Maine Reads Community Literacy Project
Planning Grant Final Report

Library: Windham Public Library
Address: 217 Windham Center Rd.
City, State and Zip: Windham, ME 04062
Librarian (s): Director - Inese Gruber, Children's Librarian - Laurel T. Parker
Adult Services/Catalog Librarian - Sally Bannen
Technology/Reference Librarian - Barbara Keef
Contact person: Laurel T. Parker
Phone: 207-892-1908 Email: ltparker@windham.lib.me.us
Website if any: http://www.windham.lib.me.us

Please respond to the following questions.

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

Laurel T. Parker, Children's Librarian, Windham Public Library
Barbara Keef, Technology/Reference Librarian, Windham Public Library (also does programming)
Cathy Paglio, Family Literacy Coordinator, Windham Adult Education
Linda Peters, Windham Primary School, Media Center Specialist
Barbara Skehan, Windham Primary School, Reading Teacher
Kay Soldier, Windham Senior Newsletter and Lakes Region Weekly Newspaper
Jeanne Curtin, Windham Independent Newspaper, Reporter
Jen Noble, Editor, Parent & Family bi-monthly paper

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

Meeting 1 Focus Group # of attendees 7
Meeting II Public Forum # of attendees 9 (in two sessions on the same day, one at 11am and one at 6:30pm)
Meeting III Project Meeting # of attendees 4 (timing was a problem)

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

We were not sure what groups were underserved but figured these groups weren't listed in services being provided so wondered if they are served.

. Young adults moving into adults
. Elderly/shut ins
. ?Middle and High School (outside of school time)
. Children of nonreaders and how to reach them
. Summer Reading List (High School) no support for teens
Transportation for Summer Reading Program at Windham Primary School

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

Plays - Windham Center Stage Theater
Bookfairs
Information literacy - one on one finding info in library

Family Fun Night
Adult Education
Windham Primary School
. Reading incentives school wide and in library
. Reading buddies
. Book review
. Library lessons
. How to use computer to find books
. Author Studies (Hans Christian Anderson, April 2, 2005, 200 year birth)
. Get Caught Reading
. Read Across America (Dr. Seuss Day, March 2)
. Historical Study
. Sponsor Summer Reading Program
Windham Independent
. Prints Children's Writing/Book Reviews
. Publicizes Public Events
Windham Public Library
. Books & Babies (6-24 months)
. Preschool Storytime (up to 5 years, offered 3 times/week)
. Summer Reading Program for K-6th grade)
. Special Program offerings during Summer Reading Program
. Maine Student Book Award (4-8th grade)
. Info on Chickadee Award
. Literacy Volunteers of America Collection
. Site visits to schools/preschools
. Traveling library to seniors/shut ins
. Book Discussion Group
. Health Information Chats

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 Windham Public Library is a place where community members can come together to learn, expand horizons, and share information. The library is currently focused on building partnerships with the educational community and organizations that serve the public. We would like to encourage activities that can be shared by several generations.

6) What overlaps in services or groups served did you discover if any?
We did not identify any overlaps in services.

7) Please describe potential community partners and projects to reach the under-served.
. After School activities
. Publicize information for elderly - services available from library and other services
. Publicize on local access TV station
. Post notices/flyers in local churches
. Contact banks and businesses
. Host visiting authors for grandparents & grandchildren (late Sept/early Nov)
. Presentation by Casablanca Comics
. One Book One Read Community project (include books on tape, have volunteers read to a group, visit sites to promote activity)
. Create a theme based project with many aspects

1. Ocean theme
2. Host Toni Buzzeo - The Sea Chest
3. Potential titles for different ages: Keep the Lights Burning Abby, The Hungry Ocean, An Answer in the Tide
4. Have a fashion show using the Windham Historical Society clothing collection
5. Host an art display
6. Build a lighthouse
7. Involve Windham Center Stage
8. Check with Rob Juergens (Windham Middle School Drama)/Matthew Ryder (Windham High School)

- o Reading to residents of nursing homes/assisted living communities
- o Reading to daycare/preschools in area
- o Share storytelling as a way of passing on family traditions
- o Focus on "timelessness" of some children's stories
- o Contact VFW, Rotary, other service organizations and Town Council for support
- o See if Windham Independent would "trade" advertising space for being the official "Media Sponsor"

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

We would like to try a community read program that focused on three different books for three different age groups. This would start reading discussions among the many different generations in Windham. It may not fill all the gaps but it would be a good start.

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

We chose a theme of ocean related stories. We would use The Sea Chest by Toni Buzzeo for the younger set, The Young Man and the Sea by Rodman Philbrick for the upper elementary set (it is a Maine Student Book Award Book for 2005-2006), and The Lobster Chronicles by Linda Greenlaw. We Would like to run a fall program, starting the third week in September and wrapping up during Children's Book Week, November 14-20. We would host special activities, invite one or two authors to meet the community, present the proposed community read to the Windham School community on their first day for teachers if possible, hold book discussions, sponsor a Family Fun Night, invite related speakers to do a presentation, and possibly do a Craft or two. We would like to have an event each week during the six week time period.

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

Everyone on the Advisory Panel and at the Public Forum learned that there is a lot being done toward literacy goals in Windham. Intergenerational activities are lacking and would be a great thing to sponsor. The discussion between community members opened eyes and minds to the great efforts being put forth in the educational community and the library community to be supportive and help meet needs when they are identified.

Other comments?

This was a great way to bring folks together who might not have had the

opportunity to do so without a common goal.

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, of course!