Enterprise awards $600,000 matching gift for groundbreaking business initiative

By Patricia Merritt
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In celebration of the nationwide Read Across America Day and Dr. Seuss’ birthday on Friday, March 1, SIUE Head Start and the Gateway Chapter of the Links, Incorporated promoted literacy with the reading of Dr. Seuss’ One Fish Two Fish Red Fish Blue Fish at Head Start’s Discovery Center for Little Scholars at the East St. Louis Higher Education Campus.

The Links also donated more than $1,000 in merchandise to various SIUE Head Start centers throughout St. Clair County. The women’s organization gave away a microwave, a Keurig, a white table, soil for gardening, a assorted kitchenware, and four corner center organizers.

“We see service organization that believes in the importance of literacy and education,” said Judith Griffin, chair of the Links’ Services to Youth. “We want to help our children to do well in school and to become successful citizens. That is why we chose Head Start to receive these gifts.”

The Links, Incorporated, one of the country’s oldest and largest service organizations, is an international, not-for-profit corporation established in 1946. Membership consists of more than 15,000 professional women of African descent in 288 chapters in 42 states.

The Gateway Chapter of the Links, Incorporated, was chartered in 1986.

At a reception recently in St. Louis, Enterprise Holdings Foundation awarded $600,000 to The HistoryMakers to help raise the profile and public understanding of African-American achievement in business. The grant will help develop the most comprehensive video recording of the lives, careers, and accomplishments of African-American business leaders.

“We are thrilled that the Enterprise Holdings Foundation has chosen to support our work in this way,” said Julieanna Richardson, founder and president of The HistoryMakers. “Because of this generous gift, The HistoryMakers will be able to begin the process of interviewing African-American business leaders.” Richardson added that the contribution was in response to a 9 to 1 challenge grant from Dorothy Tandell, former president of San Microcyn, Inc., to develop the definitive recording of African American business leaders. The grant will help develop the BusinessMakers category to the collection – increasing its repositories.

The HistoryMakers BusinessMakers category currently includes the interviews of over 300 business leaders in 81 cities and towns. Some of these already featured in the current BusinessMakers category include Motown founder Berry Gordy; founder of African American business leaders to the public, while encouraging future leaders of tomorrow.”

“I am pleased to join The HistoryMakersBusi- nessMakers category to help The HistoryMakers tell the untold stories of both well-known and among African-Americans in the country, including Jack Warner, former CEO at Warner Bros. Pictures; Ursula Burns, former CEO at Xerox; Priscilla Hill-Ardoin, a social entrepreneur and former Xerox H. Johnson; John Chenault; Merck & Co., Inc. board of directors and former American Express CEO Kent Chenault; Blodgett Co., Inc. CEO Ken Frazier; Johnson Publishing founder John H. Johnson; former Xerox CFO Edward Burns; Moorea founder Berry Gordy; façade founder Cathy Hughes; The Enterprise Holdings Foundation; and there are no African Americans in business leaders of the past, currently, the history of African-American business leaders is in any of the nation’s repositories.

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