

**Listen to the
GLOBE
Newspaper Hour**

*Listen to what's going on
in the East Bay community
with moderator
Eddrick Osborne.*

Saturday mornings
9 - 10 a.m.

More Public Radio
88.1 FM & 97.7 FM
www.jazzbeatradio.tv

**Oakland - Berkeley
Alameda County**



SERVING THE GREATER ALAMEDA COUNTY AREA



**REITS: another way
to own investment
property**
- Page 4 -

Volume 3, Issue 23

A RELIABLE VOICE OF THE COMMUNITY • WWW.THEGLOBENEWSPAPERS.COM

August 23 - 29, 2006

Thousands of Bay Area youth to participate in literacy program

From the Globe Education Desk

More than 3,700 Bay Area disadvantaged youth, many of whom have never owned their own books, will soon take part in an innovative literacy program featuring a cast of centuries-old characters from halfway around the world.

Hoopoe Books Share Literacy Program is based on a tradition of storytelling from Afghanistan, Central Asia and the Middle East. Many stories have been collected and written for children by Afghan author Idris Shah.

The Bay Area program is structured around four titles from Hoopoe's series of illustrated children's books. The program will begin with training workshops for established literacy partner programs in Berkeley, Albany, Hayward and San Francisco.

The program is funded by a \$90,000 grant from the Kaiser

Permanente Community Grants Program.

"Literacy skills are fundamental to future success and are related to future health outcomes, as well as career success and family well-being," said Dr. David Sobel, regional director of patient education and health promotion for Kaiser Permanente Northern California. "People with higher levels of education have lower death rates from heart disease and most cancers, lower rates of diabetes and high blood pressure, and lower levels of LDL ('bad') cholesterol," he said.

The initial Bay Area literacy partners are: Mercy Housing of California, Berkeley Even Start Program, Alameda County of Education, Berkeley-Albany YMCA Early Childhood Services, Albany Children's Center, Albany Unified School District, and St. Josephs the Worker School in Berkeley.

Most participating children will start the program in Sep-

tember. The program includes teacher activity guides, home literacy kits, books and a parent/teacher DVD.

To date, more than 100,000 children throughout the U.S. have received Hoopoe books and other materials donated through literacy partner programs.

Hoopoe Books Director Sally Mallam said, "The best way you help your child succeed in school is to spend time together every day just reading, and to have books available for your children. That is why we emphasize parental involvement. Our Home Literacy Kits provide at least one book for every child involved in the program."

The Bay Area program will include an after-school program for two age groups: 6-12 and 13-17.

"That's the beauty of these 'teaching-stories,'" said Mallam. "Since they are so contextual, people of all ages can enjoy and benefit from them, each according to his/her own experience and understanding. I have been working with them for more than 30 years now and continue to get new insights from the same story."

For more information visit www.shareliteracy.org.