



State of New Mexico

Office of the Governor

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

Will Donate 500 New Books to First Step Pediatric Clinic in Las Cruces

SANTA FE – First Lady Barbara Richardson, an 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 to elementary school children from Hatch School District at the New Mexico Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum as part of Scholastic Read for 2006, the seventh annual children's read-a-thon.

"I am a fervent advocate for literacy," said First Lady Barbara Richardson. "The most important gift parents can give their children is the knowledge that reading and writing are keys to opportunity and enduring success."

Initiated in 1999 by Scholastic, Read for 2006 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 2006 will take place worldwide on Friday, December 2, 2005. Student, teachers and families are urged to participate in this meaningful event by reading together for 2,006 seconds (approximately 33 1/3 minutes).

The First Lady will read one of 500 books being donated by Scholastic to First Step Pediatric Clinic to children at the New Mexico Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum. The event will take place at **11:00 a.m. in the museum's theater, located at 4100 Dripping Springs Road in Las Cruces on Friday, December 2, 2005.**

For more information on Scholastic Read for 2005 log-on to <http://teacher.scholastic.com/readfor2006/index.htm>