



Library Development

2005-2007 Grant Project Reports

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Brooklyn Public Library

Cathy Shomstein

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Project Name: Equipped for the Present (EFP)

Project Amount: \$38,075

Brief Project Description: Voluntary workshops helping students apply literacy skills to their practical needs: Life Skills, Health Literacy, and Workforce Development. Year Two continued as successfully as the first, with just two structural program modifications. First, as outlined in our proposal, all three workshop topics were provided at each Learning Center, rather than topics being site-specific, a model much preferred by students. Second, the Life Skills class narrowed its focus to everyday math skills.

Needs Addressed: Provide residents with the ability to improve their reading and writing skills.

Target Audience: Brooklyn adults in the Bedford-Stuyvesant, Coney Island, Eastern Parkway, Flatbush, and Prospect Heights-Park slope neighborhoods.

Community Partners:

- LAC's Health Literacy Initiative - train adult education instructors on teaching essential skills rather than specific health information.
- Brooklyn's Workforce 1 Career Center

Specific Activities:

- Creation of five Learning Centers for basic reading and writing instruction in small groups
- EFP workshop sessions offered in Life Skills, Health Literacy, and Job Readiness/Workforce Development
- Four two-hour Health Literacy workshops were offered at each of the five Learning Centers
- Four two-hour Workforce Development/Job Readiness workshops were offered at each of the five Learning Centers

Changes/Recommendations/Ongoing Services: The topics presented within the EFP workshops are crucial to the lifelong learning of the students attending the BPL Literacy Program. These programs will remain intact.

Dormann Library

Carol Berry

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Project Name: In the Know

Project Amount: \$30,274

Brief Project Description: Partnering with the local literacy volunteer program, a series of activities and workshops designed to help adults improve personal literacy, meet personal goals related to literacy, and participate in additional one-on-one activities with volunteer tutors, as well as in small group sessions and workshops with others.

Needs Addressed: High local poverty, unemployment, and functional literacy. Partnerships and literacy services offered between the two local libraries and the Literacy Volunteers chapter can help improve the community.

Target Audience: Adults with literacy needs.

Community Partners:

- ProAction of Steuben and Yates, Inc. List – Provided Volunteers.

Specific Activities:

- Held tutor training in the Dormann Library community room
- Held thirteen workshops for tutors

- Purchased high interest low level reading material for both library collections

Changes/Recommendations/Ongoing Services: The library has plans to continue this project in the future.

James Prendergast Library

Anne Plyler

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Spotlight on Literacy

\$19,994

2005-2006

Brief Project Description: Increase the materials and services available for improving adult literacy and the number of Chautauqua County residents using them.

Target Audience: Adults who need help reading, doing basic math, mastering English as a Second Language, and parenting successfully despite learning disabilities or low literacy skills.

Needs Addressed: Support local literacy providers and integrate and coordinate offerings.

Specific Activities:

- Add to adult learner collection, including books and CD/book sets.
- Install two new computers (purchased with LSTA grant) and current GED preparation software
- Train partnering literacy providers in means to identify and instruct low-level individuals
- Offer pre-kindergarten enrichment classes twice a week while parents work with the BOCES program at the library.
- Advertise literacy services at the library through TV spots and print media; thirty-second spots about literacy services ran for 35 weeks on Time Warner

Community Partners & Staffing:

- BOCES: Provided tutor to work part time in library literacy center
- Even Start: conducted pre-kindergarten enrichment classes twice a week while parents work with the BOCES program at the library.

- Learning Disabilities Association of Western New York: Conducted training courses for staff of participating agencies

Costs:

- Supplies and Materials: \$6,823
- Purchased Services: \$3,875
- BOCES Services: \$5,735

Evaluation:

- Quantitative
 - 154 items added to about 350 existing items in its adult learner collection.
 - Six tutors trained in use of GED software on new computers.
 - 230 computer carrel bookings for student/tutor use between September 2004 and June 2005
 - 25% increase in contact hours and 43% increase in enrollment status, programs and hours of service to adult learners.
 - 11 training sessions equaling 24 hours of training to partnering literacy providers with attendance of 108.
- Qualitative
 - Very positive overall
 - One GED student was named New York State Student of the Year

Categories of service:

1. Adult Learner Collection Development
2. GED Preparation
3. Inter-agency coordination
4. Learning Disabilities
5. Parenting support

Liverpool Public Library

Elizabeth J. Dailey
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Project Name: Literacy and the Arts: a Lifelong Learning Project

Project Amount: \$21,338

Brief Project Description: The goals of the program included: increased literacy skills, increased knowledge of libraries and how to use them, increased knowledge and interest in the cultural arts to encourage future participation and sharing of knowledge with family members, and introduction of career opportunities in the arts.

Needs Addressed: Bring culture to adult literacy students in the library's service area.

Target Audience: Adult literacy students

Community Partners:

- OCM BOCES
- Rosamond Gifford Author Lecture Series through the Friends of Central Library
- Everson Museum of Art
- Syracuse Stage
- Syracuse Opera
- Syracuse Symphony Orchestra

Specific Activities:

- Students met with an art teacher and created their own artwork based on her principles
- Read and Discussed Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol and the societal problems at the time of its writing, then attended the play at the Syracuse Stage
- Took a backstage tour of Syracuse Stage
- Participants presented a music, art, literature, and theatre career fair at the OCM BOCES
- Participants read and discussed music history, opera history, and musical instruments before attending the opera Lucia de Lammermore at the Syracuse Symphony Orchestra and the Syracuse Opera

Changes/Recommendations/Ongoing Services: The library hopes to continue its efforts in this area on a smaller scale. Programming would be focused on a single art form with programming extending over four to six week period of time. The art form studied would change annually.

Monroe County Public Library System

Paula Smith

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Project Name: Workforce Preparation: Helping Those with Literacy Needs Aspire to Achieve

Project Amount: \$40,000

Brief Project Description: The objectives of the project were: to provide library materials and impart skills necessary to help the target population obtain a job and ensure future job retention and advancement. Library staff was to be trained to conduct Literacy/Workplace skills classes so that the project's purpose would be continued after the grant project ended.

Needs Addressed: High unemployment levels in the Monroe County area.

Target Audience: The target group was adults with a reading level between grades 3-8 that were unemployed or underemployed within the Monroe County area.

Community Partners:

- Literacy NY
- BOCES
- Secondary Schools
- St. Josephs Neighborhood Center
- Learning Disabilities of the Genesee Valley, Inc.
- Greece Community Education/Adult Literacy (Greece Central School District)
- Catholic Family Center Employment Collaborative

Specific Activities:

- Essential Workplace Skills Sessions
- Resume writing

Changes/Recommendations/Ongoing Services: At this time, the program is not going to be continued.

The New York Public Library, The Branch Libraries

Paul LeClerc

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Project Name: Piloting Technology Assisted ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) Instruction at Seward Park Branch

Project Amount: \$39,203

Brief Project Description: The New York Public Library piloted a new model of technology-assisted language instruction for adults with limited English language proficiency skills with funding from the New York State Adult Literacy Services.

Needs Addressed: To increase the English language skills of immigrants who live or work in Manhattan's Lower East Side community.

Target Audience: Adults who work or reside on the Lower East Side of Manhattan

Community Partners:

- Riverside Language Program
- Literacy Assistance Center
- New York City Department of Youth and Community Development
- New York City Department of Education

Specific Activities:

Classes met twice a week in 2½ hour sessions for both morning and afternoon

Changes/Recommendations/Ongoing Services: The library plans to keep this service going.
