



kalamazoo literacy council
#EveryoneNeedsToRead

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Read and Seed Offers Family Literacy Day in an Outdoor Classroom

KALAMAZOO, MI *July 13, 2021* The Kalamazoo Literacy Council (KLC) and Goodwill Industries of Southwestern Michigan are hosting a Read and Seed Family Literacy Day on Tuesday, July 27, 2021, from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. to introduce the Read and Seed Community Garden and Interpretive Learning Center at 420 E. Alcott St. in Kalamazoo.

This event will feature multi-generational learning activities for adult learners and families to have fun learning together in the newly upgraded outdoor classroom. The event is designed for adult learners enrolled in the services provided by the KLC and the Adult Education and Training Program at Goodwill. Parents from the Edison neighborhood and the broader Kalamazoo community are especially encouraged to visit. Media partners are also invited to participate.

“This is a great opportunity for parents to gain hands-on experience in strategies that will help them support their children’s learning in an exciting outdoor classroom,” KLC Executive Director Michael D. Evans said. “The activities hosted at the Read and Seed Community Garden and Interpretive Learning Center will help address the summer slide for parents and children in a fun and engaging way.”

Attendees will take part in art and literacy projects for summer learning along with health and nutrition demonstrations. They will also receive tips on how to improve literacy skills at home, learn about volunteer opportunities, and receive information about the adult learning services provided by the KLC and Goodwill. This includes the Parent Literacy Together program, which helps equip adult learners to be more confident and capable first teachers of their children.

Read and Seed Family Literacy Day will also include a tour of the Adult Education Wing of Goodwill, which houses The Reading Center at Goodwill, the Adult Education and Training Program, computer lab, and the new Childcare Center. The Childcare Center offers free childcare

for parents of children ages 0-4 who are enrolled in adult learning services. Weekly classes for Parent Literacy and Financial Literacy are provided along with tutoring for adult learners.

The community garden features fruits and vegetables, such as peppers, tomatoes, eggplant, squash, pumpkins, corn, berries, and mustard greens. The outdoor classroom includes easels, books, tablets, and wi-fi. We have special garden-themed activities designed for young children and parents to promote literacy skills around gardening and healthy living.

The Read and Seed Community Garden and Interpretive Learning Center and the Parent Literacy Together program are supported in part by Shared Prosperity Kalamazoo, Harold and Grace Upjohn Foundation, Marvin and Rosalie Okun Foundation, Kalamazoo Community Foundation, and the Irving S. Gilmore Foundation, among other supports. Program partners include The Kalamazoo Promise, Talking is Teaching, Kalamazoo County Great Start Collaborative, Kalamazoo Public Library, and the WMU McGinnis Reading Center and Clinic.

For details about this event or to RSVP, please contact Parent Literacy Navigator Lauren Kiesling at (269) 348-0480 or email lkiesling@kalamazooliteracy.org. For more about the KLC's adult literacy programs and services, visit kalamazooliteracy.org.