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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WGTE TV to Host Town Hall Meeting on Literacy Issues in Lucas County

TOLEDO, OH – On **Thursday, February 24 at 8:00 p.m.**, WGTE TV will host an important Town Hall Meeting discussing the low literacy rates of preschool-aged children. Students entering school with high literacy skills are ready to learn and move to the head of the class. Children with weak reading skills begin school at a disadvantage – a gap that may grow wider as their education continues. This meeting will address the problems and resulting consequences facing parents and their children, the local efforts and services available to assist these families, and volunteer opportunities for those wishing to help.

The panel for this event will include: **Carol Rehm**, Lucas County Department of Jobs and Family Services, co-chair, United Way Educational Committee; **John Jones**, president, Greater Toledo Urban League; **Jim Funk**, Read for Literacy; **Anthony Bronaugh**, principal, Sherman Elementary School; and **Kathy Smith**, director, Early Learning, WGTE Public Media. **Bill Harris** will moderate.

Viewers are encouraged to participate in the discussion by calling 866-380-4664, emailing townhall@wgte.org, or texting WGTETPublic to 41411 anytime during the program. This Town Hall Meeting will be broadcast on WGTE HD (Over the air channel 30.1; Buckeye Cable channels 9 and 630) and stream live from our website, www.knowledgestream.org.

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WGTE Public Media (The Public Broadcasting Foundation of Northwest Ohio) is a non-profit organization and a center of learning and education for Northwest Ohio and Southeast Michigan. Founded as an educational institute in 1952, education remains at the heart of what we do every day. From our entertaining, informative and educational programs that air on WGTE TV, FM 91, and [Knowledgestream.org](http://www.knowledgestream.org), to our professional development opportunities for K-12 teachers and preschool day care providers, WGTE helps to make Northwest Ohio and Southeast Michigan a better place to live.