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NEWS RELEASE

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SECOND ANNUAL CHILDREN'S BOOK FESTIVAL SCHEDULED FOR MARCH

Johnstown, PA (Jan. 19, 2009) – Books will come alive at The Learning Lamp's Second Annual Children's Book Festival scheduled for March 19-21 at the Bottleworks Ethnic Arts Center. This event is free and open to the public.

"Last year's Book Festival was such a success we had to do it again," says Heidi Rizkalla, Assistant Director of Education at The Learning Lamp. "This year, we will offer some new features including live entertainment, and also bring back some favorites from last year like the chance to meet a best-selling children's author, storytelling, a children's book sale, and lots of arts and crafts."

The 2010 book festival will include live performances by Stage Right Theatre Company of Greensburg. The company's choreographed "Books Come Alive" series features adaptations of beloved children's stories. Also performing at the festival, Johnstown's own Band of Brothers Theatre Troupe will bring the magic of Shakespeare to children in a language all their own. Kids will also have the opportunity to meet Katherine Ayers, author of the popular children's book "Up, Down, and Around." Local storyteller Jan Kinney will be back again as well. In addition, children from throughout the area will be invited to display their creativity in a bookmark contest.

"The Book Festival is a great way to spend the afternoon with the entire family," adds Rizkalla. "Parents will enjoy the entertainment and activities as much as the kids do!"

Volunteers are welcome to help staff the festival's many activities over the three-day event. The festival is a great opportunity for high school students seeking to fill required community service hours. The Second Annual Children's Book Festival is sponsored by The Learning Lamp, the Bottleworks Ethnic Arts Center, Atlantic Broadband, The Tribune-Democrat, Highmark and the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts. For more information or to learn how you can volunteer your time, contact Heidi Rizkalla at The Learning Lamp at 814-262-0732.

The Learning Lamp is a nonprofit agency focused on providing children with the support they need to succeed in school. The Learning Lamp offers preschool, child care, before and after school programs, tutoring, SAT prep and summer camps for children in grades PreK to 12.