

Monday, October 16, 2006

Literacy group donating books to kids through Nashua PAL

Nashua – The Children’s Literacy Foundation will not be making any arrests, but it will be donating more than \$2,500 worth of new children’s books to the Nashua Police Athletic League.

Part of this donation will include a celebration hosted by CLiF director Duncan McDougall on Monday, Oct. 16, at 3:30 p.m. He will perform a lively and interactive storytelling presentation for children. Half the donated books will remain at Nashua Police Athletic League’s library, while the other half will be given to the children to take home. The donation is underwritten by Fidelity Investments.

Funded by the Milton S. Eisenhower Foundation, the Nashua Police Athletic League is a cooperative effort involving local police, the Nashua school district, the Nashua Housing Authority and the New Hampshire National Guard to help target the needs of at-risk youth. Children involved in the program are offered a variety of after-school activities and support including homework help, computer lab, movie club, Girl Scouts, music magic, art classes, teen nights and field trips. Activities are mentored by trained civilian staff as well as Nashua police officers.

“We are so excited about this donation and what it will mean for the kids,” said PAL Director Debbie Fraser. “We’ve just developed a new library and it is overflowing with young readers. We are so excited to continue to develop the resources available to them.”

New Hampshire Sen. Judd Gregg, for whom the library is dedicated, will attend the event, as will Rep. Charlie Bass, who will speak about the importance of literacy.

“Working with the Nashua PAL Youth Safe Haven has been a natural fit for CLiF,” said McDougall. “It is central to the mission of our organization to meet the literacy needs of at-risk youth. Nashua PAL has been doing tremendous work to decrease the low literacy rate in this neighborhood and we are very pleased to be part of it.”

CLiF is a nonprofit organization founded in 1998. CLiF does not receive federal or state funds. It relies on the generosity of individuals, businesses and foundations. For more information, visit www.clifonline.org or contact CLiF Executive Director Duncan McDougall at 136 Loomis Hill Road, Waterbury Center, VT 05677; 1-802-244-0944; or children’s.literacy@verizon.net.