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## **Friends of North Port Library awarded literacy grant**

The Friends of North Port Library have been awarded a \$5,000 grant from the Dollar General Literacy Foundation for literacy services for adult English language learners.

The English language program is part of the “The American Dream Starts @ your library” literacy project. This initiative is funded by the Dollar General Literacy Foundation. North Port Library will use the grant for a web-based language acquisition program and offer classes to acquaint new students with the program, working with the library’s literacy partner, The Literacy Volunteers of South Sarasota County.

“Public libraries are the focus of learning and opportunity in this challenging economy,” said Sarabeth Kalajian, general manager, Sarasota County libraries. “To fill out a job application, apply for assistance or register to vote, you need to be able to read and write English. This grant will allow us to continue offering English literacy tutoring to a segment of our community who would have nowhere else to go for these types of services.”

The National Assessment of Adult Literacy found that one in 20 adults have such limited English skills that they can’t read a newspaper or help their children with schoolwork.

For more information on North Port Library’s American Dream Starts @ your library programs, visit the North Port Library at 13800 S. Tamiami Trail, North Port, Florida 34287, call 941-861-5000 or visit the library’s website at [www.sclibs.net](http://www.sclibs.net).

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