



The Education Foundation of Odessa Receives Grant from the Dollar General Literacy Foundation to Support Youth Literacy Initiatives in Ector County ISD

Odessa, Texas – September 30, 2020 –Dollar General Literacy Foundation recently awarded the Ector County ISD Education Foundation (dba Education Foundation of Odessa) a \$4,000 grant to support youth literacy initiatives. This local grant award is part of more than \$4 million in grants awarded this fall to nearly 850 nonprofit organizations, libraries and schools across the 46 states that Dollar General serves.

“This generous grant from the Dollar General Literacy Foundation will impact Ector County ISD students in grades Pre-K through 1st grade through our Bookworms Literacy Program,” says Education Foundation Director, Celeste Potter. “For the 2020-2021 school year there are more than 6,000 students benefitting from the Bookworms Literacy Program each month. Gifts, like this one, are what enables us to give the gift of reading to the students in ECISD.”

Bookworms Literacy Program is designed to help increase literacy and foster a life-long love of reading. Each month students will read along to a story in class and then receive a book to take home to keep in an effort to promote at-home family reading.

Through the Bookworms Literacy Program we will foster a love of reading by providing developmentally appropriate books to students in ECISD, grades Pre-K through 1st grade. These books will be gifts to the students to take home and grow their own home library! If reading does not take place in the home as well as in school, it can be very difficult to convince children that reading is fun and necessary for a successful education, as well as a pursuit of their future occupation.

The primary objective of the Bookworms Literacy Program is to reinforce at home what the student has learned about books and reading in school. Students will:

- ✓ Recognize that every word they speak can be represented by print, in books, as well as in their own written creations;
- ✓ Hold their books correctly and understand that they must read from the left to the right and from the top to the bottom;
- ✓ Identify and recognize the importance of the different parts of their books;
- ✓ Begin to identify the elements of a story such as the setting, characters, and main idea;
- ✓ Learn to use key elements of the book such as illustrations to predict what may happen in the story.

The Bookworms Literacy Program is fully funded through grants/donations made to the Education Foundation of Odessa. For information on how you can help grow this program, please call 432-456-7059.

“This year, many teachers, libraries and literacy organizations are facing new challenges as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic,” said Todd Vasos, Dollar General’s chief executive officer and Dollar General Literacy Foundation board member. “Despite the unprecedented obstacles, we admire the tremendous efforts and commitments from educators as they work to provide students with the tools they need to develop their literacy skills. We hope these funds will help support their plans to advance learning and deliver quality instruction in our hometown communities.”

The Dollar General Literacy Foundation is proud to support initiatives that help others improve their lives through literacy and education. Since its inception in 1993, the Dollar General Literacy Foundation has awarded more than \$186 million in grants to nonprofit organizations, helping more than 12 million individuals take their first steps toward literacy or continued education.

About the Education Foundation of Odessa

Over the past twenty years, the Education Foundation of Odessa has worked to improve the culture of education in ECISD schools and our community, and to ensure students graduate and have the opportunity to continue their education at a higher level. The Education Foundation of Odessa is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, tax-exempt, philanthropic organization of citizens who share a vision of enhancing education in ECISD. The Education Foundation of Odessa provides a new and innovative source of funding to support the school district's educational plan. The Foundation does not attempt to replace lost state funding, nor does it attempt to take the place of the district's operating budget. When considering the level of funding required to educate students, the Foundation can expect only to provide funds for those projects and activities that go beyond the normal classroom experience. Such initiatives provide enrichment, research opportunities, teacher training, intervention and prevention strategies and extend the educational effort.

The mission of the Education Foundation is to create opportunities for education in Ector County ISD. Our vision is that every student in ECISD will be school-ready, college-ready, work-ready... WORLD-READY!

About the Dollar General Literacy Foundation

The Dollar General Literacy Foundation is proud to support initiatives that help others improve their lives through literacy and education. Since 1993, the Foundation has awarded more than \$186 million in grants to nonprofit organizations, helping more than 12 million individuals take their first steps toward literacy, a general education diploma or English proficiency. Each year, the Dollar General Literacy Foundation provides financial support to schools, nonprofit organizations and libraries within a 15-mile radius of Dollar General stores and distribution centers. To learn more about the Dollar General Literacy Foundation or apply for a literacy grant, visit www.dgliteracy.org.

About Dollar General Corporation

Dollar General Corporation has been delivering value to shoppers for more than 80 years through its mission of **Serving Others**. Dollar General helps shoppers Save time. Save money. Every day!® by offering products that are frequently used and replenished, such as food, snacks, health and beauty aids, cleaning supplies, basic apparel, housewares and seasonal items at everyday low prices in convenient neighborhood locations. Dollar General operated 16,720 stores in 46 states as of July 31, 2020. In addition to high-quality private brands, Dollar General sells products from America's most-trusted manufacturers such as Clorox, Energizer, Procter & Gamble, Hanes, Coca-Cola, Mars, Unilever, Nestle, Kimberly-Clark, Kellogg's, General Mills, and PepsiCo. Learn more about Dollar General at www.dollargeneral.com.

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