

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – July 27, 2015

Media Contact: Salem Reiboldt
National Director of Outreach and Development
sreiboldt@readingfoundation.org, 509-735-9405



Read Together 20 Minutes Every Day™

Newark Childhood Literacy Nonprofit Earns National Award

KENNEWICK, Wash. The Children's Reading Foundation national headquarters Thursday announced The Children's Reading Foundation of Licking County Ohio as recipient of its 2015 Flagship Chapter award at its annual directors' conference in Richland, Wash.

The award honors a chapter that demonstrates mission effectiveness, sustainability, board engagement and strong community support. The Ohio nonprofit was selected among 16 chapters from around the country.

"For nearly six years, The Children's Reading Foundation of Licking County has focused on engaging families to read daily with their children beginning at birth. We're proud to present them with this award to recognize the positive difference they are making for students in Licking County, said Rick Donahoe, CEO of The Children's Reading Foundation national office.

"Together with our local reading foundation chapter partners, we're serving children in 30 states and supporting families from all walks of life in preparing their children to succeed in school."

David Hile, Executive Director of The Children's Reading Foundation of Licking County and Superintendent of Licking Valley Local Schools, accepted the award.

The Children's Reading Foundation of Licking County was formed as a chapter of The Children's Reading Foundation national office in 2009, with the vision of 100 percent literacy in Licking County. This local chapter board comprises 31 community stakeholders. The foundation is committed to helping promote the message, "Read With a Child 20 Minutes Every Day™," and ensuring every student is successful in school by engaging parents and caregivers in their child's development from birth to age 5 through the READY! for Kindergarten® program. The foundation also distributes free children's books and advocates for school and community efforts that ensure students read at grade level by third grade.

About The Children's Reading Foundation national headquarters: The national nonprofit was founded in 1996 with the vision that every child learns to read at grade level by the end of third grade, thereby reaching his or her full potential in school and life. The foundation developed and delivers national programs focused on reading skills and school readiness for children birth to age 8. All programs invest in children's early learning and are complemented by resources for parents and caregivers. The Children's Reading Foundation also helps establish local chapters in communities across the country. The national headquarters are in Kennewick, Wash. Learn more at: www.ReadingFoundation.org.

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