



For Immediate Release

Contact: Ryan Dumas (407) 852-3305

Local leaders help plant seeds of literacy

Developing a love for reading is important, and nowhere is it more critical than in the lives of children. On September 6 and 7 more than 30 business leaders, elected officials and media personalities helped plant the seed of literacy at UCP of Central Florida's six child development centers during "Book Buds".

"Book Buds brings together community partners to develop a love for reading in children," said Ilene Wilkins, President/CEO of UCP Central Florida. "It is a positive activity that enhances speech and knowledge within each child, helping them reach their full potential."

Some of this years participants included **Marla Weech**, WKMG Local 6; **David Odahowski**, President, Edyth Bush Charitable Foundation; **Mark Russell**, Managing Editor, *Orlando Sentinel*; **Charles Bailes, III**, President, ABC Fine Wine & Spirits; **Senator Lee Constantine (R-Dist. 22)**; **Rep. Sheri McInvale (R-36)**; **Rep. John Quinones (R-Dist. 49)** and actor and comedian **Michael Winslow**.

Storytellers helped UCP celebrate *National Read a Book Day* and *International Literacy Day* by reading from big books donated by Scholastic Book Fairs. Overall, more than 300 children were read to.

Founded in 1955, UCP of Central Florida, a non-profit organization, operates six inclusive pre-school/pre-kindergarten charter schools and a middle school program in the Central Florida community for children with all types of disabilities and developmental delays, including cerebral palsy, Down syndrome, spina bifida, autism and others.

UCP also provides outpatient physical, speech and occupational therapy, as well as family support and foster care services for children with disabilities.

For more information call (407) 852-3300 or visit ucpcf.org.

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