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HOUSTON READ COMMISSION TO HOST FAMILY LITERACY FALL FRENZY

Family literacy event will encourage community members to attend no-cost education classes in Houston

(Houston, Texas) October 21, 2009 – Houston READ Commission will host its first-ever Family Literacy Fall Frenzy on October 29, 2009 from 2-6PM, in front of its administrative offices in Palm Center on Griggs Road. In addition to trick-or-treating, family fun and food, the event will offer informational booths about educational services in the Houston area to encourage community members to take advantage of educational opportunities afforded to them by the Mayor's Coalition for Literacy, an association of nearly fifty literacy providers, with over one hundred sites in Houston. Other community service providers will display booths as well, to offer adults information on various topics, such as health, safety, and financial wellbeing. Simultaneously, there will be a moonwalk, food, and educational programs appropriate for children. To encourage attendance, two desktop computers will be raffled off every hour, on the hour, for community members who visit the event.

"This year, some very fortunate Houston families will reach their dreams of better living through the educational and job opportunities provided by programs of the Houston Read Commission," said Mayor Bill White. "The Fall Frenzy is a great opportunity for you to find out if you too may benefit."

About the Houston READ Commission

In 1988, Mayor Kathy Whitmire established the Houston READ Commission (HRC) to promote adult literacy efforts in Houston on a scale that could not be achieved by individual literacy providers. Though many adult education providers have taken on the responsibility of promoting themselves, there remain nearly fifty providers with over one hundred sites in Houston that do not have the resources to do so. HRC's job, therefore, is to ensure that these literacy agencies, represented as The Mayor's Coalition for Literacy, have not just a voice, but also an evident impact on Houston's low-literate population.

Shockingly, one in three adult Houstonians is functionally illiterate (National Institute for Literacy). There must be a coordinated effort among all literacy agencies to stop this epidemic and reverse the effects of intergenerational functional low-literacy. This is the Houston READ Commission's charge.

HRC is non-profit 501(c)3 organization committed to leading and mobilizing a coalition of literacy providers and resources to improve the literacy landscape of Houston. Because low-literacy takes shape in many forms, HRC offers oversight, training and best practices support of Adult Basic Education, English as a Second Language, GED preparation, and financial, health, workplace and computer education. The Commission also points potential students and volunteers to educational programming at the agency closest to them, through its Literacy Helpline.

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