

# EducationFirst

The University of Iowa College of Education Newsletter

April 2010

## Inspiring Children to Become All They Can Imagine



Chris Offenburger Walsh

a thank you note for creating *Whispers of Greatness*, a 10-page coloring book about the president. The note revealed that Obama's two young daughters each have a copy of the book, which Walsh wrote and illustrated.

"I enjoy thinking about my books being in the White House," Walsh said.

Walsh, a K-8 educator for nearly 20 years and now a test development associ-

ate for the Iowa Testing Programs, has written for pleasure most of her life. She started writing children's books in recent years as a special gift for her six grandchildren.

Walsh's latest creative project received praise from a very high office. President Barack Obama and his family wrote her

are for the Iowa Testing Programs, has written for pleasure most of her life. She started writing children's books in recent years as a special gift for her six grandchildren.

"My projects always concentrate on becoming the best you can be, along with letting your imagination soar," she said. "All of my stories include a message of kindness...to each other, to the environment, to yourself."

Her coloring book, which has sold thousands of copies worldwide, describes Obama's life from childhood to becoming the first African American president of the

United States. The final page is labeled "My Possibilities" and provides a space for children to draw and describe their own aspirations.

Her books for her grandchildren feature a personality or quality she sees in each child. She uses each child's likeness in her illustrations.

She has two children's books completed and published so far: *Little Ryan Wigginton and Yowf and the Leather Nest*. A third, *Armstrong Sagsans*, will be released this summer.

Walsh's books are available on Amazon.com and Borders.com. You can also order her books by e-mailing Walsh at [Chris2010@aol.com](mailto:Chris2010@aol.com).

