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Adult Literacy League receives \$13,000 from Walt Disney World Resort

Orlando, Fla. (May 23, 2011) — The Adult Literacy League was recently awarded \$13,000 from Walt Disney World Resort as part of the Disney Helping Kids Shine Grant program.

Disney prize patrol dropped by Taft Head Start, one of several locations for the League's *Read to Me!* family literacy program, to deliver the exciting news to staff members and students.

"We couldn't be more pleased to receive this \$13,000 gift from Walt Disney World Resort," said Joyce Whidden, executive director of the Adult Literacy League. "This funding will allow us to equip more pre-school aged children from low-income households with books and learning materials so they can develop the literacy skills needed to succeed in school."

Since 1999, the Adult Literacy League has been a premier provider of family literacy services in Central Florida. The League believes that "literate parents develop literate children" and has worked diligently to increase literacy skills at an early age. Currently, more than 300 children participate in the League's *Read to Me!* Book Club (this number is expected to double by the end of 2011!). The program provides books and learning materials to children throughout the year and teaches parents to read to their children and engage in learning activities provided so that they may become the first and most effective teacher in their children's lives.

The Adult Literacy League is among approximately 36 local charities that have received charitable support from Walt Disney World Resort through the Disney Helping Kids Shine Grant. By the end of May, Walt Disney World will have awarded \$1.2 million in Disney Helping Kids Shine Grants throughout Orange, Osceola, Seminole, Lake and Polk counties.

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The Adult Literacy League is a 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization with a mission to develop readers to build a strong and literate community. For 43 years, the Adult Literacy League has taught hundreds of adults and children in Central Florida how to read and write in English. The organization provides one-to-one tutoring, classes and family literacy programs to students in Orange, Seminole and Osceola counties. Last year, the organization served more than 1,400 adult learners and nearly 350 children with help from more than 400 trained and dedicated volunteers.

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