



Contact: Laura Ault, Director of marketing

Phone: 989-839-0540

Fax: 839-4393

E-mail: marketing@literacymidland.org

For release: April 3, 2009

Council seeks volunteers for RAP sessions

The Literacy Council is looking for a few good readers.

The council is joining with the Juvenile Care Center to share the gift of reading by starting a Read-Aloud Program (RAP).

The Literacy Council is seeking adults who like to read aloud to volunteer one Thursday night a year to read to youth at the Juvenile Care Center (JCC).

"In everything we do, the Literacy Council tries to promote life-long reading," Allen Richard, executive director, said. "We hope this program encourages teens to make a connection with books and to explore a variety of topics, characters and settings."

RAP is an expansion to the Literacy Council's existing partnership with the Juvenile Care Center, which provides tutoring and homework help for JCC students.

"Not every child has had the pleasure of being read to, of cuddling up with a parent or grandparent and enjoying a good book together," Mr. Richard said. "We want the kids at JCC to see how books can expand their world and how reading can become an interesting alternative to television or video games."

Other goals of the program include:

- Learning positive life lessons from the stories
- Building listening skills,
- Exploring social and moral issues
- Becoming more skilled independent readers
- Discovering which authors and genres they like
- Encouraging conversations and discussions.

"Many youth at the JCC have had challenging lives and experience high states of anxiety and/or depression," Michele M Bell, JCC assistant director, said. "The nighttime reading

will provide a calming influence for the youth as they prepare for bed. We are pleased that Nina Paquette, The Literacy Council, and the Grace A. Dow Library have collaborated to bring a reading program back to the Juvenile Care Center.”

The reading materials will be selected by staff members at the Grace A. Dow Memorial Library. Story selections will be short enough to be completed in an evening session so that continuity problems are not an issue.

Volunteers will read into a microphone for an hour or less and will be responsible for picking up materials at the Literacy Council office.

For more information or to volunteer for a RAP session, call Tina Todd, director of tutor and learner services, at 989-839-0540.

The Midland County Juvenile Care Detention Center is a secure facility for youth who are awaiting further Court action. The detention facility houses 22 youth, ages 11-17, who are from Midland County or other counties in Michigan who may need detention services.

Established in 1986, the Literacy Council of Midland County helps people achieve their goals in literacy. The council provides free, confidential, one-on-one tutoring in reading, spelling, math and English as a Second Language.

-- END --