

For Immediate Release
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**PUBLIC LIBRARY OF CINCINNATI AND HAMILTON COUNTY, CHILDREN'S LEARNING CENTER,
WINS 2007 "BRIDGE TO UNDERSTANDING" AWARD**

The Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County, Children's Learning Center, Cincinnati, Ohio, is the winner of the 2007 Bridge to Understanding Award sponsored by the United States Board on Books for Young People (USBBY), for its program, "Ni Hao! China for Kids." The award was presented on Tuesday, May 15, at the USBBY cosponsored meeting held during the International Reading Association's annual convention in Toronto, Canada.

"Ni Hao! China for Kids" is a cultural bridge build between sister cities in Cincinnati and Liuzhou through public library programming designed to meet the goals of the Sister Libraries: White House Millennium Project. In 2000, the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County (PLCH) formally entered the White House Millennium Project, an educational and cultural exchange program, with its sister library in Liuzhou, China. The 4th annual exchange took place in 2005-2006 and generated a cultural bridge with the "Ni Hao" programs. Seven Chinese teachers of middle and high school English came to Cincinnati from Liuzhou in a 22-week stay to improve their English language skills, visit American schools, and learn about the American public library system.

The Bridge to Understanding Award carries a monetary prize of \$1,000 and a certificate. This prestigious award was established in memory of Arlene Pillar, an educator who served USBBY as newsletter editor from 1984 until 1990. Organizations eligible for this award include schools, libraries, scout troops, clubs and bookstores. The program may be a one-time event or an ongoing series that serves children ranging in age from kindergarten through tenth grade. Applications are now available for the 2008 award through the USBBY Secretariat, 800 Barksdale Road, Newark, DE 19714, email: usbby@reading.org, phone: 302-731-1600 Ext. 297. To be considered, the program must occur during the year 2007. Deadline for submissions is January 31, 2008.

USBBY, the United States National Section of the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY), is dedicated to promoting high quality literature for young people throughout the world.