



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

## Public Library

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Library's Adult Literacy Program Receives National Award from American Library Association**

*Program Provides Services to More Than 1,000 Students Annually*

**SAN DIEGO** – READ/San Diego, the City of San Diego Public Library's adult literacy program, has been chosen by the American Library Association to receive the prestigious Advancement of Literacy Award. READ/San Diego is a free literacy, English as a second language and family literacy instruction service for adults 18 years and older.

"I am extremely pleased that the American Library Association has recognized READ/San Diego for its accomplishments in improving literacy," said City Library Director Anna Tatár. "Library staff and volunteers have helped make this program a national model."

Established in 1984, the Advancement of Literacy Award honors a publisher, bookseller, hardware and/or software dealer, foundation or similar group that has made a significant contribution to the advancement of adult literacy. Criteria used for judging nominations include amount of support given to libraries for literacy projects, evidence of long-term commitment to literacy, and encouragement provided to other groups to undertake similar activity. A plaque will be awarded at the American Library Association's annual conference, held this year from June 22-28 in New Orleans. The awards event is sponsored by *The Library Journal*.

Recent past recipients of the Advancement of Literacy Award include Verizon Foundation (2005); Elizabeth Fischer, Subrata De and Tom Brokaw of "Dateline NBC," NBC News (2004); Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities (2003); Center for Literacy, Philadelphia (2002); *The Providence Journal* (2001); Starbucks Foundation (2000); Lila Wallace, Reader's Digest Fund and Mount Clemens Rotary Club (co-winners) (1999).

READ/San Diego began in 1988 with seed funding by the California State Library. Staffed by literacy professionals, the adult literacy program coordinates the efforts of volunteer reading tutors and cooperates with local adult schools, community colleges and other literacy education providers in making and receiving student referrals. Each year, the program assists more than 1,000 adult learners from various backgrounds and learning levels.

In 2004, READ/San Diego was named one of the top community partnerships in the nation by the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Vocational and Adult Education.

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