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For Immediate Release

A Polar Bear and a Goose, Unlikely yet Splendid Friends, Indeed!

Pennsylvania Initiative Promotes Early Childhood Literacy

(PITTSBURGH, PA – March 12, 2007) In April, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh (CLP) celebrates the importance of early childhood literacy as a participant in Pennsylvania's One Book, Every Young Child program. Now in its second year, the statewide program provides free books to children through childcare centers, Head Start programs and libraries to encourage parents and adults to actively engage in reading. Through its own events, CLP will give away more than 1200 books to children and to Pittsburgh Public School kindergarten classrooms. This year's book selection, *A Splendid Friend, Indeed*, focuses on friendship. It tells the tale of a talkative goose who endears himself to a grouchy polar bear who doesn't want to be interrupted.

To celebrate One Book, Every Young Child, *A Splendid Friend, Indeed*, author and illustrator, Suzanne Bloom will make two appearances at CLP – Main in Oakland on Sunday, April 22 at 1:00 pm and 4:30 pm. She will meet with children during a free event to talk about the characters and the creation of her book as well as sign autographs for fans. The event, held in cooperation with the Pittsburgh Association for the Education of Young Children, Read! 365 and Beginning with Books, will take place from 1 - 5 pm. During the day families can learn about animal habitats, go on a bear hunt, play book bingo and listen to stories.

In addition, all CLP neighborhood locations will host their own free events throughout the month. Children's librarians will read *A Splendid Friend, Indeed* and host activities, games and crafts.

Schedule of Events:

Saturday, March 31 – (1:00 PM) CLP – Carrick;

Saturday, April 7 - (11:30 AM) CLP – Knoxville;

Friday, April 12 - (11:00 AM) CLP – Lawrenceville;

Saturday, April 14 – (10:30 AM) CLP – West End; (11:00 AM) CLP – Beechview, CLP – Squirrel Hill & CLP - Woods Run; (11:30 AM) CLP - Hill District & CLP – Southside; (12:00 PM) CLP - East Liberty; (1:00 PM) CLP – Hazelwood; (2:00 PM) CLP – Sheraden;

Monday, April 16 (6:00 PM) CLP – Squirrel Hill;

Saturday, April 21 (1:00 PM) CLP - Mt. Washington; (2:00 PM) CLP – Homewood;

Sunday, April 22 (12:00 PM) CLP – Main in Oakland;

Saturday, April 28 (2:00 PM) CLP – Brookline

Research shows that children between the ages of 3 and 6 that are read to on a regular basis do better in school and grow up to be well-adjusted adults. In Pennsylvania, 560,000 children fall within the targeted age range, many of whom are enrolled in the state's childcare facilities, Head Start programs, licensed preschools or private kindergartens.

For additional information contact Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh at 412-622-3114 or visit www.carnegielibrary.org.

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About Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh

“Free to the People” since 1895

Established as a public trust in 1895, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh serves the citizens of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County with a distinguished history of leadership among the country’s great public libraries. Through its 19 neighborhood locations, including Main Library and the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh is the region’s most visited asset. Each year the Library provides more than 6,000 free programs, classes and other learning and training opportunities that are tailored to meet the dynamic and diverse needs of people living in Western Pennsylvania.