

For Immediate Release
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Cargill/ALA partnership for family literacy continues

Cargill Incorporated has awarded the American Library Association (ALA) a \$50,000 grant to continue the Cargill/ALA Family Literacy partnership program in 1993.

Administered by ALA's Office for Library Outreach Services (OLOS), the partnership encourages the development of family literacy programs through community partnerships among public libraries, Cargill locations, literacy providers and other community organizations.

"Parents and children sharing the joy of reading together is what family literacy is all about," said ALA President Marilyn Miller. "We are thrilled that so many libraries and community agencies have teamed up with Cargill locations. This outstanding response at the local level should encourage libraries everywhere to continue their efforts to provide services that help solve the problems of low literacy."

More than 150 projects addressing family literacy issues have been developed throughout the United States in 1992, the first year of the project. Cargill offices teamed up with public libraries 4-H Clubs, scouts, local literacy councils, community colleges, homeless shelters, Head Start sites, food shelves, preschools and many other organizations.

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The activities involved are as varied as the projects themselves - ranging from reading and tutoring to fund-raising and designing promotional events.

"Many of the projects will continue during the coming years and they are excellent models that will be replicated in other communities," said Joy Webster Peterson, Cargill project manager. "The response from local libraries and other community agencies has been remarkable and has resulted in outstanding benefits to family literacy programs, Cargill volunteers and their local communities."

To register a project, librarians are encouraged to contact their local Cargill business or call the ALA at 800-545-2433, ext. 4296.

Established in 1876, the ALA is the oldest and largest library association in the world. Its 56,000 members include librarians, publishers, authors, public library trustees and friends of libraries. ALA founded the National Coalition for Literacy.

Cargill has approximately 64,000 employees around the world, including 33,000 in the United States. A privately-held merchandiser, processor and transporter of agricultural and other commodities, Cargill is based in suburban Minneapolis, Minn.