

Enemy Swim – Page 2

of these programs is support of parental involvement in a child's reading experience. Since its start in 1991, the FACE program has served over 15,000 infants, children and adults. In addition, it has enabled over 500 adults to earn high school or general equivalency diplomas (GEDs) and approximately 2,000 adults to find employment.

RealeBooks (pronounced REALLY-books) is a web-based application that can be used by children and adults to create their own "books" with text and photos which then can be posted to the RealeBooks website. Books created by other BIE-funded schools can be found on the website's Bureau of Indian Education RealeLibrary page at <http://bie.realelibrary.com/>. In school year 2006-2007, the BIE awarded RealeBook Projects to nine FACE programs. They have since produced 1,840 books reaching 460 families.

The Verizon Foundation is the philanthropic arm of Verizon Communications. According to its website, the foundation funds programs that address social issues such as literacy, technology education and domestic violence, and builds partnerships to replicate its most successful programs in communities across the country. The Verizon Tech Savvy Award is part of the foundation's Verizon Literacy Network, a free, online resource that leverages technology to deliver training and information to improve literacy.

The BIE school system serves almost 50,000 American Indian children in 184 elementary and secondary day and boarding schools located on or near 63 reservations in 23 states. In school year 2006-2007, the BIE directly operated one-third of these schools and the remaining two-thirds were tribally operated under BIE contracts or grants.

For more information about NCFL, its projects and partners, visit www.famlit.org. To learn more about the Verizon Literacy Network and the 2006 Verizon Tech Savvy Awards, visit <http://literacynetwork.verizon.org/>.

Note to Editors: To view the photos of Enemy Swim Day School FACE Program RealeBook Project participants that accompany this press release visit the Department of the Interior's website at www.doi.gov.

-DOI-