

For Immediate Release

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Ingham Great Start Collaborative Providing Children's Literacy Development Workshops

Ingham Great Start Collaborative (GSC) is providing virtual workshops for families of three-year-old children engaging them in literacy development. Ingham offered these workshops to over 250 families whose students were eligible for Head Start but were unable to get into a preschool program. The workshops, being conducted in a five-week series, were made possible through the Engaging Families in Early Literacy (EFEL) grant provided by the Capital Area United Way.

To assist families with the workshops, all of the materials needed for activities such as crayons, paper, books, handouts, etc. were provided. GSC partners supplemented these materials; PNC Bank provided Grow Up Great resources and bags for families to keep all the materials together, Capital Area District Library system provided pencils, notebooks and library resources, and GLG Print Company donated note pads and pens. The bags were assembled and mailed or delivered to families by Ingham ISD.

The National Center for Families Learning (NCFL) actually celebrates National Literacy Month during November. They recognize this as an opportunity to showcase the important role that families play in the education of their children. NCFL (www.familieslearning.org) offers a variety of resources and tips on their website.

"We are very excited to offer these virtual workshops to families around the importance of early literacy development, and the important role that families have in supporting their child's development," notes Michelle Nicholson, Executive Director of Early Childhood Services at Ingham Intermediate School District and Co-Coordinator of the Great Start Collaborative. "We are grateful for the grant support from the Capital Area United Way that allows us to provide this service to a specific group of families, that would otherwise be waiting for services," Nicholson also noted.

Ingham Intermediate School District offers programs and services to staff and students in the districts of Dansville, East Lansing, Haslett, Holt, Lansing, Leslie, Mason, Okemos, Stockbridge, Waverly, Webberville and Williamston. For more information, visit our website Ingham ISD (www.inghamisd.org).

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