

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**READY READERS AWARDED \$1,500 GRANT FROM  
BUILD-A-BEARWORKSHOP HUGS FOUNDATION**

October, 2010 (St. Louis, MO.) – Ready Readers, an award-winning not-for-profit organization was recently awarded a \$1,500 grant from the Build-A-Bear Workshop Hugs Foundation. The grant will provide support to the read-aloud program for preschoolers from low-income communities and toward the purchase of new high quality books for the preschool children to take home.

This grant was made possible through the sale of Turner Owl, a special furry friend available in all Build-A-Bear Workshop stores. With the sale of each Tuner Owl, one dollar is donated to literacy programs throughout the United States and Canada.

**About Ready Readers**

Ready Readers, a 501c3 not-for-profit organization in St. Louis, inspires preschool children from low-income communities to become readers by reading aloud to them and by increasing their exposure to quality books and stimulating reading-related activities. Currently, more than 450 volunteers read weekly to more than 7,000 low-income 2-5 year old children who attend early childhood programs in the St. Louis area. The same reader always reads to the same children, allowing the children to associate a special person with the fun of reading. Six times during each school year and once in summer, readers also give the children personalized new books to take home for further enjoyment. This year, volunteers gave more than 49,000 high quality new books to the preschool children. Ready Readers also continues to give new and gently used donated books to needy classrooms. If you enjoy reading aloud to young children, join Ready Readers as a volunteer reader. For details about becoming a volunteer, donating books or becoming a sponsor of Ready Readers, visit [www.readyreaders-stlouis.com](http://www.readyreaders-stlouis.com).

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