A S E

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Prime Time program continues statewide expansion

This fall the Nebraska Humanities Council will bring bilingual *Prime Time Family Reading Time* programs to eight Nebraska communities that have increased numbers of Spanish-speaking families.

Prime Time will be offered at the Gibbon Public Library (Thursdays, Aug. 24–Sept. 28), Crete Public Library (Saturdays, Sept. 16–Oct. 21), Hastings Public Library (Mondays, Sept. 18–Oct. 23), South Sioux City Public Library (Tuesdays, Sept. 19–Oct. 24), Grant Elementary School in Norfolk (Thursdays, Oct. 5–Nov. 16), the Eiseley Branch of the Lincoln City Libraries (Wednesdays, Oct. 11–Nov. 15), Roosevelt Elementary School in Scottsbluff (Mondays, Nov. 6–Dec. 11), and the South Branch of the Omaha Public Libraries (dates not set).

Prime Time is designed to help low-income, low-literacy families bond through the act of reading and discussing books. Parents and children gather at the library once a week for six consecutive weeks to hear award-winning children's stories and discuss issues such as fairness, greed, courage, and determination. Younger siblings participate in separate pre-reading activities.

The ongoing expansion of bilingual *Prime Time* programs to over a dozen communities statewide is proving to be a great success from many perspectives—strong participation by Spanish-speaking families and welcome participation by non-Spanish speakers; enthusiastic support by local librarians; and promising results from follow-up surveys. The surveys, completed by each participating family, measure two of the program's primary goals: 1) to help families become more comfortable reading and discussing books together, and 2) to increase their use of the local library and their awareness of its available resources.

Another measure of the program's success is the strong response from individuals, foundations and businesses in *Prime Time* communities. "While the State of Nebraska has provided critical funding for this statewide expansion, it would be impossible to achieve such success without the generosity of the donors and volunteers," said Chris Sommerich, development officer for the Nebraska Humanities Council.

Dozens of donors throughout the state have provided funding for *Prime Time* programs in their area. Many more have helped sites with items such as door prizes and free or reduced-price dinners for the families. Others have volunteered their time to help recruit families, help with activities for pre-school children, and assist fundraising efforts.

In addition to the State of Nebraska, the Nebraska Humanities Council has received grants from the Nebraska Library Commission and the TierOne Charitable Foundation for *Prime Time*.

"The TierOne Charitable Foundation is proud to support the Nebraska Humanities Council, and we are excited to help bring *Prime Time Family Reading Time* to Nebraska communities this Fall," said Roger Ludemann, TierOne Bank's executive vice president. "*Prime Time* provides unique opportunities for children and parents to develop and share a love of reading, and we are pleased to assist this program in its efforts to promote family literacy in Nebraska."

Visit the *Prime Time* page at www.nebraskahumanities.org for more details and a full list of donors.