

## 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](http://www.mainereads.org) and emailing it back to us at [info@mainereads.org](mailto: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: Rangeley Public Library  
Address: PO Box 1150, 7 Lake Street  
City, State and Zip: Rangeley, ME 04970  
Librarian(s): Susan Downes-Borko  
Contact person: same  
Phone: 207-864-5529 Email: rangeleylibrary@rangeley.lib.me.us  
Website if any: rangeleyme.com/library

Please respond to the following questions.

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

**Nini Christensen** – teacher at Rangeley Lakes Regional School; mother of two pre-teens; active in library projects and member of local trails network

**Michelle Elliott** – mother of four, three of who have been home-schooled; active in Rangeley Baptist Church

**Giselle (Gigi) Glidden** – single mother of two, one elementary and one pre-school Head Start; resident of Section 8 housing

**Shirley Shrader** – teacher at Rangeley Lakes Regional School with focus on literacy and thinking skills; mother of three, two university students, one high school; currently pursuing M.A. degree (non-traditional); former Library Board member

**Lucy Simonds** – teacher at Rangeley Lakes Regional School with reading specialty; mother of two, one middle and one high school; Secretary of Rangeley Region Health Center Board

**Janet Waugaman** – School Librarian at Rangeley Lakes Regional School, mother of two middle schoolers; Former President of Friends of the Rangeley Public Library

**Ana Wetherill** – Teacher GED program for Adult Basic Education; mother of three, one of which is home-schooled; Girl Scout Leader; active volunteer at local Episcopal Church

**Virginia “Kit” White** – long time Adult Ed Coordinator and current Director of Extended Study, an after-school program at Rangeley Lakes Regional School; mature with grandchildren in middle school

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

X Meeting 1 Focus Group # of attendees 6

X Meeting II Public Forum # of attendees 14

Location: Rangeley Public Library

X Meeting III Project Meeting # of attendees 3

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

Working Men  
School Aged Boys with a focus on those in Middle School  
Young Adults  
Moms of Infants and Toddlers  
Single Moms

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

Head Start Program  
Adult Ed. Program  
School Programs  
Library Programs  
Literacy Volunteers of America (based in the town of Farmington, an hour away)

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?

By acting as a community center, The Rangeley Public Library (RPL) offers a broad base of services and programs in a welcoming environment for ALL. Although the Rangeley Regions year round population is small, it has a much larger seasonal population. The region is a resort area and is home to many seasonal residents, visitors and tourists. RPL creates a community focus and programming in which our “summer people” and our year round community members have an opportunity for interaction at all age levels.

RPL has a strong history of programs, which encourage reading, bring Rangeley’s residents together in a central location, encourage a sense of community, and improve the quality of life. RPL also has a history of collaboration with other organizations in our program development and presentation. Most of our programs feature local talent and expertise and are a focus for community involvement at every level.

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

As stated above, the Advisory Panel found very little overlap in organizations providing literacy services. What the Panel did find is a substantial overlap in services and activities offered by organizations in town. Because Rangeley is a very small community, many activities attract the same people and the same students or children.

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

Rotary Club, PTA, Rangeley Friends of the Arts, Sportsmen and Guides, local churches. Projects include bringing speakers and special programs to the library and the school. We will be collaborating with some of these groups this summer with our reading program.

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

Programs for working men and boys.  
Programs for parents of babies and toddlers.  
Programs for young adults.  
Programs for single parents.

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

Program title: Boys to Men

The Panel identified 5 career categories which are of heightened interest: NASCAR racing, Professional Baseball, High Level Competitive Snowboarding, Aviation and Photography.

RPL would like to host 5 evening programs hosted by high-profile male role models who will describe their professions and offer insight and information about their own introduction to the activity and the materials of their trade. Displays of materials on each subject will be set up before each event, and prizes of books and magazine subscriptions will be given away to encourage this group to advance their literacy.

By offering special programs to entice males of all ages into the library, we hope to inspire a new segment of our population to visit, use and promote the library. We also hope to encourage a bond between fathers and sons who will be invited to attend together. Girls and women will never be excluded, but the Panel and the audience at the Public Forum consistently highlighted a need to increase literacy in local boys and men. Most likely, this type of program will bring in both entire families and especially generations of boys and men.

With funding from Maine Reads, RPL will have a nice selection of support materials in place following each program. The Rangeley Region Guides and Sportsmen, the Rangeley Lakes Regional School and the Rangeley PTA will be contacted, in the hopes that we can collaborate on future programs that continue and expand our "Boys to Men" project.

Prior to each program, local media will be given interest articles and possibly paid advertising to accompany the articles. Photographs will be taken at each event, so that follow-up articles can bring added attention to this exciting literacy program.

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

As we initiated the project, we tried to eliminate any preconceived notions of what was available in our Community and attempted to take a fresh look at services, the sponsors and the groups served. We were interested to discover how clearly the attendees of the Public Forum echoed the ideas of the Advisory Panel and how easily and quickly the group reached a consensus regarding the groups in our community who continue to be underserved. Ours is a small community where most of the people who are active are pulled in many directions. While we felt that we had reasonable participation in the Panel and in the Public Forum, we

were marginally disappointed in the lack of diversity represented. Despite advance advertisement of the event and letters of invitation to targeted community members, we discovered that with a few notable exceptions those most interested in the Project were in some way already involved with formal education. It also seemed somewhat hard to conceive that in a community so small with services so readily available, quite a few could remain underserved.

Our proposed “Boys to Men” project will be designed to encourage attendance by families and specifically multi-generational males. The Library will provide a safe environment in which to come together and share the excitement of a common theme. There will be tours of the Library’s existing collection as well as magazines, books and DVDs added specifically on a topic-by-topic basis.

#### Other comments?

We feel that the materials given to us were excellent and the process, well designed. We found that without pressure or persuasion, one step led cohesively to the next and that by the end of the Public Forum, we had a clear consensus.

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!

