

Maine Reads Community Literacy Project Planning Grant Final Report

Please fill out the following final report and return within 60 days of the end of your grant or before filing a Maine Reads Community Literacy Project implementation grant, whichever comes sooner. The 2005 implementation grant deadline is April 15. This form is available on line and we would appreciate your return of this final report by copying it from our site www.mainereads.org and emailing it back to us at info@mainereads.org. If you do not have email, you may mail it to us at Maine Reads, 28 Winter Street, Portland, Maine 04012, but the electronic return is preferred. You will find that most of the questions listed below are the same as those we suggested you address at the Public Forum.

Library: Hubbard Free Library
Address: 115 Second St.
City, State and Zip: Hallowell, ME 04347
Librarian(s): Beth Sweet
Contact person: Beth Sweet
Phone: (207) 622-6582 Email: bsweet@msln.net
Website if any: _____

Please respond to the following questions.

1) Names of members/groups on the Advisory Panel and affiliations and titles:

Beth Sweet, Director, Hubbard Free Library
Pam Bonney, Library Media Specialist, MSAD #16
Laurie Taylor, Librarian, Hall-Dale Elementary School
Jody Bachelder, Library Aide, Hall-Dale Middle/High School Library
Edda Thiele, Business owner, Hallowell
Cheryl Clukey: teacher, *A Midsummer Night's Shakespeare* volunteer, & library patron
Gary Chapin: High School teacher & *A Midsummer Night's Shakespeare* Project Coordinator
Terry McCabe: Director, Original Works (local arts organization), & community member
Elizabeth Wells: MSAD 16 Adult Ed. Director, community member, & library patron

2) Did you hold the following meetings and what were the approximate number of attendees:

yes Meeting I Focus Group # of attendees 9
yes Meeting II Public Forum # of attendees 13
Location: Hubbard Free Library
yes Meeting III Project Meeting # of attendees 7

3) What did you discover were the top 5 underserved populations in your community? (Please list them in descending order)

From the most underserved: Teens
Infants and toddlers(0-3)
Elementary (gr3-5)
Early elementary
Preschoolers

4) What literacy programs/activities are currently taking place in your community?

Title I support at the elementary school
Preschool story and craft hour at Hubbard Free Library, weekly
Summer reading program, Hubbard Free Library

5) What is the most important contribution your organization makes to your community and how does it work towards the Vision, Goal and/or Objectives of the Maine Reads Community literacy Project?

The most important contribution that our library makes to the community is our position as center for lifelong learning. Our outreach services reach the elderly members of our community with read-aloud programs and book delivery and pick-up. The Friends of Hubbard Free Library are in the process of planning our first community read in several years. They have selected Once Upon a Town: The Miracle of the North Platte Canteen by Bob Greene, a book that will appeal to our large contingent of history buffs as well as our local chapter of the VFW. We partner with our local school district to provide support for the curriculum, and provide a welcome environment for students to work on homework projects. Our wireless internet access allows students and adults to use their personal laptops in the library. We strive to provide educational and cultural programs to our service area free of charge, and on a regular basis. Last summer we successfully brought teens and adults into the library with a hugely successful summer film series, community theater, and acting workshops. Our summer reading program attracts approximately 150 children. And, we have recently been chosen as one of 3 Maine Libraries to join the ranks of Family Place Libraries, a national initiative to change libraries into centers for healthy child development and family literacy.

6) What overlaps in services or groups served did you discover if any?

Ours is a small community, so there are few overlaps of services. If we look beyond our city limits, however, there are programs at neighboring libraries, but these are not accessible to our community residents without paying for library privileges. There are several life-long learning opportunities through the University of Maine at Augusta and Adult Ed, aimed primarily at the adult population.

7) Please describe potential community partners and projects to reach the underserved.

Potential community partners for our proposal outlined in our Project Grant include the Kennebec Valley Art Association, Original Works, the Hallowell Board of Trade, MSAD #16, the Friends of Hubbard Free Library, and local artists and craftsmen.

Potential partners in our Family Place project include the Maine Parent Federation, Hallowell Family Practice and Maine General, Hall-Dale Parent/Teachers group, the University of Maine at Augusta, the Cooperative Extension, and the Children's Discovery Museum.

8) What literacy projects do you think are needed to fill the gaps in service in your community?

Our participation in Family Place will fill one of the largest gaps in service in our community because it targets children ages 0-3 and their parents, focusing on early literacy through child's play.

With any literacy project that we involve ourselves in, the goal is to instill a love of books and a joy for reading in the participants. We can do this by showing targeted groups that the library is more than a quiet place with dusty shelves and moldy books. Last year we targeted our teen audience, and we have seen an increase in activity in the YA section of our library. This summer, we hope to target elementary students and provide them with an introduction to drama, classic literature, and the Renaissance.

A program targeting emerging readers is what is needed next.

9) What is your plan of action? How do you plan to address your communities literacy needs?

Our plan of action is to partner with community organizations and individuals to continue to provide the services and programs that bring patrons to our library in ever increasing numbers. Our circulation statistics have increased 170% in the past two years! We hope to expand our summer reading program this year to include a theater experience for young elementary students, a book discussion group for upper elementary students, and a read-aloud program for emergent readers. We will continue to provide opportunities for lifelong learning through special programs such as our weekly crafters' series in May, an ongoing lecture series on regional history, and a Graham Greene film series this summer.

10) Describe what you learned and how the project helped Maine Reads to reach its goal to strengthen families and support lifelong learning?

Through the planning process, and as Director of Hubbard Free Library, I learned that the library has developed a large and loyal fan base in the community. People of all ages have stepped forward to offer their time and expertise to help us continue to provide opportunities for personal growth and education.

Other comments?

To help other literacy organizations gain a better understanding of literacy needs and projects in Maine, may we share your responses and post them on the Maine Reads website? Yes No

Please feel free to provide a success story or information about how we may improve the Maine Reads Community Literacy project grants process. Thank

you for your support!

