

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: Casco Public Library
Address: P.O. Box 420, 7 Leach Hill Rd.
City, State and Zip: Casco, Me 04015
Librarian(s): Carolyn Paradise, Erin White
Contact person: Ruth Dean
Phone: 627-4541 Email: cascolib@casco.lib.me.us
Website if any: www.casco.lib.me.us

Please respond to the following questions.

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

Ruth Dean - Casco Library Board of Trustees

Carolyn Paradise - Library Director

Lisa Critchfield - Western Maine Homeschoolers, Cumberland County 4H

Mark Mujica - Casco Parks and Recreation

Johanna Bartlett - SAD#61

Lisa Magiera - BKD Fitness Center

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

3/20/2005 Meeting I Focus Group # of attendees 5

3/29/05 Meeting II Public Forum # of attendees 8

Location Casco Public Library

4/12/05 Meeting III Project Meeting # of attendees 5

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

There are no services available to single parents or homeschoolers. There are minimal resources available to teens, senior citizens, the illiterate, the handicapped, and the economically disadvantaged. Because we are in a rural area of Cumberland County it is difficult for our under served populations to access many of the services that may be available in Portland.

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

Head Start, Moose Readers, Stephen King/Verizon Program, Library Story Time and four Library Book Clubs.

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?

Our Library strives to be a community center. We make every effort to respond to the needs of community members both in terms of materials and space. Some of the groups we currently serve are Greater Bridgton Lakes Region Chamber of Commerce, Western Maine Homeschoolers, Krainin Realty, Embroiderers Guild of America, a local Quilting group, a local Yoga group, Momentum program for disabled adults, Casco Lakes Advisory Committee, Lake Regions Writers Guild, and Lake Region Community Theater.

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

We are a small rural Community. Services are very limited. We did not discover any overlaps in services.

7) Please describe potential community partners and projects to reach the under-served.

We discussed possible collaborations between the Library and Casco Parks and Recreation Department, Lakes Region Television, Salt Institute, Western Maine Homeschoolers, Casco - Raymond Historical Society, BKD Fitness Center, 4H, Headstart, and Casco Senior Citizens Group.

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

We believe that the traditional definition of literacy needs to be broadened to include 21st century technology. We would like to use visual media technology and projects to attract community members to the library who would not ordinarily visit.

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

We hope to purchase the electronic equipment necessary to photograph, film and record community members, events, and resources. We would then like to take advantage of our local cable channels to share these images with the community at large.

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

The creation of the advisory board provided a focus to assemble representatives of a variety of community groups. Advisory board members were enthusiastic about the potential this grant represents. While we found that there were services available for specific populations there are no programs available to create bridges between providers or for building community between diverse populations. This grant offers the opportunity to begin to address those needs in Casco.

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

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!

We will be glad to write a report chronicling our efforts and progress for Maine Reads. We also hope to share our process on the Maine Libraries Website.

