

## 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: Springvale Public Library  
Address: 443 Main Street  
City, State and Zip: Springvale, ME 04083  
Librarian(s): Sheila Dube, Springvale Children's Librarian and Karen Miliano, Library Media Specialist  
Contact person: Sheila Dube, Springvale Children's Librarian  
Phone: (207) 324-4624 Email: [sdube@springvalelibrary.org](mailto:sdube@springvalelibrary.org)  
Website if any: [www.springvalelibrary.org](http://www.springvalelibrary.org)

Please respond to the following questions.

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

Sheila English, Jr. High Library Media Specialist  
June Rose, 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher at Willard School  
Linda Huber, Project Director for 21<sup>st</sup> Century grant Kid's Club  
Erin Simoneau, School Age Childcare Director, Springvale-Sanford YMCA  
Lisa Robertson, Family Literacy Coordinator, Families READ  
Lorraine Robida, Co-director of Literacy Vol. Of Greater Sanford

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

Meeting I Focus Group # of attendees 7 (during snowstorm)  
 Meeting II Public Forum # of attendees 5  
Location Springvale Public Library Community Room  
 Meeting III Project Meeting # of attendees 6

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

Families in need of transportation  
Low level reading issues and prevalent attitudes

Adult learners finding appropriate resources  
4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders of above families  
ESL families.

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

**Literacy Volunteers of Greater Sanford:**

- Assessment
- One-on-one book club
- Book Club with Maine Humanities
- Adult education
- Study group
- Computer classes
- Lending library

**Kids club through the 21<sup>st</sup> Century grant:**

- Mandatory reading aloud
- One-on-one with an adult
- Focused activities
- Book club
- Guest readers
- Newsletter created during Kid's club

**Sanford Junior High School:**

- Literacy initiative
- Sustained silent reading during school
- Literacy magazine as after-school program
- Homework club run by a paid teacher

**YMCA day care:**

- Story time to the participants as part of their weekly activity

**Families READ (a family literacy program sponsored by Sanford Comm. Adult Ed & the Alliance for Healthy Families):**

- Home visits from the Alliance for Healthy Families
- Library visits
- Play group and parent support group
- Free transportation and childcare during reading improvement, diploma or GED classes

**Springvale Public Library:**

- Story times weekly for children ages 2-3 and 4-6
- Summer and Winter reading programs with various activities and reading reward incentives to those who participate.
- LET'S TALK ABOUT IT SERIES
- Adult Book Discussion Group
- Newsletter with current book titles
- Children's librarian serves as a guest reader for the Kid's club after-school program and provides tours, story times and research training to preschool, day care and home schooling groups.

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 Springvale Public Library provides free access to books, audio books, reference materials, magazines and internet access for the residents of Springvale and Sanford. The programs offered to children, adults and families encourage reading and support the vision of Maine being a state of life-long learners.

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

The overlap in service discovered during the first advisory panel meeting was the group of families needing and qualifying for services. Many of the programs worked with the same families in the community, but in a coordinated effort. It was agreed that communication is important.

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

Ideas that were discussed included going to work places and offering a read aloud program during lunch breaks, engaging people by practical applications such as reading recipes, job applications and reading newspapers. The Literacy Vol. Of Greater Sanford has a manual of resources available for this idea. Other suggestions included Teen parent involvement in story times, socialization, and connecting their needs to reading.

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

In Sanford and Springvale there are approximately 800 children in the 4-6<sup>th</sup> grades. These are the children who lack continual programming support and consist of an underserved group in the community. The 21<sup>st</sup> Century grant, Kid's Club, has only 100 spaces available to children. There are many more than 100 children who would benefit or are in need of literacy opportunities. There are children waiting for programs to become available. It has been the experience of the librarians on the advisory panel to have children express interest in the library sponsored programs during the school year, but due to lack of parental support or ability to get transportation; they do not end up participating. Literacy projects that are engaging, accessible, free to the participants and meeting the needs of the 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders and low level reading adults are potential gap fillers.

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

The advisory panel agreed that a theater related program at the Springvale Public Library with the focus of fairy tales would be beneficial. The project would be dual focused. Children will participate in the process of reading, understanding and writing a script based on a fairy tale. They would commit to developing scenery, costumes and produce

a play to be performed for others. The participants would perform for various groups in the community, i.e. Kid's club, YMCA daycare, nursing homes as arranged by the Springvale Public Library staff. A part of the project would consist of identifying audio books that correspond to the theme of the theater portion, adding it to the library collection and making them available to the community for the long term. Tutors and adult education programs will then be able to refer families receiving services to this new resource.

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

The act of getting the "already passionate about literacy" advisory panel members together was a positive and eye opening experience for all involved. Many other persons on the suggested advisory list were enthusiastic about the ideas presented and the grant in general. The desire was expressed to improve the communication and coordination between literacy organizations.

Other comments?

It was disappointing, but not surprising, that no community members other than the already established advisory panel members attended the scheduled public forum. The forum was advertised in at least three newspapers, the monthly library newsletter, on the MaineLibraries.com website calendar, in the Maine Memo and on Metrocast Cablevision Channel 12.

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!

