

**FAMILY FOCUS
HOLIDAY
SPECIAL
SHOUT-OUT**

Issue 7 – January 6th, 2021

SHOUT OUT TO MARILYN LEVY FROM ENGLEWOOD!

For the holiday season, **Henderson Resource Coordinator, Marilyn** hosted a **Winter Giveaway Celebration**. In addition to all the wonderful donations, the **Chicago Tribune** made contributions for the families of the Englewood community. Below are these fantastic moments with the families:



Thank you! Chicago Tribune



SHOUT OUT TO LOUKESSA HAWKINS FROM LAWNDALE!

Before the holiday, Home Visitor, Loukessa and Cradles to Crayons orchestrated a pick-up of essential items for the families of the Lawndale community. Here are some amazing moments from that day!



SHOUT OUT TO JOANN AVERY AND MS. JACOBS FROM EVANSTON!

Despite all the challenges during this pandemic, **JoAnn and her team** have been able to provide great activities for their afterschool programming. **Ms. Jacobs**, a fantastic facilitator, has been engaging youth with a creative writing group in their community. They have been recognized on Evanston's online newsletter, accessible here: **The RoundTable is Evanston's newspaper (evanstonroundtable.com)**.

3 PM Tue Dec 8

evanstonroundtable.com

In this year of stress and unrest, the poets in Beth Jacobs's writing group at Family Focus took on 2020 with the poignancy and verve that have become their hallmarks. Poems reflecting the isolation enforced by COVID-19, nationwide, local calls for racial justice, and the strains of everyday living will soon be available in a book, "Family Focus Faces 2020 With Poetry," funded by a grant from the Evanston Arts Council.



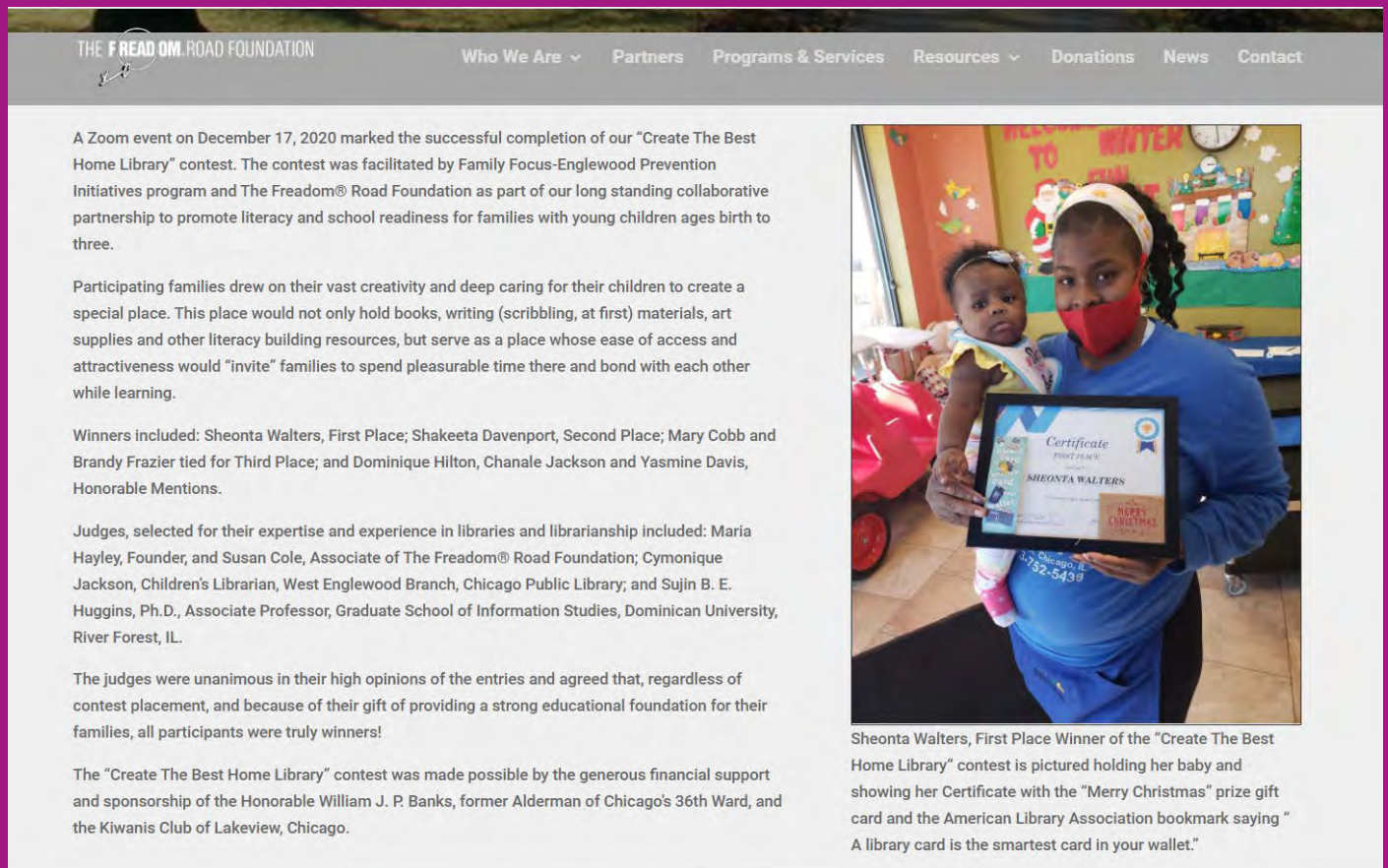
The first Family Focus Writing Circle was held earlier this month via Zoom. Submitted photo.

Earlier this month, Ms. Jacobs convened the first Family Focus Writing Circle, held via Zoom, to discuss the year 2020. "Air your despair. Find your mind. Own your poem" the invitation read.

With Ms. Jacobs as their facilitator and their own experiences as their muse, these writers, of all ages, are making a time capsule of 2020, using many of their 200 poems to "capture memories and images of the good and bad of this eventful year we have all had," Ms. Jacobs said.

SHOUT OUT TO KAMERIN BARBER AND THE PI PROGRAM FROM ENGLEWOOD!

Home Visitor, Kamerin and Englewood's PI Program have been working with The Freedom® Road Foundation. This collaboration helps families create their own home libraries. Their process can be seen here: A PLACE FOR BOOKS AND BONDING | The Freedom® Road Foundation. Kamerin's efforts are especially shown on the organization's website.



The screenshot shows the website for The Freedom Road Foundation. The navigation bar includes: Who We Are, Partners, Programs & Services, Resources, Donations, News, and Contact. The main content area features an article titled "A Zoom event on December 17, 2020 marked the successful completion of our 'Create The Best Home Library' contest." The article text is as follows:

A Zoom event on December 17, 2020 marked the successful completion of our "Create The Best Home Library" contest. The contest was facilitated by Family Focus-Englewood Prevention Initiatives program and The Freedom® Road Foundation as part of our long standing collaborative partnership to promote literacy and school readiness for families with young children ages birth to three.

Participating families drew on their vast creativity and deep caring for their children to create a special place. This place would not only hold books, writing (scribbling, at first) materials, art supplies and other literacy building resources, but serve as a place whose ease of access and attractiveness would "invite" families to spend pleasurable time there and bond with each other while learning.

Winners included: Sheonta Walters, First Place; Shakeeta Davenport, Second Place; Mary Cobb and Brandy Frazier tied for Third Place; and Dominique Hilton, Chanale Jackson and Yasmine Davis, Honorable Mentions.

Judges, selected for their expertise and experience in libraries and librarianship included: Maria Hayley, Founder, and Susan Cole, Associate of The Freedom® Road Foundation; Cyonique Jackson, Children's Librarian, West Englewood Branch, Chicago Public Library; and Sujin B. E. Huggins, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Graduate School of Information Studies, Dominican University, River Forest, IL.

The judges were unanimous in their high opinions of the entries and agreed that, regardless of contest placement, and because of their gift of providing a strong educational foundation for their families, all participants were truly winners!

The "Create The Best Home Library" contest was made possible by the generous financial support and sponsorship of the Honorable William J. P. Banks, former Alderman of Chicago's 36th Ward, and the Kiwanis Club of Lakeview, Chicago.

On the right side of the article is a photograph of Sheonta Walters, a woman wearing a blue long-sleeved shirt and a red face mask, holding a baby and a framed certificate. The certificate reads "Certificate of Appreciation" and "FIRST PLACE" for "SHEONTA WALTERS". Below the certificate is a "Merry Christmas" gift card and an American Library Association bookmark that says "A library card is the smartest card in your wallet." The background of the photo shows a colorful children's library or classroom with a "WELCOME TO WINTER" sign and a Christmas tree.

Sheonta Walters, First Place Winner of the "Create The Best Home Library" contest is pictured holding her baby and showing her Certificate with the "Merry Christmas" prize gift card and the American Library Association bookmark saying "A library card is the smartest card in your wallet."

SHOUT OUT TO TRACY WHITE FROM ENGLEWOOD!

With the wonderful donations from the **Sherman Park Library** and **Blue Cross Blue Shield**, **Holmes Resource Coordinator, Tracy** had a successful **Winter PPE Grab & Go Free Giveaway** event! Over 50 bags of *Personal Protective Equipment* were given out to the families of the Englewood community.

