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STONES INTO SCHOOLS CULMINATING EVENT IS SUNDAY, APRIL 10

Greater Iowa County readers of all ages have had their noses buried in Greg Mortenson's Stones into Schools this winter as part of the area's first-ever All Community Read project. With the coming of Spring, it's time to come together to discuss the book and to celebrate.

Everyone is invited to the Stones into Schools Culminating Event, scheduled for Sunday, April 10 from 2 to 5 p.m. at Folklore Village, 3210 County B (east of Dodgeville, off Hwy. 151). In addition to a book discussion facilitated by Vincent Kavaloski, Afghan food, music, dance and games will be part of this inter-generational celebration. The event is free.

The art exhibits and displays have been created by local school children who have read the youth version's of the book and been inspired by its story. Rehman Khan, his wife, Dr. Aaliya Bibi, and their middle school son, who have been frequent visitors to Iowa County during the "read" project, will return to lead the Afghan dancing, games and participate in the discussions.

Seven area libraries, the Dodgeville Kiwanis Club, Grassroots Citizens of Wisconsin and Folklore Village sponsored the Community Read. The Wisconsin Humanities Council provided funding as well as the Center for South Asia and CREECA (Center for Russia, Eastern Europe and Central Asia) at UW-Madison.

"The Stones into Schools project has been an incredible experience," said Vickie Stangel, the Dodgeville Library director, who coordinated the effort with libraries in Cobb, Spring Green, Mineral Point, Hollandale, Blanchardville and Barneveld as well as school librarians throughout the area. "We were so lucky to find a book with a message that spoke to readers of all ages. Everyone comes away from the book wanting to do something – either contribute to Mortenson's Central Asia Institute organization which builds schools in remote areas of Afghanistan and Pakistan, or they are inspired to do something in our own community."

"Now everyone is asking, what's next?", said Stangel, who is already thinking about a book for next year's All-Community Read.

For information about the Stones into Schools Culminating Event, contact Jane Kavaloski at kavaloski@countrysspeed.com or 935-3007.

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