



MEDIA ALERT

Congressman Boozman to Read to Children in Fayetteville to Support Reach Out and Read Pediatric Literacy Program

WHEN: Thursday @ 9:00 AM
August 20, 2009

WHAT: The doctors and nurses at MANA's Northwest Arkansas Pediatric Clinic in Fayetteville send families home from checkups with free books and a very important prescription – "read aloud to your children." Congressman Boozman will visit the health center to support this message by reading to a group of young patients and observing the health literacy model.

MANA's Northwest Arkansas Pediatric Clinic participates in **Reach Out and Read**, a program whereby **doctors and nurses advise parents about the importance of reading aloud and give books to children at checkups from 6 months to 5 years**. Through Reach Out and Read, each child starts kindergarten with a home library of up to 10 new, carefully-chosen books and a parent who has heard at every regular pediatric checkup about the importance of books and reading. The nationwide program results have shown that virtually all children participating in Reach Out and Read are ready for kindergarten. In Arkansas, 50 percent of children entering kindergarten do not have the skills necessary to succeed.

MANA's Northwest Arkansas Pediatric Clinic is one of 20 ROR Programs in Arkansas that participate in Reach Out and Read, providing 36,984 books to more than 53,000 infants, toddlers and preschoolers this quarter around the state of Arkansas.

WHERE: MANA's Northwest Arkansas Pediatric Clinic
3383 N. MANA Court
Fayetteville, AR 72703 PHONE- 479-571-3471 or CELL 263-3689

WHO: Congressman John Boozman (NW Arkansas)
ROR AR Executive Director, Kathy Vining DeLone
Medical Consultant, Stacy Furlow, MD

VISUALS: Congressman Boozman reading books to children gathered around him.
Banners, Books
ROR AR Material

MEDIA Kathy Vining DeLone

CONTACT: Reach Out and Read Arkansas
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