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**W.H.O. FOUNDATION AWARD 2009 EDUCATION AND LITERACY
GRANT TO HOPE FOUNDATION**

Tacoma Park, Maryland Organization Will Use Funds To Support Their “Father-To-Child Reading Program” Throughout Federal Correctional Facilities

CARROLLTON, TX—The Women Helping Others (W.H.O.) Foundation, created to encourage women to actively support community service, has awarded a \$5,000 Education and Literacy grant to the Hope Foundation in Tacoma Park, Maryland.

The grant will help fund the “Father-To-Child Reading Program” which gives prisoners in Federal Correctional Facilities across the country an opportunity to read to their children on audio or video recordings.

“Helping fathers connect with their children and inspire a love of books, reading and education is important for every family, regardless of circumstances,” said Cindy Turek, W.H.O. executive director. “Through the Hope Foundation, we believe we can help what would normally be an at-risk group of children find success in their futures.”

Carol Fennelly, Hope Foundation executive director, said, “When the prison system in the DC area was reorganized, many families lost their ability to visit family members. We’re delighted that the W.H.O. Foundation recognizes the importance of helping fathers read to and connect with their children. Their grant will help us continue our work of connecting fathers with their children while emphasizing the importance of reading.”

Hope House began in 1998 providing cutting edge programs to strengthen families and, in particular, the relational bonds between children and their fathers imprisoned far from home. In addition, their goals include reducing the isolation, stigma, shame and risk these families experience when fathers and husbands are imprisoned, and to raise public awareness about this most at-risk population.

The WHO (Women Helping Others) Foundation, established in 1993, is committed to encouraging women everywhere to help others through community service; supporting organizations dedicated to the needs of women, children and families in crisis. Since its inception, the WHO Foundation has granted more than \$3.6 million to other non-profit organizations supporting such issues as teen pregnancy, rape, education, homelessness, drug and alcohol abuse, and domestic violence.

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