



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NCFL receives 2020 Library of Congress Literacy Award

David M. Rubenstein Special Response Award highlights programmatic innovation amidst COVID-19

Louisville, KY (Thursday, September 10, 2020)—The National Center for Families Learning (NCFL) has been awarded a 2020 Library of Congress Literacy Award for its responsiveness to the country’s unique needs in these unprecedented times. NCFL was one of three organizations to receive the 2020 David M. Rubenstein Special Response Award, the Library of Congress announced today. This makes NCFL a two-time Library of Congress awardee, having won the American Prize in 2017.

Originated by Rubenstein in 2013, the Literacy Awards annually honor organizations that carry out exemplary, innovative work to promote literacy across the U.S. The Special Response Award was specifically created to highlight outstanding work addressing challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic and recent social unrest. NCFL will receive \$50,000 and participate in a virtual best practices conference along with other award recipients and best practice nominees.

“It is an honor for the National Center for Families Learning to be recognized a second time by the Library of Congress for our work,” NCFL President and Founder Sharon Darling said. “So many families across the country are struggling as a result of this global pandemic. Families deserve the opportunity to gain valuable literacy and employability skills that lead to positive contributions in their communities and economic self-sufficiency. Their commitment in these especially challenging times has driven our work.”

During the COVID-19 pandemic, NCFL has sought to close the digital divide by partnering with school districts and other community-based organizations to provide technology and Wi-Fi access, including mobile bus hotspots in Maryland. This allowed for real-time COVID-19 response conversations to be conducted with thousands of practitioners across the country, including hundreds of American Indian practitioners in NCFL’s [Family and Child Education \(FACE\) program](#). In Kentucky, Texas, and Colorado, NCFL packaged kits full of engaging, educational books and materials to be shared with families. As an organization, NCFL also responded to recent instances of social unrest.

“Literacy powers the pursuit of learning, knowledge and opportunity around the world, and now we are challenged to find new ways to teach and learn due to the COVID-19 pandemic,” said Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden. “The Library of Congress is proud to work with David Rubenstein in honoring the innovative achievements of these organizations in advancing reading in the United States and worldwide.”

About the National Center for Families Learning

The National Center for Families Learning (NCFL) is a national nonprofit that works to eradicate poverty through education solutions for families. Partnering with educators, literacy advocates, and policymakers, NCFL develops and provides programming, professional development, and resources from the classroom to the community that empower and raise families to achieve their potential. For more information on NCFL, visit familieslearning.org.

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