

Alberto M. Carvalho, Associate Superintendent  
Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, Grants Administration, and Community Services

**SUBJECT: REQUEST AUTHORIZATION TO ACCEPT \$100,000 IN IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS THROUGH THE HEART OF AMERICA FOUNDATION'S READESIGN™ PROGRAM TO RENOVATE AND FURNISH A SCHOOL LIBRARY**

**COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Authorization is requested to accept \$100,000, in in-kind contributions through the Heart of America Foundation's READesign™ program to renovate and furnish a library at a Miami-Dade County public school. Founded in 1997, the Heart of America Foundation has a mission to give children the tools they need to read, succeed, and make a difference. Their programs combine literacy, character education, and service learning. The Foundation has touched the lives of 850,000 children since its inception and has donated over one million books.

Heart of America has partnered with the NFL Players Association (NFLPA) to host a Super Bowl XLI event on Saturday, January, 27, 2007. Their READesign™ "library makeover" will transform a Miami-Dade elementary school media center by redecorating, revitalizing technology, and replenishing bookshelves with titles students will want to read and resources that will help teachers in the classroom. Nationally, school libraries average 22 books per pupil, and Heart of America aims to bring the collection of the school chosen up to the national average.

The criteria for the school selection has been set by Heart of America and the NFLPA, which includes:

- School must serve at least 60 percent low-income children;
- School must be in close radius of NFL headquarter hotels;
- School must have a paid library staff or plan to recruit one;
- School must demonstrate ability to maintain access to the library by all students; and
- School must demonstrate the ability to sustain the new library.

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Heart of America will provide and be responsible for the following:

- Conduct thorough assessment of school library needs;
- Provide options for design, materials, and furnishings recommended by professional library designer;
- Host pre-service orientations for sponsoring organization(s) and/or community volunteer groups and introduce them to the school;
- Locate materials and resources for student-designed elements;
- Deliver materials a week or less prior to the day of makeover;
- Plan Read-a-thon event and activities;
- Alert the media to the READesign™ project and day-of-makeover activities;
- Provide all materials;
- Provide professionals to supervise painting and carpentry;
- Provide volunteers for cleaning, painting, assembling furniture, scanning and shelving books, setting up computers, creating bulletin boards, delivering new books to classrooms and other duties as required;
- Provide volunteers to greet parents and children, read, distribute books, conduct activities, and serve lunch at the “Read-a-thon;”
- Provide lunch and door prizes for families and students;
- Provide photo/media releases for students, parents, school staff, and volunteers; and
- Document the activities with photo/video.

In return, the District will be asked to administer pre-makeover and post-makeover assessments, as well as prepare an impact statement detailing how READesign has affected the school and its students. There is no cost to the District.

According to these criteria, the District will identify Title I elementary schools from Regional Center IV for consideration. The Foundation will select one elementary school to receive the READesign™ library makeover in January 2007, and the Board will be subsequently informed.

**RECOMMENDED:** That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent of Schools to accept \$100,000, in in-kind contributions through the Heart of America Foundation’s READesign™ program to renovate and furnish a library at one Miami-Dade County elementary public school.

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