

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Pierson Family Literacy Program

~ Food Brings Hope partners with the Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy. ~

DAYTONA BEACH, March 8, 2016 – Each Tuesday night, students from Pierson Elementary and their families gather in the elementary school's classrooms to participate in the Pierson Family Literacy Program. This two-generational program helps parents improve their skills in English plus reading and writing skills while their children receive additional support for their own literacy development in another area of the school.

The Pierson Family Literacy Program is provided by Food Brings Hope through a partnership with the Barbara Bush Foundation.

"It's our honor to partner with Forough Hosseini to bring family literacy to Pierson," said Liza McFadden, President and CEO of the Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy. "Simply put, there's nothing we love more than the opportunity for parents to come to school and learn with their children. It's the greatest example of parental involvement we know."

"It is nice having a new family activity," shared Guadelupe Montero. Montero is one of 17 parents who participate in the program each week with their elementary school aged children.

Each week student volunteers, from Daytona State College's Quanta Honors College, travel to Pierson to help the families reach their goals. Student volunteers were recruited by Daytona State English Professor Frank Gunshanan after Forough B. Hosseini, Food Brings Hope founder and chair, met with him and shared her goals for the new program. Mr. Gunshanan recently was awarded the Volunteer of the Month title for Food Brings Hope.

"The Pierson Family Literacy program has provided an excellent opportunity to assist newly-arrived members of our community and serves not only elementary-school students, but their families, as well as our Quanta Honors College student volunteers, many of whom are first-generation Americans. They also know full well the unique challenges of integrating into a new culture," shared Gunshanan. "Although Tuesday tutoring often means a twelve-hour day for them, all are passionate about being part of this unique initiative and look forward to working one-on-one with kids and adults every week."

The DSC student volunteers are Miriam Castaneda-Osorio, Kayla Farley, Gilarys Garcia-Milan, Preston Johnston, Danjha Leon, Kayla Lillie, Jose Villalobos, and Kirstin Miller.

Spruce Creek High School student, Ava Gormley is among the group of volunteers who dedicate their time and skills to help the literacy program's families.

"In the short time that I have volunteered with Food Brings Hope, it is obvious that the program has an immediate and positive impact on the participating families," said Gormley. "I have enjoyed working with the children at the Pierson Family Literacy Program and being able to see first hand how eager they are to learn."

"Food Brings Hope is excited for the opportunity to help the families in Pierson," said Food Brings Hope Founder and Chair, Forough B. Hosseini. "These families have dedicated time and effort to further their education and through a partnership with an amazing organization, the Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy, we have been able to offer a great opportunity to these deserving families."

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About the Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy:

The Barbara Bush Foundation is the nation's leading advocate for family literacy. The goals of the Foundation are simple: we want children to start school ready to excel and help parents improve their literacy skills. To learn more about the Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy's commitment to promote family literacy in homes across America, please visit www.helpthemread.org or join the conversation on Facebook or Twitter (@BarbaraBushFdn).

About Food Brings Hope:

Food Brings Hope (FBH), a 501(c)(3) Public Charity, provides collaborative solutions for families with children who experience hunger due to homelessness, poverty, or unfamiliarity with community resources. FBH's mission is to nurture the mind, body and spirit of underprivileged children in our community. Among other services, **FBH** offers school based programs (termed "KidsZone" in elementary schools and "TeenZone" in the upper grades) that provide meals, tutoring and activities for at-risk students. FBH also facilitates enrichment activities such as Nutrition Days and Hands On Banking Programs along with field trips to local educational destinations and events. At FBH, 100% of all donations go directly to these programs that support students in need in Volusia County.

For more information about Food Brings Hope, please visit www.FoodBringsHope.org or contact Briana Thompson, Program Coordinator, at (386)843-1161 or Briana@FoodBringsHope.org.

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