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NEWS RELEASE

Project Flight, Literacy Volunteers Co-Locate with Buffalo & Erie County Public Library

Partnership will work to enhance literacy in Buffalo and Erie County

BUFFALO, NY – Project Flight, a non-for-profit organization devoted to promoting child literacy in Erie County, and Literacy Volunteers of Buffalo & Erie County have moved offices and services into the Central Library of the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library System (BECPLS), in Lafayette Square in downtown Buffalo.

The collaboration will allow the three literacy service providers to create Library Literacy Centers (LLCs) and to implement other literacy programs. All three organizations will also benefit from the partnership by expanding their program offerings while substantially reducing their expenses.

“Creating a sustainable community through the creation of Library Literacy Centers and connecting learning to life is the goal of this major community-wide initiative,” explains Stanton Hudson, deputy director of the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library System. “Under one roof, these three literacy service providers will be able to more efficiently coordinate the planning, management, and implementation of a broad range of literacy-related services.”

“Project Flight is most grateful to the United Way for granting funds to help with the physical process of moving its operations into the BECPLS in downtown Buffalo, in support of the library’s efforts to address the educational needs of Erie County residents in need of basic skills,” says Dr. Betty Cappella, co-director of Project Flight. Chris Gibas, executive director of Literacy Volunteers, explains why the collaboration will benefit everyone involved “The partnership with the Library and Project Flight will allow us to expand our program offerings to those who need it most, while at the same time saving substantial expenses in delivering those programs.”

The Fund for Alliances, an initiative supported by United Way of Buffalo & Erie County (UWBEC), provided \$10,904 in funding for this collaboration.

“United Way is proud to assist with this inspired collaboration that results in substantially lower operating costs overall,” said Michael Weiner, president of UWBEC. “Education is one of the building blocks to a better life and improved literacy rates are one of the many ways that we can help create a better future for Buffalo & Erie County.”

For more information on Project Flight please visit www.projectflight.org or call 858-8608.

For more information on the Buffalo & Erie Public Library please visit www.buffalolib.org or call 858-8900.

For more information on the Literacy Volunteers of Buffalo & Erie County please visit www.literacybuffalo.org or call 876-8991.

To learn more about the United Way of Buffalo & Erie County, please visit www.uwbec.org.

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