



## **National Center for Families Learning awarded Library of Congress American Prize for Literacy**

*Louisville-based NCFL honored for work to promote literacy and reading in the U.S. and worldwide*

**LOUISVILLE, Ky. (September 6, 2017)** – Nearly 30 years of dedication by the National Center for Families Learning (NCFL) to eradicate poverty through educational solutions for families is being recognized by the Library of Congress Literacy Awards. More than 2 million families have participated in NCFL programs since 1989. September 1, NCFL president and founder Sharon Darling accepted the American Prize and \$50,000 on behalf of NCFL at the Library of Congress National Book Festival gala in Washington, D.C.

“It is an honor for the National Center for Families Learning to be recognized by the Library of Congress among many outstanding organizations,” Darling said. “Every day across the country parents are experiencing hope and optimism for their futures because they are gaining valuable literacy and employability skills that empower them to contribute to their communities and achieve economic self-sufficiency through the NCFL Family Learning model. Children are seeing their parents work hard and reap the benefits. NCFL is seeing families lift themselves out of poverty, breaking a long-standing cycle. This award represents our efforts but the honor belongs to the millions of families who have taken ownership to improve their own lives over the past 28 years.”

The Library of Congress Literacy America prize was originated in 2013 by philanthropist David M. Rubenstein to honor an organization that has made significant contributions to literacy in the United States. NCFL was recognized as doing exemplary, innovative, and replicable work.

NCFL works with more than 140 community partners across the U.S. Its Family Learning model is research-based and consists of adult skill building, child skill building, Parent and Child Together (PACT) Time®, and Parent Time. High impact strategies used in the model include Family Service Learning, digital integration, and deliberate social capital building.

Parents learn how to better work and learn together with their children, while also building employability, technology, and language skills. Data shows:

- 50 percent of adults participating in 2017 got a better job
- 53 percent upgraded their skills to earn more money after gaining experience with 40 out of 42 career and technical education skills

Additionally, an independent evaluation from Penn State University of participants graduating from NCFL Family Learning in 2016 shows that 94 percent became a better parent, 79 percent improved their English skills, 28 percent obtained the knowledge necessary to pass the U.S. citizenship test, and 29 percent earned a GED® certificate or high school equivalency

Rubenstein is the co-founder and co-chief executive officer of The Carlyle Group. He is a major benefactor of the Library of Congress and the chairman of the Library's lead donor group, the James Madison Council.

The Library of Congress is the world's largest library, offering access to the creative record of the U.S., and extensive materials from around the world, both on-site and online.

### **ABOUT NATIONAL CENTER FOR FAMILIES LEARNING**

The National Center for Families Learning (NCFL) is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to eradicating 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](http://familieslearning.org).

### **Media Contacts**

Karen Richardson  
National Center for Families Learning  
[krichardson@familieslearning.org](mailto:krichardson@familieslearning.org)  
502-296-7634