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N E W S R E L E A S E

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Prime Time literacy program returns to 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 Oct. 16 through Nov. 20. 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 cleverness, loyalty, fairness, greed, and dreams. 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. Joel Gajardo will return as discussion leader and Linda Garcia, former children's librarian for the South Branch, will return as storyteller. Younger siblings can participate in separate pre-reading activities.

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

Initially developed by the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities, bilingual Prime Time sessions have been held in Crete, Lincoln, Grand Island, Scottsbluff, and other Nebraska communities over the last several years. This will be South Omaha's sixth Prime Time.

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 Security National Bank of Omaha. 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.

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