



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Nassau Nonprofits Partner to Provide Preschoolers New Books

HILLIARD, Fla., September 26, 2016 - With a long-term goal of increasing high school diplomacy and ultimately, a thriving local workforce, Nassau Ferst Foundation for Childhood Literacy (NFF) has partnered with the Early Learning Coalition of North Florida (ELC) and Episcopal Children's Services through Head Start to help promote early literacy.

Their partnership places free books into the hands of more than 200 children, ages five and below, in their school readiness programs in Nassau County. Each month, the age-appropriate books as well as a monthly parent newsletter are mailed free of charge to all registered children. Currently, 100 children are registered since February when NFF launched its expansion program in Nassau.

"This is an excellent beginning toward enrolling all 3600 age-appropriate children residing in our county," Community Action Team Leader Michelle Maddox said. "We are thrilled to add ELC/Episcopal participants to our growing partnerships."

Recent Nassau County FSA testing data showed 31 percent of third graders scored below the lowest passing score, which increases the likelihood of continued impeded growth in high school and means they will be four times more likely to become a dropout.

More than 60 percent of low-income families don't have a single book in the home suitable for a preschool child. Nassau Ferst Foundation's goal is work to break this trend by providing a language-rich home environment all children before they enter school.

Additional children in Nassau County are currently being registered through partnerships with the Nassau County Public Libraries and local elementary schools where CAT members have enrolled younger siblings at fall open houses.

According to NFF, the cost per child is \$36 per year. Fundings are provided through community groups, grants and individuals. NFF welcomes other organizations like ELC to partner to help ensure that all children enter school ready to learn.

To learn more about Ferst Foundation for Childhood Literacy and the importance of its early literacy programs, visit www.ferstfoundation.org or www.facebook.com/NassauFerstFoundation.

To learn how to partner or donate, contact NFF at Nassauferstfoundation@gmail.com.

For more information about ELC, please visit www.elcnorthflorida.org.

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