



## INFORMATION BULLETIN ~ FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**DATE:** October 29, 2007  
**Contact:** Nancy Leahy, Circle of Success; Cell: 509.307.8561;  
Toll free – 1.888.973.READ (7323)  
[nleahycofs@charter.net](mailto:nleahycofs@charter.net)

### **LET'S READ Expands into the Kittitas Valley!**

Dolly Parton's *Imagination Library* Book Program is Available to Children 0-5 years

**Coach Baldwin and Coach Parry Give a PEP Talk about Reading to Preschool Children**

The parent education program called Circle of Success, Inc.® is expanding their services into the Kittitas Valley. *Let's Read* has been active in Yakima Valley for two years and the expansion into Kittitas Valley is a terrific step of progress. A public introduction of the program was held Monday, October 29 at 11:00 AM at the Ellensburg McDonald's restaurant to introduce the *Let's Read* early literacy program to Kittitas Valley families.

***Children need to enter Kindergarten ready to learn.***

*Let's Read* is an early literacy program that includes the exciting Dolly Parton *Imagination Library* which delivers books every month right to the mailboxes of children 0 to 5 years of age. Circle of Success board member, Bret Bohoskey, states that the program is open to all children who live in the Yakima - and now Kittitas Valley and there is no cost to enroll a child. The program is supported by grants and individual donations. The "*Let's Read*" early literacy program includes the *Imagination Library* plus newborn reference guides and the quarterly *Let's Read* newsletter that is mailed to parents.

***Parents are the first teachers and the home is first classroom for children.***

Many of us need a little reading coaching and that is just what CWU football coach Beau Baldwin and former CWU football coach Tom Parry delivered today at the public presentation of the *Let's Read* program. They provided a "Pep Talk" about reading to toddlers and preparing children for school. Encouraging words from experience came from Coach Baldwin, who is the father of preschool children, and Coach Perry, who is a grandfather to quickly growing grandchildren. Preparing for the future starts early if parents want their children to be ready for school and ready for life!

***Families need appropriate resources in order to provide instruction for children.***

Kittitas Valley businessman, Jerry Brong, explains that there are about 1,700 children under the age of five in Kittitas County and these children are all eligible to enroll. Parents can enroll their children in the following ways. 1) Private registration which are mailed to the Circle

of Success office. 2) Employer sponsored registration which are also mailed to the office. Parents need to complete and sign the *Imagination Library* form stating they live in Kittitas or Yakima Valley. Informational flyers on enrollment are available at these Ellensburg locations: McDonald's, Fred Meyer, Jerrol's Book Store, and the Ellensburg Library.

***Kittitas Valley citizens and businesses are "Champions of Early Literacy!"***

Jan and Greg Luring, owners of McDonald's of Kittitas Valley, are introducing the *McSmart* project which partners with the Circle of Success *Let's Read* program. *McSmart* includes a "Reading Circle" Wednesdays at noon on November 7, 14, and 21 at the McDonald's Ellensburg store. A book will be given to children attending the "Reading Circle." *Let's Read* program information and literacy games are also being distributed at this time.

***We need to invest in early education as a vital part of Kittitas Valley economy.***

Circle of Success Board Chairman, Nick Temple states, "We have studied many early literacy programs over the past several years and we remain confident the *Imagination Library* program offers the ideal resource and service for families in the Yakima Valley. *Let's Read* is a home based program that is serving thousands of children 0 to 5 in Yakima Valley and it is an ideal companion program for other early education programs."

Vice Chairman Al DeAtley states that, "Kindergarten teachers all over the state find that almost half of the children are not ready to be in school when they arrive at age five. This investment in the development of young children's minds is long overdue."

***Kittitas County Commissioners declare October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2007 as Let's Read and Imagination Library Day in Kittitas County!***

*Let's Read* began in the Yakima Valley two years ago with 115 children and today there are 2,610 children enrolled. In a survey of participating parents that was completed this summer, 100% stated they enjoy the program and recommend other families with preschool children participate. 100% felt the books were age appropriate and the content was appropriate for their children. Circle of Success is committed to delivering hard bound, age appropriate and high quality books every month to as many children as possible in Yakima and Kittitas Valley!

More information about Circle of Success, Inc. can be obtained on our website at [www.circleofsuccessinc.org](http://www.circleofsuccessinc.org).

§

§

§

Circle of Success, Inc is a private, nonprofit 501-c-3 partnership of community organizations that empowers parents to prepare their children to enter school ready to learn. Circle of Success manages the *Let's Read* early literacy program which includes the Dolly Parton *Imagination Library*, resource guides and the *Let's Read* quarterly newsletter.

---

***"Empowering parents to prepare their child to enter school ready to learn"***

**P.O. Box 1291 15 North Naches Ave. Yakima, WA 98907 509.469.9888**

**[www.circleofsuccessinc.org](http://www.circleofsuccessinc.org)**

**TOLL FREE 1.888.973.READ (7323)**