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Spokane County Reading Program for Low Income Children to Benefit from Grant from Avista Foundation

SPOKANE, Wash. Sept. 8, 2011: [Humanities Washington](#) in collaboration with [Community-Minded Enterprises](#), has received a \$4,000 grant from the [Avista Foundation](#) to help fund a literacy training program for low-income child care providers in Spokane County, Wash.

The grant provides funds to support training for 20 licensed, in-home childcare providers for a family reading program. In addition, funds will help provide free books for classrooms and to send home with the children in their care, as well as take-home activities to engage parents in their children's at-home learning.

"We know that just over 50 percent of Washington's kindergarten students enter school prepared to learn. Offering this literacy program in partnership with Humanities Washington will give us the opportunity to provide important training to care givers in our region to help them – and the children's parents – provide reading readiness opportunities to build a solid educational foundation for each child in their care," said Kathy Thamm, initiative director, Community-Minded Enterprises.

"We are very pleased to make this grant through our foundation. All too often educational and community resources are stretched beyond capacity. Avista is proud to be an active partner with these organizations to enhance learning opportunities for low income children, better preparing them for a successful school experience," said Dennis Vermillion, president of Avista Utilities and member of the Board of Directors of the Avista Foundation.

About the Avista Foundation

The Avista Foundation, established in 2002, focuses its giving on grants that strengthen communities and enhance the quality of life for people served by Avista Utilities in eastern Washington, northern Idaho, southern Oregon and Sanders County, Montana. The foundation focuses its giving in the areas of:

- education – K-12 education particularly in the fields of science, math and technology; and higher education including scholarships,
- vulnerable and limited income populations – providing assistance to those on limited incomes and support for initiatives to reduce poverty,
- economic and cultural vitality – supporting projects that help communities and citizens to grow and prosper.

Information on the Avista Foundation is available at www.avistafoundation.org .
The Avista Foundation is a separate, non-profit organization established by Avista Corp. The foundation does not receive funding from Avista Utilities ratepayers.

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