

Spells Writing Center

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Spells Writing Center Makes New Year's Resolution to Improve Literacy in North Philly

Will offer free writing and after-school tutoring programs in new location at the Village of Arts and Humanities beginning in January

January 11, 2010—On Saturday, January 9, Spells Writing Center welcomed children to 2526 N. Alder Street for the first writing workshop hosted in its new building in the Village of Arts and Humanities complex of North Philadelphia. During the two-session “As Seen on TV” workshop, which continues on January 16, students are writing, directing, producing, and filming their own commercials, which will later be viewable on the Spells website, www.phillyspells.org.

Incoming Spells executive director Christina Rose Dubb, former director of programming, worked with the Village to acquire the space because she felt the two organizations’ goals were closely aligned. She hopes to attract not only the local teens who frequent the Village’s popular programs and want to explore their writing in more depth, but also their younger siblings, who clamor for their own creative programming and fit perfectly into the age range currently serviced by Spells.

“We are extremely excited to finally have a consistent home for our programs. The Village of Arts and Humanities has welcomed us with open arms and we can't wait to become a part of the amazing work they have done in the community over the past twenty-three years,” says Rose Dubb.

“The Village is delighted to welcome Spells Writing Center to the Hartranft/Fairhill community,” says Elizabeth Grimaldi, executive director of the Village of Arts and Humanities. “As an organization that has devoted twenty-three years to building community through creative engagement, we are excited that Spells Writing Center will provide an opportunity for North Philadelphia youth to develop and explore a life-long love of writing.”

Throughout the spring, Spells Writing Center will gradually roll out additional free writing workshops and an after-school tutoring program at the new space. In addition, Spells will continue to work with bookstores and non-profit organizations such as Head House Books, the Painted Bride Art Center, and the Mural Arts Program to offer unique writing opportunities for

P.O. Box 30462
Philadelphia, PA 19103
267.670.0869
info@phillyspells.org
www.phillyspells.org

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children in other neighborhoods of Philadelphia. To familiarize the neighboring community with their programs, Spells will host a family open house at the new writing center on Sunday, February 7, from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.

About the Village of Arts and Humanities:

The Village of Arts and Humanities' mission is to build community through innovative arts, educational, social, construction, and economic and youth development programs. In all of its projects and activities, the Village seeks to support justice to the humanity and social conditions of people who live in inner city North Philadelphia and in similar urban communities.

About Spells Writing Center:

Spells Writing Center is a non-profit (501c3 pending) organization that aims to develop the creative and expository writing abilities of school-age children and awaken a lifelong love of writing by providing free writing programs and teacher development opportunities throughout the greater Philadelphia area. Board members and sponsors for the organization include New York Times bestselling authors Elizabeth Gilbert and Jennifer Weiner. Please visit our website, www.phillyspells.org, for more information.

Media Contact:

Christina Rose Dubb
christina@phillyspells.org
267-670-0869

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