



State of New Mexico

Office of the Governor

Bill Richardson
Governor

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Contact: Marsha Catron
505-476-2248

First Lady Barbara Richardson Urges New Mexicans to Read Together on Friday

Will Donate 500 New Books to UNM Children's Hospital

SANTA FE- First Lady Barbara Richardson, as Ambassador of Reading for New Mexico, is inviting all New Mexicans to join with children statewide to participate in a read-a-thon on Friday. The First Lady will read with children at the UNM Children's Hospital as part of Scholastic Read For 2005, the sixth annual children's read-a-thon.

"Education is a top priority of the Richardson administration. I cannot think of a more urgent task than inspiring our children, through our own excitement and participation, to discover the joy of books," said First Lady Barbara Richardson. "Research tells us that children who learn to read well in their early academic years will excel in their later years."

Initiated in 1999 by Scholastic, Read For 2005 encourages children, parents and teachers to read together for one day with the hope that their reading will continue for days to come. Scholastic Read For 2005 will take place worldwide on Friday, December 3, 2004. Students, teachers and families are urged to participate in this meaningful event by reading together for 2,005 seconds (approximately 33 1/3 minutes).

The First Lady will read one of 500 new books being donated by Scholastic to children at the UNM Children's Hospital. The event will take place at **10:00 a.m.** at the **Child Life**

Program at UNM Children's Hospital, located on 2211 Lomas Blvd. in Albuquerque, on Friday December 3, 2004.

* Media planning on attending should park on the top level of the Lomas Parking Garage and enter the building from the 3rd floor walkway.

For more information on Scholastic Read For 2005 log-on to www.scholastic.com/readfor2005 <<http://www.scholastic.com/readfor2005>>.

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