

LITERACY AWARD Past Recipients

2009 Winner

Lisa Johnson Nutter – President of Philadelphia Academies, Inc., a non-profit youth development organization that works in Philadelphia's public high schools to provide career-based learning experiences that motivate young people to stay engaged in school and that create supportive networks for them in the real world. The overarching goal is to expand life and economic options for these students and set them on a positive path. Ms. Nutter previously served as Senior Director of Research and Planning at Philadelphia Academies, during which time which she oversaw and conducted research and planning activities for the organization as well as led the development of the organization's research and advocacy capacity. Nutter is also actively engaged locally and nationally in issues related to social change and youth development and presently serves on the board of directors of the Women's Community Revitalization Project, Big Picture Company Philadelphia, United Way of Southeastern Pennsylvania and on the advisory board of ArtReach.

2008 Winner

Gloria Rodriguez – founder of AVANCE (<http://www.avancesa.org>) and has served as president and CEO of the Family Support and Education Program providing support and education services to low-income families. AVANCE strengthens the families unit, enhances parenting skills, promotes educational success and fosters the personal and economic success of parents. The purpose of the program is to get children ready for school and make sure that they succeeds academically and socially, as well as to help all other members in the family—the parents, both mother and father, the siblings — to reach their potential. AVANCE is about strengthening families and giving each individual an opportunity to grow and develop and to build the self-confidence and the competence of each individual within a family in a community context. AVANCE lives up to its mission of “Unlocking America's Potential” by guiding families on how to best provide for the well-being of their children based on their family practices. AVANCE educators use literacy and reading as a focal point in all their training in child development and special topics such as nutrition, discipline, and school readiness. AVANCE, Spanish word meaning “advance”, helps families progress by providing the tools many need to succeed such as literacy, ESL and GED classes. Although the child is the focal point, AVANCE recognizes that the family and the community must work together to help children achieve and become successful members of our society.

2007 Winner

Sesame Workshop – the nonprofit educational organization that changed television forever with the legendary *Sesame Street*. As the single largest informal educator of young children, local *Sesame Street* programs produced in countries as diverse as South Africa, Bangladesh and India are making a difference in over 120 nations. Using proprietary research to create engaging and enriching content, Sesame Workshop produces programs such as *Dragon Tales* and *Pinky Dinky Doo*. In addition, multimedia needs-driven initiatives provide families tools for addressing such issues as children's health, military deployment and emergency preparedness. As a nonprofit, product proceeds and philanthropic support endow Sesame Workshop's educational research and creative content for children around the world.

2006 Winner

Book'em – a non-profit organization focusing on two core areas: providing volunteer readers to local preschools, Head Start centers, and elementary schools; and the collection and distribution of new books to children in lower-income families who might not otherwise have books of their own. Founded in Nashville in 1989, Book'em believes that given an early start, children learn not just to read, but to love reading.

2005 Winner

WQED-Pittsburgh – an organization whose programs and offerings advance literacy education. In addition to broadcasting many educational programs for children, WQED has consistently emphasized literacy in its range of services to the Pittsburgh community. Currently, it sponsors a Reading Rainbow Young Writers and Illustrators Contest every year, a summer multimedia camp for teens, online courses for teachers' professional development year round, and an "Activities-On-the-Go" kit for school age children in after school programs. The station maintains an Education and Community Resource Center open to the public that celebrates the educational powers of public broadcasting. Joanne Yatvin, NCTE Vice President and Chair of the Literacy Award selection committee, said, “We gave the Literacy Award to WQED because they have such a long history of service to their community and to education. They brought Mr. Rogers to the attention of the world, and have continued to have many continuing programs for teachers and children.”

2004 Winner

School on Wheels – Indianapolis – an organization formed to address the homeless situation by enhancing homeless children’s education during the time of crisis in their lives. School on Wheels administers individualized tutoring services through the use of volunteer tutors to work exclusively with a child once a week at no cost to the shelter or the family. Additionally, an integral part of the School on Wheels mission is to ensure that the children tutored have school supplies. A backpack filled with school supplies is given to each child in need. School on Wheels helps to supply uniforms so that the children may fit in with their peers and maintain a better focus on school.

2003 Winners

826 Valencia – San Francisco organization started by a community of writers offering free drop-in tutoring in writing, as well as workshops and storytelling to students of all ages **and**
Oral Lee Brown – an Oakland, CA, real estate agent who created the Oral Lee Brown Foundation to provide support to educational support to low income children

2002 Winner

Pearl Cleage – Atlanta-based author, poet, essayist, playwright and former columnist

2001 Winner

Kelly and Cal Ripken, Jr. – Established the Kelly and Cal Ripken, Jr. Foundation which supports community adult and family literacy programs in the greater Baltimore area and the Baltimore Reads Ripken Learning Center, a laboratory for innovative adult education and instruction.

2000 Winner

Darlyne Haertlein, Supervisor of Community Relations for Milwaukee Public Television – Works with the Mister Rogers Neighborhood Sweater Drive, Reading Rainbow Contest Workshop, the First Book Project, Story Times and Vacation Station.

1999 Winner

Latin American Research and Service Agency (LARASA) – Developed a neighborhood support and parent leadership development project called Amigos de la Comunidad (Friends of the Community) Program

1998 Winner

100 Black Men of Middle Tennessee – Sponsored the “Read to Achieve” Program **and**
Dolly Parton, The Dollywood Foundation – Founded the “Imagination Library” project

1997 Winner

Oprah Winfrey – Talk show host who has shown a strong commitment to education and promotes literacy across the country through the book club (which she promotes on her show.)

1996 Winner

Senator Thad Cochran (R-MS) and Representative George Miller (D-CA) – Instrumental in funding the National Writing Project.

1995 Winner

Kevin Johnson – Phoenix Suns Basketball Player and founder of St. Hope Academy, which helps Sacramento youth with personal and academic achievement.

1994 Winner

LeVar Burton - Host and producer of “Reading Rainbow”, a PBS program that seeks to instill a love of reading in young viewers.

1993 Winner

Governor Roy Romer (Colorado) - First Chairperson of the National Education Goals Panel.

1992 No Award Given

1991 Winner

Julia Palmer – Former Executive Director of the American Reading Council and a New York City activist who has devoted nearly 40 years to bringing books and effective reading instruction to low-income children and adults in New York City.

1990 Winner

Mayor Kurt L. Schmoke (Baltimore, Maryland) - Created the Baltimore City Literacy Corporation and Baltimore Reads, Inc.

1989 Winner

First Lady Barbara Bush - Instrumental in launching Literacy Year and a key figure in the Right to Read program prior to her role as First Lady where she continued to focus on literacy