

For Immediate Release  
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## **Guests Unlock the World of Literacy for At-Risk Youth at Spread the Word Nevada's 7th Annual Storybook Gala**

Las Vegas, Nevada – Spread the Word Nevada, a Las Vegas children's literacy nonprofit, held its 7th Annual Storybook Gala on September 12 at the Venetian Resort Hotel and Casino.

This year's gala raised \$140,000, funds used to benefit at-risk children and their families in Southern Nevada. Honored at the event were Irene and Duncan Lee, selected for their unwavering commitment to education.

Since 2001, Spread the Word Nevada has enriched hundreds of thousands of children's lives with its programs. Those programs include the distribution of keep-at-home books to elementary school children, family literacy activities and a reading mentor program.

Spread the Word Nevada has distributed more than 1.3 million books to more than 150,000 children with the generous support of corporate and private sponsors.

Close to 300 people attended the gala event, with a theme of "unlocking the world of literacy." Cocktails were served during a VIP Reception, with wine and spirits donated by Southern Wine and Spirits. The reception featured a "Lion Dance" performed by the Lohan School of Shaolin, in honor of Irene and Duncan Lee's cultural heritage.

Also during the reception, close to 400 children's books were purchased as a fundraiser at a "Library of Dreams" book display. Within randomly chosen books were prizes donated by individuals and companies in the Las Vegas area.

Emcees for the evening were KLAS Channel 8 Eyewitness News anchors Denise Valdez, recently named "Best Anchor in the Pacific Southwest Region," and Sherry Swensk, both children's literacy advocates. Entertainment for the evening included a performance by singer Casey Lee Moore. After dinner, nine live auction packages were made available by auctioneer Christian Kolberg.

Special guests at the gala included Senator Shirley Breeden, Clark County Commissioner Chris Guinchigliani and Judge Mark Steven. Others in attendance included Laurel Andrew, Constanza and Fred Ashford, Kenny and Nami Lee, Jenna and Michael Morton, Cynthia and Larry Mosley, Victor Onufrieff, Maureen and Phillip Peckman and Camille Ruvo.

### Photo Outline 1

From left: Spread the Word Nevada Founder Laurie Hartig, Honorees Irene and Duncan Lee and Spread the Word Nevada Chairman of the Board Susan Miller enjoy an evening at the 7th Annual Storybook Gala.

### Photo Outline 2

N9NE Group co-owner Jenna Morton shows off her prizes during the "Library of Dreams" portion of the Spread the Word Nevada 7th Annual Storybook Gala.

### Photo Outline 3

From left (top row): Gala guests Wende Stunkel, Kristin Norton, Kimberly Litt, and Rebecca Geinzer. (Bottom row): Jenna Doughton, Heather Berkley, Ann Bradford, Vicki Walsh, Amy Patent and Sue Mirman.

### Photo Outline 4

From left: Robert and Irais Kolesar of Kolesar and Leatham at the Spread the Word Nevada 7th Annual Storybook Gala.

All photos courtesy of Scott Roeben. Additional photos available upon request.

### About Spread the Word Nevada, Inc: Kids to Kids

Spread the Word Nevada, Inc., is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) corporation, serving at-risk children by providing various literary services. Kids to Kids, a flagship program of Spread the Word Nevada, helps children create home libraries to read and share with family members. While developing a love of reading, these libraries promote future academic achievement and higher self-esteem, which impact lifelong success. Since 2001, Spread the Word Nevada has distributed more than 1.3 million gently-used and new books to more than 150,000 of Nevada's youth. Contact (702) 564-7809 or visit [SpreadtheWordNevada.org](http://SpreadtheWordNevada.org) to learn more about program details.

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