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**Jesse White and the Illinois Literacy Foundation Celebrate Family Reading Night
at the Evanston Public Library**

Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White and the Illinois Literacy Foundation celebrated annual Family Reading Night by encouraging parents and caregivers to read with their children at Evanston Public Library (EPL).

“Today, we highlight the importance of reading together,” said White. “Reading increases a child’s vocabulary and allows them to perform better in school. I encourage all caregivers to read with their children as it increases their love for learning.”

During Jammie Story Time, hosted by EPL, White read a book to children ages 2 through 9. Neighborhood children and their parents participated by reading with White. Afterward, participants enjoyed a variety of stories and songs.

“We celebrate reading and families every day at Evanston Public Library. We’re grateful to State Librarian Jesse White for visiting our Library with stories and books for children,” said Evanston Public Library Director, Karen Danczak Lyons.

The Illinois Literacy Foundation donated over 200 books to participants in attendance. Titles include “Guess How Much I Love You” by Sam McBratney and Anita Jeram, “Chicka Chicka Boom Boom” by Bill Martin, Jr. and John Archambault, “Eating the Alphabet” by Lois Ehlert and “Are You My Mother?” by P.D. Eastman.

The Illinois Literacy Foundation’s mission is to enhance literacy awareness and support literacy programs throughout Illinois. The foundation has focused on Pre-K learning and early education. For 25 years, the Secretary of State’s office has sponsored Family Reading Night. It is held annually on the third Thursday of November. This year’s theme was “Read – For the Win!”

For more information about Illinois Literacy Foundation, visit www.TheIllinoisLiteracyFoundation.net or contact Greta Bever at gbever@ilsos.net.

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