



88 Spring Street, Suite 123 Seattle, WA 98104
206.461.0123 fax 206.461.7370 www.pageahead.org

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Contact: LeAnne Chow lchow@pageahead.org, or Andrea Buck abuck@pageahead.org

A TASTE FOR READING:
THIRD ANNUAL BENEFIT LUNCHEON A SUCCESS FOR CHILDREN'S LITERACY

Seattle, WA – With a total of \$52,623 donated, exceeding the \$40,000 goal, Page Ahead Children's Literacy Program hosted a very successful third annual benefit luncheon, appropriately named "A Taste for Reading." This luncheon was supported by wonderful sponsors: The Seattle Times, The Boeing Company, Expedia Inc., The Triple Door, Parametrix Inc., nikkomedia, DeLaurenti Food & Wine and Macy's. The cost of the luncheon was underwritten by a member of Page Ahead's Board of Directors. Held at the snazzy Triple Door in downtown Seattle, the wonderfully intimate feel and delicious lunch was just the beginning of a great event.

Once lunch had been served, about 200 guests in attendance were welcomed by Suzanne Canino, strategic business development manager representing *Newspapers in Education*, from the Seattle Times. Emcee Thomas Goldstein, founder and director of The Service Board non-profit organization, gave his opening remarks and got the 'show' underway.

Principal Shannon Harvey of Cascade Elementary spoke to the guests about her experience with Page Ahead, as Cascade Elementary is a recipient of new books from Page Ahead and has been for the past 3 years. Also representing Cascade Elementary was second grade teacher Harvey Sadis, who brought a main stage act different from the usual entertainment at the Triple Door. His second grade students, the Cascade Shakespeare Players, brought smiles and chuckles to the audience with their (G-rated) presentation of Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*. The program concluded with Mary Jo Bruckner,

Giving kids in need the chance to read

recipient of Page Ahead's 2005 Sarajane Beal Award for Volunteer Excellence. She invited the guests to open their hearts and checkbooks and make a donation to Page Ahead, allowing the continued support of the students at Cascade Elementary and the 49,674 others throughout the State of Washington.

About Page Ahead

Page Ahead Children's Literacy Program is a state wide non-profit organization that provides new books to children at risk of academic failure. Additionally, Page Ahead provides workshops to help families to become more involved in their children's literacy. Established in 1990, Page Ahead has placed over 1.25 million books in the hands of over 450,000 children through collaborations with schools, social service agencies, and early childhood centers across Washington State. For more information about Page Ahead visit www.pageahead.org.

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