

THE CITY STAR

Literacy program receives \$90,000 grant from Kaiser **PAGE 5**

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Share Literacy Program Gets \$90,000 Grant

Hoopoe Books Share Literacy Program, which this year distributed 23,240 books to help more than 16,500 underserved Bay Area children learn reading and thinking skills, has received a \$90,000 grant from the Kaiser Permanente Community Grants Program.

Just in time for the holidays, the grant will help spread cheer to children with the donation of over 10,000 Hoopoe books to charitable organizations and schools serving needy families. The books are earmarked for holiday gift/toy programs. An additional 7,500 books have been requested for give-away programs in early 2009.

More than 2,200 books were donated to San Francisco organizations including the Glide Foundation, Tenderloin Community School, Friends of the Children, Hamilton House Family Center, La Casa de las Madres and the Homeless Prenatal Program.

A nationwide program first introduced in the Bay Area in 2006, Share Literacy partners with early education agencies serving poverty level and low-income families, after-school programs and organizations providing ESL and adult literacy instruction.

"Many of the children in our program are in great need," said Share Literacy Director **Sally Mallam**. "It is particularly gratifying to help these children this holiday season, and even more so during the current economic situation that is affecting everyone. This is the fourth consecutive year that Kaiser Permanente has funded the Share Literacy Program and we are most appreciative of their generous, continued support."