



Yo Quiero Leer:

Impacting Migrant
Families Through
Literacy

LSTA Grant

3 YEARS - \$110,000.00

Collaborate





Demographics

- Class IV Library - 14,496 population
- Large (11% or higher) areas of underserved Spanish speaking populations.
- Poverty rates above the national level.
- Minority enrollment (majority Hispanic) is now 55% of the local high school student body.



Telamon Corporation

- Provides early childhood and family support.
- Operates in 11 states.
- Michigan Telamon Centers in Allegan, Berrien, Kent, Lenawee, Manistee, Oceana, Ottawa, and Van Buren Counties.
- Telamon-Pullman serves families during the summer and fall.



The Beginning...

- Be aware
- Listen
- Ask questions
- Research your community



Engage and Develop Relationships

- Visit
- What do you need?
- Learn and adapt as you go.
- Stay in touch on a regular basis.
- Start small
- Follow-up

Identify Potential Strategic Partners

- Are they an already trusted network?
- What benefits would this organization provide?
- What drawbacks?
- What are their needs?
- Do your values/vision align?
- What is their reputation in the community?

*Take a minute
to think about
organizations in
your community
that work with
underserved
populations.*



Find your strategic partner then...

- 1) What impact do you want to have?
- 2) Expectations
- 3) Responsibilities
- 4) Clear goals

Impact

The Fennville District Library will collaborate with Telamon Migrant Head Start Center in Pullman, Michigan to implement an innovative literacy program for families attending the seasonal migrant program.

The project is intended to establish literacy services to an underserved community, establish access to various materials for lifelong enrichment, provide library support of early literacy skills for young children and parents, encourage families to become lifelong learners, and address the ongoing and emerging needs of the migrant population in our community.

Expectations/Responsibilities

We are pleased to confirm that we will contribute staff time to the literacy project. The Center Director and Education Specialist will meet yearly with library staff to plan the literacy program for the year and to discuss the curriculum needs. The Center Director and Library Director will meet periodically to discuss the program, prioritize and evaluate activities and resources, and to make any changes or adjustments as needed. Teachers will assist by welcoming volunteers and library staff into their classrooms. Center staff and library staff will work together to disseminate and collect evaluations. Center staff and library staff will meet at the end of the seasonal program to discuss the previous year, modify programs and plan for the future. The Center will also be an advocate for the literacy program, a capacity builder and will create a positive working relationship with Fennville District Library.

Goals

- Increase parents' awareness of their preschool-age children's educational needs.
- Introduce families to the value of lifelong reading and learning.

Designing Outreach Services to the Underserved

- Don't reinvent the wheel.
- Utilize existing work.
- Program types
- Idealistic versus realistic

Programs, Services, Activities

- Family Bilingual Literacy Kits
- Early Literacy Program
- Early Literacy Kits
- STEM Kits
- Family Memory Kits
- Literacy Nights at the Library
- Reading Buddies



Family Bilingual Literacy Kits

- Bilingual adult and children’s book
- English adult and children’s book
- Activity cards
- Puzzles
- Pre-loaded tablets
- Family journal
- Game
- Bilingual book list



Early Literacy Program

- Focus on talking, singing, reading, and playing
- Weekly sensory story times
- Music and movement
- Interactive play



Early Literacy Kits

- Sensory bilingual books
- Puzzles
- Puppets
- Manipulative toys
- Bilingual booklet of rhymes and songs
- Bilingual list of literacy activities



STEM Kits

- Curriculum based books
- Cubes, blocks, links, gears, magnetic tiles, engineering sticks and LEGO Duplo
- Informational materials sent to teachers.
- Teacher survey



Family Memory Kits

Scavenger Hunt!

1. Find a plastic food.
2. Find a toy car.
3. Find a red stuffed animal.
4. Find a blue book.
5. Find a book about a dog.
6. Find a new book.
7. Find a book in Spanish.

Bring your items to the desk to receive your prize!



Búsqueda de tesoros!

1. Encuentra una comida de plástico.
2. Encuentra un coche de juguete.
3. Encuentra un peluche rojo.
4. Encuentra un libro azul.
5. Encuentra un libro sobre un perro.
6. Encuentra un libro nuevo.
7. Encuentra un libro en Español.

Lleva tus artículos al escritorio para recibir tu premio.



Literacy Nights

- Focus on interactive literacy activities between parents and their children.
- Bilingual books
- Craft and build projects
- Puzzles
- Drawing

Literacy Night Partners

- Friends of the Library
- Reading Buddies volunteers
- Community stakeholders
- Non-profit organizations



Reading Buddies

- Books
- English language cards
- Paper
- Crayons

Challenges

- COVID-19
- “RULE” changes
- Linguistics
- Cultural differences
- Limited vendors
- Outreach vs. library programming
- Evaluations
- Literacy vs. needs

Opportunities

- Collection diversity
- Opportunity to interact with a unique, underserved population.
- Creativity
- Opportunity to build community.
- Meeting unmet needs builds the library's reputation.

Sustainability

- Put services for the underserved at the heart of your library.
- Include the underserved in your budget.
- Partner with other agencies, organizations, and advocacy groups to develop additional programs and services.
- Integrate project goals and activities into your organization's structure.
- Your trust and your reputation.

Committed Support

- Trained volunteers
- Community work group
- Share information with key stakeholders in the community.
- Increase public awareness of the underserved population.



Respectful Outreach

- Be calm and flexible.
- Respect an organization's rules.
- Focus on migrant farmworkers and their families being underserved by the library.
- Appreciate cultural differences.

- Keep written material simple and bilingual.
- Not here to save anyone.
- Stay in your lane - don't assume unseen needs.
- Encourage feedback

What we learned...

- Our library has been missing a large chunk of our community.
- Opened our eyes to the challenges that the families face and the hurdles they must overcome.
- Show compassion and empathy
- Outreach at times can be a complete failure.
- Don't get discouraged!
- Most difficult work but also the most rewarding.

*Thank you for
the opportunity
to share.*

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