



News Release

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HASTINGS COLLECTS MORE THAN \$1,700 FOR LITERACY

St. Joseph, Mo. —Oct. 3, 2005—Donations for a cup of coffee, spare change here and there, and a corporation's generosity has added up to a sizeable donation to support literacy in our community. Hastings Entertainment, Inc. recently presented a check for \$1,756 to Pass the Power, the local adult literacy program administered by the Western Institute at Missouri Western State University.

Since the Hastings store opened in St. Joseph 10 years ago, it has collected funds for Pass the Power by setting out donation cans at the cash register and at the store's coffee bar. A check is presented to Pass the Power each year. This year's donation also included a direct corporate contribution.

"Hastings maintains an active involvement in the fight against illiteracy," said Store Manager Jake Monson. "We believe that by fostering local efforts to combat illiteracy through collecting donations and making direct contributions, we can help make a difference in every community we serve."

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Pass the Power was established in 1989 to serve adults who want to improve their reading, writing, spelling and math skills. Community volunteers are trained as tutors to work one-on-one or in small groups with individuals age 17 and over. There is no cost to program participants and all services are confidential. Pass the Power is privately funded through the Missouri Western State University Foundation, community donations and local grants.

“Hastings has maintained a strong commitment to literacy, and our community benefits in so many ways from their efforts,” said Pass the Power Director Deborah Ellsworth. “Local support is crucial to giving more people the opportunity to achieve their full potential.”

For more information, contact Ellsworth at 816-671-4025.

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Missouri Western State University is a four-year public institution providing a blend of traditional liberal arts and professional degree programs. The university offers student-centered, high quality instruction that focuses on experience-based learning, community service, and state-of-the-art technology. Western is located in St. Joseph, Mo. and is committed to the educational, economic, cultural and social development of the region it serves.