

For Immediate Release

PRESS RELEASE

Lincoln's Family Literacy Center has grown again. Once located in a small room of the historic Manville Music Hall, the Family Literacy Center is now located at 11 Winter Street. The Family Literacy Center has tripled in size and offers more community outreach services. The Lincoln Police Sub-Station has also relocated to this new large space.

The new location has already proven to be a great success. According to Town Administrator Sue P. Sheppard, "enrollment at the Literacy Center has increased dramatically. We are seeing new smiling faces enjoying the latest best sellers while relaxing in a cheerful setting." Due to the new larger space, the new center now offers two age-appropriate children reading sections, a dedicated "Story Hour" room and an adult reading room.

The center's coordinator Mary Beauchemin is thrilled with the new, larger space. Beauchemin said that, "while three moves in one year was challenging, it is the end result that counts." Beauchemin and other volunteers have already developed new reading programs and expanded on the existing programs. "We now have room to move and add new services," Beauchemin said. In addition to the reading programs, the Family Literacy Center also offers homework help after school from 2:45 to 4:00 PM every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday.

The “Homework Helpers” are Lincoln high school students and off-duty Lincoln Police officers from the sub-station who volunteer their time.

The new location of the Family Literacy Center was made possible by a grant from the Town’s 2006 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), funding from Lincoln School Department, and many other fundraising activities. Dennis Andrews, Housing Director for the Town and coordinator for the CDBG program said, “We are thrilled to provide funding for this worthwhile program. Hundreds of children and their families will benefit from the Literacy Center’s programs.” Town Planner Albert V. Ranaldi, Jr., who worked with Andrews on the 2006 CDBG application said, “It’s amazing to see all of Mary’s dedicated volunteers coming to the new center to help with the set up. It’s rewarding to see the positive changes being made in the lives of the children.”

Another key component to the Literacy Center is the continued generosity of local and regional businesses and many individual families. Many of the books and supplies are donated to the Center free of charge. These donations enable the Center to provide more services to the community. Beauchemin invites all families to visit the Center anytime to check out a book or sign up for an upcoming event. The Family Literacy Center is open three days a week, Tuesdays from 12:30 PM to 4:30 PM and Wednesday and Thursday from Noon to 6:00 PM.

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