BARBARA BUSH FOUNDATION OF FAMILY LITERACY FBH Pierson program in spotlight

From staff reports

Food Brings Hope literacy program at Pierson Elementary School was highlighted Feb. 17 by the Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy during the 17th annual Celebration of Reading in Bonita Springs.

Ruben Renteria of Pierson, with his wife, Tania, and their four children by his side, told more than 700 attendees what the Food Brings Hope program has meant to him and his family.

"My children often make fun of my English, so I enrolled in the program to learn to communicate better," he said. "I want to show my children that they can dream big dreams and can do great things."

Forough Hosseini, founder and chair of Food Brings Hope, established the family literacy program in Pierson in 2016 as a key vehicle for education both parents and children at Pierson Elementary School.

FBH works with Daytona State College where parents have the opportunity to explore GED and adult education programs.

Program coordinators, instructors, volunteers, parents and children meet three nights each week to provide tutoring for children and literacy training for parents.

Certified teachers and DSC Quanta Honors students volunteer their time to help parents improve their English.

Rotating study

groups are used to do exercises in reading and grammar, along with computer labs to aid the literacy program.

The program provides family support by including childcare and family activities at dinner during each meeting.

Renteria has set high expectations for himself and his entire family. He joined the program last year and currently is enrolled in the GED program.

He plans to enroll at DSC after attaining his GED. He aims to open his own business with the mission of giving back to his community.

Ruben encouraged

his wife to join the literacy program this year. Their older children are enrolled at FBH's KidsZone program at Pierson Elementary.

"Mr. Renteria is an excellent role model," Hosseini said. "He did an amazing job representing Food Brings Hope at the Celebration of Reading event."

This year's Celebration of Reading event was chaired by Jeb Bush, Jr. and featured three New York Times bestselling authors – Chris Gardner, "The Pursuit of Happyness," Candice Millard, "Hero of the Empire," and Laura Numeroff, "If You Give a Mouse a Cookie."



Copyright © 2017 News-Journal Corporation June 18, 2017 8:43 am (GMT +4:00)