

Champions of Literacy Series:

An Evening with Hannah Storm



May 1 • 7:05 PM • Minute Maid Park

Hannah Storm, co-host of ESPN's Daytime SportsCenter, returned to Houston and was presented with the prestigious Champions of Literacy award for her work as an author and philanthropist. Over 200 guests came to Minute Maid Park to honor Storm and to support a more literate community.



Honorary co-chair **Larry Dierker** poses with **Hannah Storm**

Storm's impressive career has included hosting "The Early Show" on CBS, Olympic Coverage for NBC, and began in Houston hosting Rockets and Astros pre-game and post-game shows. She is the author of two books: *Go Girl!: Raising Healthy, Confident and Successful Daughters through Sports*, and *Notre Dame Inspirations*. Storm has also created the Hannah Storm Foundation to help children with Vascular and Port-Wine Stain birthmarks.

The audience included: several former champions of literacy including Larry Dierker, Oliver Luck, Valerie Koehler, and Jana Mullins; Storm's husband, NBC Golf Host Dan Hicks; and Storm's mother and stepfather, Hannah Storen and Bill Kreps who were chairs of the Host Committee. Larry Dierker and Marjorie Evans were honorary chairs of the event.

"I'm here because I'm being honored as a Champion of Literacy, but I'm really here because I want to honor this amazing organization," Storm said during the awards presentation. She and Joe Pogge, producer of Smokin' Joe's Driving Range golf radio show and emcee of the event, did a question and answer session with each other. Storm answered questions about her career, about becoming an author, and about her foundation.

Literacy Advance volunteer tutor Sherle Watson and her learner Nohemy Luevano also spoke to the audience about their experiences. Nohemy is a mother of three who wants to earn her GED and to find a better job. "Tutoring Nohemy is one of the most exciting things I've ever done," said Sherle, Haliburton Senior Policy Coordinator. The audience gave the pair a standing ovation.

"Nohemy was the star of the evening. Her words were the perfect definition for Literacy Advance of Houston and the tremendous returns we accomplish when an individual learns to read and write."

Joe Pogge

At the end of the evening, City Controller Annise Parker surprised Storm with a proclamation from Mayor White declaring May 1, 2009 "Hannah Storm Day" in the city of Houston.

Photos



Hannah and her family

Host committee chairs: **Bill Kreps** (Hannah's step-father) and **Hannah Storen** (Hannah's Mother); **Hannah Storm, Dan Hicks** (NBC Golf Host and Hannah's husband)

Literacy Advance Executive Director **Jane Holston**, **Hannah Storm**, Literacy Advance Board President **Ellen Elam**



Literacy Advance Board Members:

Carolyn Mayo, Carla Tibbitts, Don Baird

Houston Chronicle reporter **David Barron**, Honorary co-chair and former Champion of Literacy **Larry Dierker**, emcee **Joe Pogge**



Photos



Literacy Advance volunteer tutor **Sherle Watson** and her learner **Nohemy Luevano**



Former Champion of Literacy **Valerie Koehler** poses in front of the field with her husband **Greg Koehler**

Kathy Luck, Former Champion of Literacy **Oliver Luck**, **Hannah Storm**



Guests listen as emcee **Joe Pogge** speaks about Literacy Advance in front of the lit field at Minute Maid Park

All photos by Richard Carson

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Champions of Literacy Series

The Champions of Literacy Series seeks to promote awareness of literacy through the presentation of authors who have made a difference through the written word. As Houston's oldest and largest non-profit volunteer driven literacy organization, the mission of Literacy Advance is to teach adults in Houston to read, write, and communicate effectively in English so they can achieve their full potential as parents, workers, citizens and community members. Literacy instruction is offered at no cost thanks to our volunteer tutors.

