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Editor's Note: Photo ops available of book donation drop-offs, volunteers reading to children and "Green Eggs & Ham" style breakfast.

EARLY LEARNING COALITION OF MIAMI-DADE/MONROE CELEBRATES NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION'S *READ ACROSS AMERICA DAY* ON MARCH 2

In a Salute to Dr. Seuss, Students at Shores School Center in Miami, Which Serves an 85% Haitian Population and Whose Families Have Been Impacted by Haiti's Earthquake, to Participate in a Special Breakfast of "Green Eggs & Ham"

*Volunteers Asked to Join the Coalition's Efforts to Visit Childcare Centers
to Read to Kids and Drop Off Book Donations*

MIAMI, February 24, 2010 – On March 2, The Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe is proud to support the National Education Association's *Read Across America Day*, with county-wide readings for children and book drop-offs. The Coalition has gathered a group of staff, board of directors and volunteers to visit 25 childcare centers throughout Miami-Dade/Monroe to read to children and provide them with books to encourage reading at an early age. The Coalition, which welcomes more community volunteers to participate, hopes to spread the word throughout the community about the day's events as well as distribute a set of Dr. Seuss books consisting of six popular titles at each of the centers.



Marking the birthday of Dr. Seuss, one of the world's most renowned children's book authors, the National Education Association launched *Read Across America Day* on March 2, 1998 to call on all children to celebrate reading, as research shows that children who are motivated to read, and read with greater frequency, do better in school. To-date it is considered one of the largest reading events in the United States.

At the Shores School Center in Miami, guests and students will celebrate one of Dr. Seuss' most popular stories, by enjoying a "Green Eggs & Ham"-style breakfast. The center is located at 545 NW 95th Street, Miami, and is owned and directed by Evelyn Ellenbogan. The center, which serves an 85 percent Haitian population, cares for many students whose families were impacted by the devastating earthquake in Haiti in January.

"The Early Learning Coalition believes encouraging children to read at an early age helps set them up to succeed in school," said Evelio C. Torres, president/CEO, Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe. "That is why we support programs like the National Education Association's *Read Across*

America Day because it helps further our mission by motivating children to enjoy reading."

The mission of the Early Learning Coalition is to promote high-quality school readiness, voluntary pre-kindergarten and after school programs that will increase all children's chances of achieving future educational success and becoming productive members of society. In the past year, the Early Learning Coalition has

donated more than 100,000 books to childcare centers in Miami-Dade and Monroe counties so that children may take them home and start their own libraries.

For more information, or to help share your time with the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe as a volunteer on *Read Across America Day*, please call Kerry Allen at (305) 646-7220, ext. 239 or visit <http://www.elcmdm.org>.

About the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe

The Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe is one of 31 similar organizations in the state of Florida. It is the state's largest and most diverse, serving more than 50,000 children from birth to age 12. The Coalition's programs consist of School Readiness, Voluntary Pre-kindergarten, Child Care Resource and Referral Services, Assessment and Inclusion programs, and Quality Initiatives. Across all of its programs, the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe has served more than 142,000 children between 2005 and 2009.

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