

Walks Along Fox Inspire St. Charles Kids Author

By Linda Girardi, Sun-Times Media

ST. CHARLES, IL – St. Charles author Rick Moser said his walks along the Fox River near the Illinois Avenue Bridge and volunteering at Lazarus House were the inspirations for his newest children's book about self-giving.

"It's a beautiful area and geese were flying over the river," he said.

The Pillow Story is about three geese on a journey which look quite differently, yet learn their hearts are very much the same when they encounter a homeless man in need of assistance.

"We've all read stories about the larger number of homeless because of the economy," Moser said.

Moser is now the author of three children's books that benefit charitable causes: *The Chocolate Story*, inspired by a walk in the woods with his three young children, and *The Lemonade Story*. He's dedicated all three books to his children.

A portion of the proceeds from the sale of *The Pillow Story* will be donated to Lazarus House, a St. Charles-based ministry that helps the homeless and other people at risk.

Moser, a graphic designer whose office is near the Fox River, has always enjoyed writing and drawing.

"When my kids were younger, my focus was on working hard to support them," he said. "I do a lot of writing at my work but it's more for Web sites, brochures and advertising campaigns. It's nice to have something a little more light and fun, like the writing I do in the fables. It's a nice balance.

"Rex Bohn of St. Charles is the illustrator for all three books. Moser said *The Pillow Story* is for children from kindergarten through fourth grade but he's had adults tell him it applies to older readers.

Moser said he also thought of the three wise men when writing.

"It was also fun to put in the lesson of diversity and people of different color working together," he said. "That's something children can benefit from and adults as well."

The Pillow Story is available for \$10 at www.pillowstory.net. It is also available at The Blue Goose and Townhouse Books in St. Charles, as well as The Little Traveler in Geneva.

