Children & Families
Commission of Orange County

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Presentation
September 3, 2008 Meeting

DATE: August 25, 2008

TO: Children and Families Commission of Orange County

FROM: Michael M. Ruane, Executive Director

SUBJECT: 2008 Orange County Fair Wrap-up Report

SUMMARY:
The Children and Families Commission of Orange County participated in the 2008 Fair and hosted an award winning booth in the Orange County building for the three-week event, from July 11 to August 3, 2008. The booth promoted the importance of early literacy and reading aloud to children.

Over 180 individuals volunteered at the booth including Commission staff, consultants, and grantees. Over 7,400 new and gently used books were given to children that visited the exhibit that featured giant sized book covers as background and included bookshelves with the new and used books, and bean bag chairs for reading. The Commission's booth was awarded with two first place blue ribbons in the categories of Education and Interactive Staff. The volunteers that staffed the exhibit and read to the children continue to thank the Commission for the opportunity to volunteer, and many have requested to participate again next summer.

The exhibit also received media attention including an interview on KDOC-TV's "Daybreak OC" program and an article on the Orange County Register's OCMoms.com site. The exhibit display items will be used at upcoming early literacy events and will be updated for the next Orange County Fair that begins on July 10, 2009.

A comprehensive update report on 2008 Orange County Fair will be presented by Lisa Burke.

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