



We have great news to report on the *Celebration of Reading*. Our wonderful event has won this year's Association of Fundraising Professionals' annual award for "Outstanding Fundraising Program"! This is a very significant award in the philanthropic community and will be presented at the National Philanthropy Day Luncheon on November 11, 2009 at the Hilton Americas Hotel in Houston, Texas.

The "Outstanding Fundraising Program" award is specially reserved for a Houston area nonprofit organization (raising more than \$250,000) whose fundraising program is innovative and effective in securing financial support for the local community. Various categories of programs are eligible for this award and may include the following: capital campaign, annual events, special events, and planned giving.

Some of the criteria in which *A Celebration of Reading* excelled include-the fundraising goal (we raised over \$1.850 million) and net (consistently 78-80%), staff and volunteer involvement (and we have a great Committee), originality (great program), inventiveness and impact on fundraising goal.

The members of the judging panel were apparently blown away by the success and size of the *Celebration of Reading*!!

Benita Somerfield, Executive Director of The Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy, will be here in November to accept the award on behalf of the Foundation. We will also be sharing the good news with all of our supporters.

Many thanks to you – our loyal supporters - who really make the *Celebration* such a great event, tradition and success!!