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Frank Brewster promotes Spanish literature

By Andrielle Figueroa

MISSION—Frank Brewster III doesn't want to reinvent the wheel; he wants it to turn much faster. Brewster, grant winner of \$10,000 through the Mission Economic Development Corporation Ruby Red Ventures program, lives by that motto.

The owner of Brewster's Guacamaya Enterprises is pushing to promote literacy through children's books he has written with inspiration from his everyday life.

Born in McAllen, Brewster graduated from Sharyland High School. He received his bachelor's in music from the University of Texas-Pan American and has nearly 30 years of experience teaching music across the Valley at districts like Sharyland Independent School District, Mission ISD, Hidalgo ISD and Donna ISD.

"I taught at Kenneth White Junior High for 16 years; I have made amazing and wonderful lifelong friendships," Brewster said.

With a sunny demeanor, Brewster said he is 53 years young and his favorite tools for



Frank Brewster III, owner of Brewster's Guacamaya Enterprises, recently received \$10,000 through the Mission Economic Development Corporation to help mass produce a collection of books promoting literacy for several area school districts. *Progress Times* photo by Andrielle Figueroa

creating his work are a napkin and pen. He added he has written his best literature on napkins.

Brewster has authored "Declarations Of a Life/ Declaraciones De Una Vida," a collection of poems in both

English and Spanish. He also has written six children's books

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that have been printed in both English and Spanish as well: "Yellow Butterfly," "The Lady Bug, the Little Ant and the Little Worm," "The Lost Little Kitten," "The Blackboard," "Little Champions" and "Getting Ready Before School."

The grant money earned through the Ruby Red Ventures will help Brewster go into mass production to provide books for several school districts in the area: PSJA ISD, La Joya ISD, Weslaco ISD and McAllen ISD.

Each of Brewster's books has a teacher's edition, explaining which Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills and State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness points are covered and how they should be taught.

The book copies vary in size and language, depending on the grade level of the student. They also have a disk attached with readings recorded for audio lessons.

The former music teacher has included musical soundtracks with his books where he performs the tenor saxophone, along with an acoustic guitar played by Hector Rodriguez.

"Writing is a passion. I love to do this, but I am not doing this for me," Brewster said. "It is so kids can learn, education is the best weapon against poverty and violence."

The South Texas Literacy Coalition awarded Brewster the Community Literacy Champion in the individual category for his promotion

of education and reading on Sept. 13.

Brewster also has provided jobs for former Mission CISD students who assisted him in drawing and creating the design for his short stories. He's thankful to everyone who has assisted him along the way, including his wife and children, Paco Rendon, chief illustrator, and many others who have helped him reach his goals.

Brewster's books are each signed with a date and time, and include his initials in the shape of a heart.

"I'm a person of tremendous faith," Brewster said. "It hasn't been easy but I love what I do. It takes heart, soul and passion. I just want to help children learn."



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