

free spirit

PUBLISHING®



Meeting kids' social,  
emotional & educational  
needs since 1983

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#### Judy Galbraith,

President and

Founder of

Free Spirit Publishing

For  
Immediate  
Release

## Free Spirit Certified As a Woman-Owned Business

Minneapolis, MN—Free Spirit Publishing, a children's book publisher with a focus on social-emotional skills and educational needs, recently received national certification as a Women's Business Enterprise by the Women's Business Development Center—Chicago, a regional certifying partner of the Women's Business Enterprise National Council (WBENC).

WBENC's national standard of certification implemented by the Women's Business Development Center is a meticulous process including an in-depth review of the business and a site inspection. The process confirms that the business is at least 51 percent owned, operated, and controlled by a woman or women.

Judy Galbraith has been the sole owner of Free Spirit since she started the company in 1983. A former classroom teacher specializing in gifted education, Galbraith recognized a clear need for positive, practical books to help children and teens navigate life's challenges. She became the first publisher to specialize in providing kids and teens with self-help materials that deal with the challenges of growing up and that encourage young people to make a positive difference in themselves and others. Free Spirit resources are award-winning and highly regarded, and are used by students, teachers, parents, counselors, and youth professionals around the world. Under Galbraith's guidance, the company's growth rate has remained steady and strong since its inception.

A WBENC certification has long been on Galbraith's list of goals for the company. "After a thorough and lengthy process, involving piles of documents and a myriad of questions, Free Spirit is now nationally certified as a Women's Business Enterprise. I am proud to be recognized as a woman-owned business and trust this certification will greatly benefit our partners."

By including women-owned businesses among their vendors, corporations and government agencies demonstrate their commitment to fostering diversity and the continued development of their supplier/vendor diversity programs.

#### About Free Spirit

Based in Minneapolis, Minnesota, Free Spirit Publishing is the leading publisher of learning tools that support young people's social-emotional health and educational needs. Free Spirit has had the same mission for over 28 years: to help children and teens think for themselves, succeed in life, and make a difference in the world.

#### About WBENC

The Women's Business Enterprise National Council is the nation's largest third-party certifier of businesses owned and operated by women in the United States. WBENC is a resource for the more than 700 U.S. companies and government agencies that rely on WBENC's certification as an integral part of their supplier diversity programs.

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