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## **ST. DAVID'S COMMUNITY HEALTH FOUNDATION C-O-L-L-A-B-O-R-A-T-E-S WITH THE LITERACY COALITION OF CENTRAL TEXAS TO ADDRESS HEALTH LITERACY**

**AUSTIN (April 18, 2008)** — As part of its mission to improve health and health care for all Central Texans, St. David's Community Health Foundation participates in many community collaborations to tackle health care issues. One of those issues is health literacy, and the Foundation is proud to support the Literacy Coalition of Central Texas in its efforts to make health care information more accessible to and understandable by low-literacy audiences.

That support has most recently come in the form of collaboration and input on the Literacy Coalition's creation and expansion of a health care provider directory designed to aid ESL and literacy tutors and case managers at local clinics to help clients find access to health care. The print version of the directory is expected to be published by early summer, with the Foundation continuing its collaboration as the Literacy Council creates an online version in cooperation with 2-1-1.

Support also came in a less traditional form this week, as St. David's Community Health Foundation participated in the Fifth Annual Great Grown-Up Spelling Bee with an event sponsorship and three spellers. The team's original captain, mental health program officer Becky Pastner, was compelled to bow out the day before the competition when her first child arrived on her predicted due date. Cindy Ybarra, program manager of the foundation's MATCH program to link uninsured hospital patients with follow-up care, stepped in to join controller Paula Harmon and communications director Kim Usey on the team.

The St. David's Community Health Foundation team — competing for the first time, unknown and unnoticed in the presence of such legendary Great Grown-Up Spelling Bee teams as The Church Ladies and Any Baby Can — survived six rounds and such words as "pochismo," "wakame," "xenolith," and "pharisaical" to score an unexpected victory.

As with all of the Foundation's efforts, teamwork and collaboration were the key to success, as Harmon, Usey, and Ybarra huddled briefly for each word to give each other confirmation and encouragement while a table of colleagues cheered from the audience. By the time the team spelled "effulgent" and then "ballyhooed" for the win Thursday afternoon, the Fifth Annual Great Grown-Up Spelling Bee had raised more than \$72,000 for the Literacy Coalition's efforts, including a record-setting \$4,000 raised at the event itself.

"At St. David's Community Health Foundation, we work to find useful ways to contribute to the community through collaboration with other area agencies that provide much-needed health care services," said Foundation president Dick Moeller. "Fielding a spelling bee team is not a traditional foundation activity, but it is a fun and creative way to address the issue of literacy. Who would have thought that a health care foundation would participate in, much less win, a spelling bee? But this is the kind of innovative leadership our entire

Foundation team applies to the challenge of making sure everyone in Central Texas can get the health care they need.”

*The vision of St. David’s Community Health Foundation is to keep the promise of a better life by improving health and health care for all Central Texans. Our mission is to work with commitment, integrity, and respect to achieve our vision in our hospitals, programs, and community partnerships.*

*The Literacy Coalition of Central Texas is dedicated to supporting and expanding high-quality literacy services so that businesses can hire, people can work, and families can thrive.*

*For more information on the Literacy Coalition of Central Texas, visit [www.willread.org](http://www.willread.org).  
For more information on St. David’s Community Health Foundation, visit [www.sdchf.org](http://www.sdchf.org).*