

Kansas Humanities Council Awarded Grant for New Prime Time Literacy Project

by Julie Mulvihill, Director of Programs, Kansas Humanities Council

The Kansas Humanities Council was recently selected to participate in the national expansion of the award-winning family reading and discussion program, Prime Time Family Reading Time. Kansas was one of only five states selected nationwide to participate.

Based on illustrated children's books, Prime Time Family Reading Time is designed to help low-income, low-literate families bond around the act of reading and talking about books. It models and encourages family reading and discussion of humanities topics, aids parents and children in selecting books and encourages them to become active public library users.

Four Kansas libraries will participate with the Kansas Humanities Council in the 2006 Prime Time Family Reading Time project: Dodge City Public Library (Mary Tuytschaevers, Director); Dorothy Bramlage Public Library, Junction City (Susan Moyer, Director); Hamilton County Public Library, Syracuse (Joyce Armstrong, Director); and Newton Public Library (Marianne Eichelberger, Director). All four libraries will offer a bilingual Prime Time series for their communities.

Each library will host a series that will meet once a week for six weeks. Through a discussion leader and a storyteller, children ages 6 to 10 and their parents or guardians will hear classic children's stories, engage in reading aloud demonstrations, discuss humanities themes in each book and learn about library resources and services. Younger siblings, ages 3 to 5 years, will participate in separate pre-reading activities.

Prime Time Family Reading Time is a national project of the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities and is made possible through a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

The Kansas Humanities Council, a nonprofit cultural organization, conducts and supports community-based programs, serves as a financial resource through an active grantmaking program, and encourages Kansans to participate in their communities. For more information about Prime Time in Kansas contact Julie Mulvihill, Director of Programs, at julie@kansashumanities.org or 785/357-0359.