



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Contact: Vinny Hughes, Operations Manager

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202.347.9467 ext 17

Everybody Wins! DC Hosts End-of-Year Celebration with Power Lunch Reading Mentors (US Senators and Staffers), with Community Partner CareFirst and a Special Dedication by Sallie Mae, Building Hope and Reading is Fundamental on Tuesday, June 2, 2009.

For the past fourteen years, Everybody Wins! DC (EW!DC) has unwaveringly brought community resources in the form of caring Reading Mentors as well as community partners to help fill unmet needs at many of the District of Columbia's neediest schools. The end-of-year celebration for the Power Lunch Senate Members and Staffers recognizes individuals who faithfully donate one lunch hour each week throughout the school year to read one-on-one with an underserved student as well as recognizing community partners for their commitment to creating unparalleled educational opportunities to the youth of the District of Columbia.

While the event setting is special, Russell Senate Office Building, and the volunteers belong to a very exceptional group, United States Senators and key staffers, the relationships that develops between a caring Reading Mentor and a student dedicated to improving their reading skills are the true magic of the Power Lunch Program. More than 150 Reading Mentors will be recognized for efforts to spark a passion for learning and commitment to build their student partners self-esteem through weekly reading sessions and sharing time together.

The event will also acknowledge remarkable contributions from leading corporate and community groups including CareFirst BlueCross Blue Shield for their innovative Healthy Month Initiative program that was launched throughout EW!DC's Power Lunch Programs at fourteen Title I elementary schools and reached more than 1,000 students. The literacy and wellness program provided critical resources that enabled students to receive two free health-inspired books.

EW!DC's End-of-Year celebration will provide the venue for a special presentation of 44,000 books for distribution to Washington, DC Public, Charter and Independent Schools by Sallie Mae, Building Hope and Reading is Fundamental. The ceremony is the culmination of a book drive honoring the 44th President of the United States and reinforces each of the partners commitment to improve K-12 education in the nation's capital.

The Power Lunch Celebration will be held in the US Senate Russell Building Room 325 at 12:00 pm. For information regarding the event please contact EW!DC's Operations Manager Vinny Hughes at 202.347.9467 ext 17.