
THIS CITY READS! PARTNERS REPORT ON LITERACY ACTIVITIES

A Progress Report on
the Efforts of This City
Reads! in 2009

February 10, 2010



Imagine what's possible...

...when an entire community works together to assure that every child learns to read and every adult can read! And imagine what will be possible when we have the tools to monitor our progress and - as a community - adjust our actions to realize our goals.

This City Reads! is the community's alliance of organizations that champion and leverage the power of reading to promote the future success of families, individuals, and businesses in Greater Akron/Summit County

Introduction

This City Reads! Partners Report On Literacy Activities is the fifth annual report of the partner organizations of This City Reads! The report is released on the Annual Day of Reading in Summit County. Its purpose is to let the community know about the literacy programs, activities, and events that partner organizations provided in the prior year.

Since 2003, the alliance has focused on the time beyond the school day in mobilizing the community to supplement the work of educators year-round to support families on their journey to literacy.

This City Reads! is committed to raise significantly the number of Summit County's citizens, young and old, who can read. One in five adults in Summit County lacks adequate literacy skills to be fully self-sufficient.¹ The Workforce Investment Act of 1998 defines literacy as "an individual's ability to read, write, speak English, compute and solve problems at levels of proficiency necessary to function on the job, in the family and in society."

Of a total population of approximately 543,000 in Summit County, 411,000 are over the age of 18 years, 36,000 are under age five and 39,000 are between the ages of 5 and 9. This City Reads! goal is for every child to enter school ready to learn to read and for each school-age child to be reading at grade level by third grade. TCR wants every adult to know where help is available to improve literacy skills.

This City Reads! Partners work as an alliance to share resources around a shared mission. While by design no formal organization exists, the Akron-Summit County Public Library (ASCPL) provides administrative support, coordination, and some funding for operations. Project Learn of Summit County serves as the fiscal agent, and other partners provide expertise and support. Volunteer co-chairs Chris Yuhasz and David Jennings succeeded Dr. Sue Long and Dr. Sandy Auburn in 2008. A volunteer Coordinating Council of the partner organizations leads the work of the alliance. Carrie Burrier directs a team of library staff that provides coordination and support. Inda Blatch Geib is the events chair.

The Annual Day of Reading, the second Wednesday in February, was established in 2004 to capture the imagination and engagement of thousands of people throughout our community. TCR asks everyone in the community to read for 30 minutes and report it. The goal is 100,000 readers reporting. Participants include businesses, children and teachers at school, people at home, on the bus, in our airport and at work, moms and dads, grandparents, guardians, friends, families, individuals.

Year	Readers
2004	More than 59,000
2005	More than 92,000
2006	94,574
2007	85,685
2008	85,909
2009	90,805

¹ 2004 U.S. Census data and The National Institute for Literacy 1999 *State of Literacy in America* report

As an alliance, This City Reads! believes:

- Reading is everyone's business;
- An information-based economy requires everyone to read;
- Reading soars when family, school, and community collaborate;
- First you learn to read, then you read to learn;
- Reading is essential to improving quality of life; and
- Reading is fundamental to responsible citizenship.

The goals of This City Reads! are to:

- Leverage impact;
- Engage the community;
- Connect individuals and families with resources; and
- Champion the collaborative model

THIS CITY READS! PARTNERS REPORT ON LITERACY ACTIVITIES

The information in this report was submitted by TCR Partner organizations and is based on the This City Reads! mission, beliefs, goals, and “Indicators for Success.” The Indicators for Success were developed to measure progress on each goal and to encourage action that supports progress toward the goals. Partner organizations reported on their activities for the period January-December 2009.

GOAL ONE: *LEVERAGE IMPACT*

Everyone wants to see measurable progress demonstrating an increase in the rate of literacy in our community. For young children, two measures provide data. *The Kindergarten Readiness Assessment for Literacy (KRA-L)* measures a child’s readiness to read as they enter kindergarten. The *Third Grade Reading Achievement Test* establishes the appropriate level of reading progress for children in the early grades.

INDICATOR ONE

Kindergarten Readiness Assessment-Literacy (KRA-L):

The Assessment is based on five areas of early literacy knowledge and was mandated by the Ohio Department of Education for all students entering Kindergarten in 2005. 2009 was the fifth year of testing. The state uses three scoring ranges.

24-29	Students who have had adequate experiences and have pre-literacy skills.
14-23	Students who have some pre-literacy experiences but may have some weak areas such as rhyming or letter naming.
0-13	Students who have few pre-literacy skills and experiences who should receive targeted literacy instruction early that supports the kindergarten literacy curriculum.

Below are the results of the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment-Literacy for children entering Kindergarten in Akron Public Schools over the last 3 years. This year 1,888 children took the assessment.

	2009	2008	2007
24-29	36%	37.5%	30.8%
14-23	39%	39%	40.2%
0-13	25%	23.5%	29%

*Kra-L data from other Summit County school districts was not collected for this report.

TCR Partner organizations are collaborating to address the reading readiness of children who will enter kindergarten in the coming years.

Indicator One Activities:

- **Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority (AMHA): Early Learning Initiative:**
The Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority (AMHA) has found an efficient way to provide high quality early care and education to the 3000 children (10% of the county's children under 5) living in AMHA housing. By coordinating resources already existing within the county infrastructure, AMHA is able to provide a continuum of services to meet each developmental need. Importantly, the model is in alignment with the four ovals of the State of Ohio's early childhood development plan (health, education, special needs and family support) and can be evaluated using the state's already established KRA-L system.
- In collaboration with fellow This City Reads! partners, AMHA continues to develop a comprehensive service model to promote early care and education. Partners include Family Children First Council/Help Me Grow, Child Care Connection, Child Guidance & Family Solutions, Akron Children's Hospital, Akron-Summit County Public Library, local school districts, Summit County Educational Service Center, Head Start, Summit Education Initiative, the United Way of Summit County, and others.
- Through monthly early childhood events offered in AMHA family developments, and home visitation, children and their parents/caregivers are linked with partner agencies to access early childhood care and learning programs, as well as services that support the family's basic needs. In addition, 223 residents attended Born Learning® playgroups in 2009. (Born Learning® is a program of the United Way of Summit County.)
- To ensure we are affecting positive change, AMHA has included an evaluation component in our model. As part of the annual recertification process, residents with children age 5 and under are asked to answer questions about their awareness and involvement in early childhood programs and services. The survey is designed to evaluate awareness of early childhood programs and services and whether it increases from year to year; participation in programs and that increase from year to year; reasons families do not participate in preschool programs (no transportation, other children to supervise, lack of financial support, others); and the impact on KRA-L scores to help determine which of these programs/combinations of programs are having the greatest impact on school readiness.
- **SPARK Ohio: Summit County** is a free program to help 3- and 4- year old children in the University Park neighborhood get ready for kindergarten. The program offers a wide variety of support services for families who live in the Leggett and Mason school attendance areas. Parent partners meet monthly with children and parents and provide books and literacy activities that they can do throughout the month. They provide direct support to parents to be their child's first teacher.
- Summit Education Initiative (SEI), Greenleaf Family Services and the University Park Alliance have partnered to provide SPARK services. Currently, there are 50 four-year-old students and 20 three-year-old students in the program. With the help of a grant from PNC bank and collaboration from Asia, Inc., this year there is a program being developed to serve 5 Burmese Mon families so that their students can benefit from the program.

- The recent SPARK Ohio: 2009 Evaluation Results of students in cohort five from Canton, Minerva, Alliance, Akron and Warren reflect the following:
- SPARK children have consistently outperformed non-SPARK comparison children at kindergarten entry.
- SPARK children are less represented on the lower ODE bands and more represented in the higher band levels for both the KRA-L and the OAT (Reading and Math).
- SPARK children significantly attended school more regularly from kindergarten through third grade.
- SPARK children scored statistically higher on third grade OAT Math than non-SPARK comparison children.
- The evaluator's conclusion is that SPARK children are better prepared than non-SPARK comparison children at kindergarten entry and maintain their edge through grade three. According to Kristy Johnson, a kindergarten teacher from Mason, "Compared to his classmates, the child in my class who completed SPARK is phenomenal. SPARK has made him a confident and skilled worker which allowed him to enter kindergarten ready to learn from day one." Teachers and principals agree that SPARK makes a difference with kids entering kindergarten.
- **Akron Summit Community Action, Inc.'s (ASCA) Head Start Program** is a comprehensive early childhood development program that promotes school readiness by enhancing the social and cognitive development of children through educational, health, nutritional, social and other services to enrolled children and families. There are 1735 children enrolled in Head Start Preschool in Summit County.
- ASCA will be expanding the current Early Head Start Program to serve an additional 78 pregnant women, infants and toddlers.
- Sixty-eight children will be spending their Head Start Preschool year(s) at the brand new, state-of-the art, Akron Public Schools Robinson Community Learning Center. This makes the "smooth" transition to kindergarten a reality.
- Akron Ready Steps: Collaboration between the University of Akron and ASCA, serving over 300 at-risk children in four Head Start Preschool sites to provide high quality language and literacy programming. This collaboration will continue for the next three years.
- All ASCA Head Start Preschool sites participated in the Pizza Hut "Book It!" program. "Book it! is a read-aloud program that builds reading-readiness skills and establishes an at-home reading routine by providing interactive classroom materials to teachers.
- First Book, an international non-profit organization, provides children and families with their first book. First Book has provided hundreds of "first books" to ASCA Head Start Preschool and Early Head Start children and families.
- The Foster Grandparent Program matches senior citizens and children with special needs at various Head Start Preschools and Early Head Start sites throughout the community. Foster Grandparents work one-on-one with the children providing support at ASCA Head Start Preschool Program sites. Under the supervision of the classroom

teacher, Foster Grandparents assist 64 children to improve their individual skill development and educational needs by engaging them, one-on-one, in activities such as letter recognition, identifying colors, reading books, completing puzzles and playing number games.

- ASCA Head Start Preschool staff participated in several professional development sessions to enhance literacy and language skills for all children: Literacy and Math, Creative Curriculum Approach, Conscious Discipline, Portfolio and Documentation, Early Intervention and Sign Language, just to name a few.
- ASCA purchased three TeachSmart Boards for sites with funding awarded through the Akron Community Foundation. These interactive boards have made Head Start Preschool classrooms a 21st Century teaching-learning environment one step ahead.
- ASCA Head Start Preschool staff attended the Resource Lab Lock-In event at the Akron-Summit County Public Library. The staff joined with other early childhood field professionals from the community. After the necessary orientation, they made classroom materials using the Ellison machines, laminating, binding books & sharing ideas and networking. They had a blast!
- ASCA Head Start Preschool recruitment brochure is translated into 10 languages: Vietnamese, Hmong, Croatian, Arabic, Korean, Russian, Spanish, Mon, Karen, and Chinese.
- ASCA Head Start Preschool parents attend monthly parent meetings to learn about various parent education topics including: Edible Science, Extending Your Food Budget and Appropriate Discipline Practices.
- ASCA Head Start Preschool and Early Head Start families participate in Family Literacy programming. A component of Family Literacy is to provide educational activities to be sent home with children encouraging parents to work on skills essential for school readiness. Individualized Parent-Child Home activities have been prepared in all early childhood domains with emphasis on language and literacy.
- **The Akron-Summit County Public Library** Bookmobile made 117 visits to Head Start sites in 2009 with 3661 books borrowed.
- **Akron Children's Hospital's Reach Out and Read (ROR)** is a national program dedicated to fostering the development of early literacy skills among children as a standard part of pediatric primary care. The program has been endorsed by the American Academy of Pediatrics and similar organizations whose members recognize the value of treating the "whole child" as part of routine primary care practice. Research shows that a child's experiences early in life are critical to his ability to achieve his potential and become a productive member of society.
- Through Reach Out and Read, pediatricians and nurses give the parents or caregivers of children ages 6 months to 5 years age-appropriate children's books at their well-child visits and suggestions on how to help their children develop a love of books and reading. Akron Children's Hospital Physician Associates has implemented the Reach Out and Read Program in its pediatric offices at 15 locations including Ashland, Barberton, Broadway, New Philadelphia, Ellet, Fairlawn, Green, Hudson, Kent, Medina, Tallmadge, Twinsburg, Wadsworth, Wooster, and the Locust Pediatric Care Group on the hospital's main campus.

- The program is most notably funded by Kohl's Department Stores and its *Kohl's Cares for Kids* program and the annual Children's Cheer Classic event. Reach Out and Read builds on the unique and special relationship between doctors and the parents of young children. As such, Reach Out and Read reinforces the parent's role as the child's first - and most important - teacher and gives parents some of the tools and techniques they need to help prepare their children for success in school and beyond. To accomplish its goal of putting children on the road to success in school and beyond, Reach Out and Read provides primary care doctors with a standard model to incorporate into their practice. The model has three key components: At well-child visits from 6 months to 5 years, doctors and/or nurses provide parents with information about the importance of reading aloud to their children; During the visit, the doctor/nurse gives the child a new, developmentally appropriate book to take home; and volunteers model reading techniques for parents by reading books to children in the waiting room of the doctor's office.
- Jumpstart-Akron, managed by Holly Englert at The University of Akron and designated a Super-Site by Jumpstart's national office, coordinated approximately 50 UA students who mentored 65+ at-risk children in 4 pre-K settings located in Summit County. These UA students served nearly 180 hours during spring and summer 2009.
- The University of Akron Center for Child Development, Yetty Michael, Director, continues to provide a quality program for toddler and preschool children and their families. The Center is licensed by the State of Ohio and accredited by the National Academy of Early Childhood Programs, a division of the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC).

INDICATOR TWO

Third Grade Reading Achievement Scores:

(State requirement for proficiency is a 75% passing rate)

The *Third Grade Reading Achievement Test* was first administered during the 2003-04 academic year in Ohio. Before that time, the *Fourth Grade Reading Proficiency Test* was given throughout the state. The *Third Grade Achievement Test* measures performance as aligned with national and state standards.

Akron Public Schools continues to show impressive gains in their reading proficiency scores. Akron leads the list of Ohio's Big-8 school districts in the 2007-2008 Local Report Card

Akron Public Schools

2008-09	67.4%	(3 rd Grade Reading Achievement Test)
2007-08	67.3%	(3 rd Grade Reading Achievement Test)
2006-07	73.1%	(3 rd Grade Reading Achievement Test)
2005-06	68.0%	(3 rd Grade Reading Achievement Test)
2004-05	71.5%	(3 rd Grade Reading Achievement Test)
2004-05	69.0%	(4 th Grade Reading Achievement Test)
2003-04	69.0%	(3 rd Grade Reading Achievement Test)
2003-04	60.1%	(4 th Grade Reading Proficiency Test)
2002-03	51.2%	(4 th Grade Reading Proficiency Test)
2001-02	47.8%	(4 th Grade Reading Proficiency Test)

* Scores from other districts in Summit County were not included in this report.

Indicator Two Activities

- Literacy tutoring at Lincoln Elementary in the Summit Lake neighborhood of Akron continued through spring, 2009. The primary goal of the program is to support increased literacy achievement of Lincoln students. Dr. Peck worked closely with Lincoln administration and school improvement staff to shape literacy tutoring to best meet the needs of Lincoln students as indicated by the Ohio Achievement Test. Graduate assistant Christina Lekas coordinated tutoring activities with the Lincoln staff and to provide onsite assistance. Approximately 12 UA students enrolled in an undergraduate literacy course provided service learning that focused on increasing student fluency and confidence in reading. An additional positive outcome is the highly positive UA response to the experience, documented by their reflective journals and their requests to return to Lincoln Elementary for subsequent service learning opportunities.
- **UA College of Education** students enrolled in an undergraduate literacy course continued to provide service learning through the UA Center for Literacy at Leggett Elementary during spring 2009. This program is funded by the Martha Holden Jennings Foundation.
- Fall semester, 2009, literacy tutoring was supported by Dr. Peck's funding from the JPMorgan Chase Foundation. Approximately 30 undergraduate students enrolled in literacy courses collectively provided 300+ hours of service learning that focused on increasing student fluency and confidence in reading and writing.
- In addition, 40 freshmen enrolled in a Pre-Education Learning Community in University College at The University of Akron completed service learning hours during Fall Semester at Leggett Elementary and Mason Elementary. These freshmen tutored students for a minimum of 30 minutes each week. The tutoring sessions focused on reading, writing, and oral language development.
- Candidates enrolled in The University of Akron *Evaluating Language Literacy* course, coordinated by Dr. Denise Stuart, work each semester in Akron Public Schools assessing and planning lessons specific to children's individual needs. Students are supported in their reading, writing and oral language development across content areas using fiction and non-fiction literature. At Barrett Elementary and Goodyear Middle School candidates work one-on-one with students during the school hours. At Schumacher and Leggett this 30 hour experience takes place as part of after school programming. Dr. Ruth Oswald and students in another outreach section of ELL at Cornerstone School in Wayne County also work with children in one-on-one assessment and instruction. Families and community attend an end of the semester literacy celebration at Schumacher Academy in the Buchtel cluster where students engage in reading performance. Additionally, a section of this course is offered at the UA campus Literacy Center, serving families in the greater university area. Up to 125 students are served each semester.
- Dr Fannie Brown and her staff from **Tutoring Nurtures Talent** offer a Balanced Literacy program to children living at Summit Lake Apartments and Valley View Homes. The program, which provides tutoring and learning activities in reading and math, meets three evenings per week for two hours per evening throughout the school year.

GOAL TWO: *ENGAGE THE COMMUNITY*

INDICATORS ONE & TWO

Reading sites for the Annual Day of Reading and total number of readers

The Annual Day of Reading began in 2004 to introduce the community to This City Reads! and involve them in the work of the alliance. In the inaugural year, approximately 300 official sites were established and more than 59,000 citizens read at one time for 30 minutes. Readers could report their participation regardless of where they read.

In year two, 2005, approximately 375 official reading sites were established and 92,256 people reported their reading.

In year three, 2006, TCR no longer counted reading sites as people were reading at school, at work, at home, at the library, in churches, at the airport and other locations. More than 94,500 people reported their reading.

In years four and five, 2007-8, a snowstorm cancelled events and closed schools. The major media encouraged the community to read at home. More than 85,000 people reported their reading.

INDICATOR THREE

Community events celebrating and recognizing reading

- The **UA College of Education Center for Literacy** sponsored a Family Literacy Activity at the Akron Reading Festival on Saturday February 7 at the Akron-Summit Library downtown. Nearly 200 family members participated.
- The **Akron Aeros** sponsors *This City Reads Night at the Aeros*, an opportunity for families to exchange a new or gently used book for a game ticket. More than 2,000 books were collected this year and donated to Readers at Risk for distribution to children throughout the community. Young readers are nominated by schools to be recognized for achievements in improving their reading skills and scores. Each year, several students lead the stadium of 7,000+ fans in group reading and others announce an inning or are interviewed on the radio during the game. The recognized students and their families enjoy the game and refreshments from the team logo. For many families, this is the first time they have attended a baseball game in the stadium. Reading activities are provided throughout the stadium by TCR partners, and sponsorship dollars recognize partners and provide operating support to TCR. The Aeros also sponsor an *Akron-Summit County Public Library Night at the Aeros* to connect families with the library and the importance of reading.

INDICATOR FOUR

Use literacy as a companion for TV

- **Western Reserve PBS's Ready To Learn** (RTL) service is a parent and childcare provider outreach project that supplements PBS children's programs. The RTL staff offers free workshops, print materials and Web resources geared toward parents as well

as childcare providers to help extend the learning from our children's shows into reading and hands-on activities. Our free workshops are aligned with the State of Ohio's "Step Up to Quality" standards and present the professional training now required of all family and in-home childcare providers. Workshops allow participants a deeper understanding of how children learn through six developmental domains and of the impact that routine care has on all developmental areas. The six domains are presented in three-hour workshops on physical health and emotional, social, motor, language and cognitive development. The initiative is a cooperative effort between the Ohio Educational Television Stations (OETS) and is funded through Ohio's Department of Job and Family Services. In the 2008-09 fiscal year, our RTL staff presented 72 training sessions to over 807 caregivers. Since 1998, we have delivered a total of 1,248 free workshops to over 14,700 caregivers.

- **Akron Public Schools *Ask Gilby***, an early literacy skills program, airs locally three times a day on Time Warner TV 15 and reaches sixty percent of Akron's viewers, with a potential audience of 130,000 households each time it airs.
- Akron Public Schools *Ask Gilby* also airs regionally every Wednesday on WOAC-67 at 10:00 a.m. with a potential audience of 1.3 million households throughout Cleveland, Akron, and Canton.
- **Akron Public School's award winning *Super Small Tales* program**, which airs weekdays on Time Warner APS TV 15, features stories from Akron's selected reading list and includes tips for parents on how to read with children at home.

INDICATOR FIVE

Increase the number of workplace literacy programs

- **Project Learn** continues to provide customized workplace literacy services to local companies. The agency strives to work with local businesses, post-secondary institutions, and workforce development professionals to have a positive impact on Summit County's economy.
- The University of Akron consistently provides service to Project Learn of Summit County. Dr. Denise Stuart serves on the Project Learn Board of Directors and provides assistance in program development and access to resources. Project Learn is expanding programming to include workplace literacy and it is anticipated The University of Akron will continue to provide services in this area also.

GOAL THREE: CONNECT INDIVIDUALS/FAMILIES WITH RESOURCES

LIBRARY INDICATORS

Library card registration

Adult and juvenile books checked out

Summer reading program participants

Pre-school programs

Other programs

The Akron-Summit County Public Library system and the following independent libraries- Hudson Library and Historical Society, Peninsula Library and Historical Society, and Stow-Munroe Falls Public Library participated in this report:

Akron-Summit County Library (ASCPL) reported:

- Juvenile Library Card Registration: 69,537
- Adult and Juvenile Materials Checked Out: 5,832,157
- Summer Reading Program Participants: 14,606
- Pre-School Program attendance: 38,021

Other programs that were reported include:

- ASCPL sponsored 27 monthly book discussion groups with 324 sessions. There were also five youth book discussion groups.
- More than 6,451 people participated in 502 computer classes sponsored by ASCPL.
- **Hudson Library and Historical Society** provided 386 preschool story times to 8,207 children and family members. More than 119 other children's programs (preschool through fifth grade) were offered with 6,252 people attending. In addition, the summer reading program had 1,417 children participating.
- **Peninsula Library** celebrates its birthday each October 31 st with a Halloween theme. Both books and candy are handed out. This event is more than 50 years old. In 2009 we had 300 children come to the library to get their book!
- Preschool programs at Peninsula Library provide stories, songs, finger plays, and books to preschoolers and their families. The thirty-seven programs reached 404 children
- 8 middle school programs attracted 107 children.
- 8 school age summer reading programs attracted 743 children.
- **Stow-Munroe Falls Public Library** served 946 people with Adult & Teen book discussion groups.
- More than 12,148 preschoolers and family members attended story times or participated at daycare centers in Stow-Munroe Falls
- **United Way of Summit County Bornlearning™** is a national initiative created by United Way of America, Civitas, and the Ad Council. **Bornlearning™** is composed of easy, no cost early childhood learning ideas and activities, in addition to low-cost learning tools, to create quality learning opportunities for young children, and to guide parents in recognizing that they are their child's first teacher. The program provides caregivers with materials that help turn everyday activities (sorting laundry, cooking, buying groceries) into learning opportunities that will prepare children for school, enhance literacy and develop learning skills.
- Bornlearning™ provides age appropriate detailed information to parents, regardless of their socio-economic standing, that will guide them on healthcare, nutrition, development, and sleep, along with key ideas for new parents that can help them teach their child to learn and grow. Bornlearning™ materials are available at: Akron-Summit

County Public Libraries; Barberton Public Library / Barberton Citizens Hospital Maternity Ward; Akron, Barberton, and Summit County Health Departments – WIC program; United Disability Services Toy and Resource Room; and on-line at www.uwsummit.org/bornlearning

INDIVIDUAL AND FAMILY INDICATORS

Tutoring for reading and other subjects

Tutor training

Availability of newspapers and magazines

Increase reading time

Number of books read

Reading through use of technology

Adults seek ways to increase their literacy and their children's (family literacy/GED)

- In 2009 UA Center for Literacy program, Leap Up provided 130 tutors who served 120 students.
- **Project Learn of Summit County** served more than 1800 adults in 2009. Just over 60% of all students increased at least one grade level and more than 250 earned their GED. More than 35,000 hours of instruction was provided. More than 125 volunteers worked with Project Learn of Summit County as one-on-one tutors and classroom aides. Classes were held at 8 locations through the county. Project Learn of Summit county received an exemplary rating by the Ohio Board of Regents.
- ASCA Head Start parents attend monthly parent meetings learning about various early childhood topics including: Positive Discipline, Kindergarten Readiness, Nutrition and Health Education.
- ASCA Head Start and Early Head Start promote Family Literacy. A component of Family Literacy is to provide educational activities to be sent home with children encouraging parents to work on skills essential for school readiness. Individualized Parent-Child Home activities have been prepared in all early childhood domains with emphasis on language and literacy.
- The Barberton Outreach Program site participated in a Back-to-School Supply Kit Giveaway to fifty families. In addition, at Christmas, fifty "Learn to Read" books were given to families. Donated books and magazines are made available to clients on an ongoing basis. More than 800 books and magazines have been distributed.
- In addition, The University of Akron College of Education Center for Literacy places approximately 300 service learners in tutoring sites annually throughout Summit County.
- *Book Club to Go* from the **Akron-Summit County Public Library** offers grab-and-go convenience for users in book discussion groups. *Book Club to Go* is ten paperback copies of a book in a canvas bag. Books were selected specifically for book clubs because of their discussion-provoking setting, plots, and characters. Since the books are reading club editions, users can take advantage of the discussion starters to keep discussions lively. Extended circulation of 42 days accommodates monthly meeting schedules. The sets are housed at Main Library but can easily be picked up from and returned to any branch.

CHILD INDICATORS

Children attending preschool

Children being read to or reading to someone

Children owning books at home (i.e. distribution #'s and program tracking)

Out of school literacy experiences

- **See Goal One for pre-school information**
- **Reach Out & Read** distributed nearly 33,000 books in 2008. Akron Children's Hospital also recognizes Dr. Seuss's birthday (Read Across America Day) on March 2nd. Every year on this day Reach Out & Read gives books to all children who are seen in 15 pediatric offices.
- In 2009, the members from several communities and events donated over 15,461 new and gently used books to the Reach Out & Read program
- AkronReads distributed books to students in each elementary school building through the generous donations of local businesses.
- The University of Akron College of Education Center for Literacy places more than 30 service learners annually in Physicians' Assistant offices and wellness centers who read to children as participants in Reach Out and Read.
- Dr. Jackie Peck organized a campus visit for the Lincoln Elementary (APS) student body. The event was funded through Dr. Peck's JPMorgan Chase Foundation grant. US college of Education students, faculty and staff and community volunteers read to small groups of Lincoln students in the UA Student Center Ballroom for 45 minutes. A Zippy book and stuffed Zippy went back to the school to commemorate the campus visit. Charlene Williams of the Akron-Canton office of Chase Marketing was one of the volunteer readers.
- **Shaw Jewish Community Center** publishes a weekly newsletter for families of early childhood and SACC. It includes school events, information articles about An Ethical Start ® and Jewish Holidays, local, state and national legislation that effects the future of early childhood and school age education policy, "what's up with my child" hotline, news in the classroom and links to the Shaw JCC website and other links.
- Shaw JCC incorporated *An Ethical Start*®, a value-based emergent curriculum, into each of the 12 classrooms, birth- five years. *An Ethical Start*, like the Reggio Philosophy is based on the image of the child as a whole person who has great potential for development. It includes among its distinct features, the deep engagement of families, collegial teamwork, co-responsibility and continuing study, and the importance of the school environment as a community of learners. An Ethical Start combines this philosophy with the wisdom of the Jewish sages. Monthly programs are designed to involve and engage families, siblings and grandparents in ways similar to what the children experience on a daily basis. The monthly program includes a family dinner, Pirkei Avot-value-based text education with an educator, support and reinforcement activities that families do together with staff, a homework project that the families can accomplish at home and share on the documentation board and a community service project that relates to the test studied.
- Web based activities for *An Ethical Start* are available.

- Shaw JCC maintains a documentation board dedicated to tracking the monthly reading habits and challenges that are created for families.
- **First Book-Greater Akron (FBGA)** partnered with the SPARK program and supplied new books as gifts for the latest graduating class of 4 year old students that are now in Kindergarten at Mason and Leggett schools in Akron. FBGA will again supply several new books throughout the year, selecting titles that coincide with monthly curriculum as enrichment pieces.
- FBGA has distributed several thousand books through many programs in the public and charter school systems as well as through social and rescue agencies in the area. All the books distributed are new and must be owned by the recipient children. The books are taken to their homes or living spaces to encourage both individual and parent/child reading in the home. More than 500 children received books from FBGA in 2009
- FBGA distributed wrapped books to more than 350 low-income children and youth from ages birth to 18 in the Akron area for the Christmas season. A Christmas Party complete with gifts of books and other items was held again this year for the children at ACCESS in partnership with the Pajama Project and First Energy. Polar Express Gift Sets along with other books were also presented to parents and children attending an event at the First Glance Teen Mom shelter in Kenmore.

GOAL FOUR: *CHAMPION THE COLLABORATIVE MODEL*

INDICATORS

TCR partners (See attached list)

Event sponsors

New and leveraged partnerships

As TCR partners work together, many collaborations develop that enhance the work of the partner organizations.

- **Akron Children's Hospital** pediatric providers are aware of the importance of literacy, therefore they refer families to the local library or Project Learn to enhance their literacy skills. Reach Out & Read Ohio has recently teamed up with the Ohio Literacy Network to provide literacy services to the families we serve. The Ohio Literacy Network will identify a program within the city closest to the family.
- **Reach Out & Read** has volunteer opportunities to read to children in the waiting room at the physician's office. We work closely with The University of Akron's Center for Literacy to place students in various offices to read to children. ROR recruits and trains long-term student and adult volunteers. In 2008, 17 volunteers logged more than 178 volunteer hours.
- Akron Children's Hospital also participates in Read to Me Day in October. Employees visit Elementary schools and read an assigned classroom a story. The books are then donated to the classroom. This activity is in conjunction with Character Counts! And demonstrates the 6 pillars of character including: Trustworthiness, respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring, and Citizenship.

- **Akron Area YMCA**, along with ASCA Head Start, The University of Akron, and several other partners opened the University Park Preschool at 38 Agate in Akron. The center serves three and four year old children from the University Park neighborhood. We held a grand opening celebration where each invitee to the celebration was asked to donate a book to the center. We received over 75 books – all different and all appropriate for pre-schoolers. In addition, First Book – Greater Akron donated an age appropriate book to each of the children who enrolled in the new center.
- **United Way of Summit County Volunteer Center** promotes and advertises the need for literacy volunteers. Is a business partner for AkronReads and participates in the Read-To-Me Day.
- Read To Me Day - is designed to combat illiteracy in our community by motivating students to develop good reading skills during their elementary school years. Employees from local companies commit to read to children in an Akron Public School classroom. For the past 14 years, the Corporate Volunteer Council (CVC), a local coalition of companies that promote and participate in employee volunteerism, has sponsored Read-to-Me Day in collaboration with the Akron Public Schools.

AKRONREADS

AkronReads celebrates 11 years of a successful partnership with the Akron Public Schools. In the ten year history over 4,000 individuals tutored over 9,000 students. AkronReads is a partnership between schools, businesses, parents, and individuals. Once a week, volunteers from businesses and the community provide one-on-one tutoring to students in Akron Public Schools during the school day. The mission of Akron Reads and Ohio Reads is to ensure that all children are reading at grade level by the end of elementary school. Specifically, AkronReads prepares students to pass the Third Grade Reading Achievement Test. AkronReads plays an important role in the district's focused efforts to help children achieve in reading.

- In the 2008-09 school year, over 425 from twenty-five businesses provided one-on-one support for over 1,100 Akron Public Schools students in 40 schools.
- AkronReads partners participate in community events that promote reading including the Akron Reading Festival, Read to Me Day, and the Annual Day of Reading. Akron Reads promotes understanding of State standards and reading strategies to increase love of reading and reading scores.

The following organizations provided tutors in 2009:

Akron Auto Club
 Akron Beacon Journal
 Akron Children's Hospital
 Akron General Medical Center
 Akron Urban League
 Babcock & Wilcox
 City of Akron
 Eric Ryan, Consultant
 Fairlawn Rotary Club
 FedEx Custom Critical
 FirstEnergy
 The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co.
 GPD Group

Key Bank
Lockheed Martin Maritime Systems & Sensors
Malcolm Pirnie, Inc.
National City Bank
OMNOVA Solutions
Summa Health System
Summit County Juvenile Court
21st Century Financial Inc.
United Way of Summit County.
The University of Akron
Virtual Hold Technology

HERE'S HOW YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Become a This City Reads! Partner

The power of This City Reads! is in partnering with dozens of organizations to leverage relationships, resources, and ideas. A partnership agreement that requires participation in the Annual Day of Reading can be signed by any organization. Call 330.643.9099, or visit www.thiscityreads.org to become a partner and make a difference.

Join with AkronReads

If your organization can release employees to tutor Akron Public School students once a week for an hour, consider participation with AkronReads. Call 330.761.2809 to get more information.

Do Your Part to Prepare Our Community's Pre-Schoolers

Check the This City Reads! website www.thiscityreads.org for ways to help your preschooler be ready to learn to read when they enter kindergarten.

Get A Library Card And Use It

Residents of Summit County have some of the best library systems in the country. Do you have a library card? If not, get one. It's free.

Help An Adult Learn To Read

If you know an adult who needs help with literacy skills, connect them with Project: LEARN of Summit County. If you are looking for a volunteer opportunity, tutoring an adult on their journey to learn to read can be a rewarding experience. Call 330.434.9461 to change another life and to change your own.

Volunteer

If you see the activities of an organization in this report that interests you, call to volunteer. A list of This City Reads! Partners is included in this report.

Connect With Resources

Third Report was written to inform our community of the activities and resources that are available for all Summit County citizens. If you have children, enroll them in programs that you believe will help them improve their reading. Seek out family programs and opportunities for you and your children to celebrate the joy of reading. Help an adult find resources if they can't read.

Build A Culture of Reading

In your own home, choose reading. Create reading routines – reading the newspaper in the morning and reading to your children at night. Create and attend reading activities and events. Interact with children you know in ways that help them build reading skills.

How Can You Participate With This City Reads! Activities

Check the This City Reads! website at www.thiscityreads.org regularly to get up to date information on activities, events and ideas.

THIS CITY READS! PARTNERS

Signed Agreements on file as of February 1, 2010 (110)

A Y's Place
Ability at Work, A Hattie Larlham Program
Akron Aeros
Akron Art Museum
Akron Beacon Journal
Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank
Akron Children's Hospital
Akron General Medical Center
Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority
Akron Public Schools
Akron Summit Community Action Inc.
Akron-Summit County Public Library
Akron Urban League
AkronReads
Al Kaf Temple #109
All American Soap Box Derby
AMBC Christian Academy
Barberton City Schools
Barnes and Noble (Montrose)
Barberton Public Library
Boys & Girls Clubs of Summit County
Brightside Academy
Callis Tower
Caring Communities of Summit County
Children's Place UMC Daycare
City of Akron
Color Our Rainbow Academy
Community Health Center – Help Me Grow
Copley-Fairlawn Kiwanis
County of Summit
County of Summit Department of Job and Family Services
County of Summit Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board
Cuyahoga Falls City Schools
Cuyahoga Falls Library
FACT Academy
Family & Children First Council
Farmers Insurance
FirstBook-Greater Akron
Fishcreek Elementary
Fort Island Primary School
Greater Akron Chamber
Green Family YMCA
Goodwill Industries
Help Me Grow
Holy Family School
Hudson City Schools
Hudson Library and Historical Society
Imagine Romig Road Community School
Immaculate Conception Preschool & Child Care Center
Indian Trail PTA

Jumpstart-Akron
Kids Play
Kindermusik with Miss Terri
Lakeview Elementary
Laurel Lake Retirement Community
Leadership Akron
Lighthouse Academy
Lynn's Day Care
Meaden & Moore
Metro Regional Transit Authority
Minority Behavioral Health Group
Mogadore Local School District
Norton City School
Ohio Distance & Electronic Learning Academy
Old Trail School
Oriana House
Overdale Primary School (Tallmadge)
Peninsula Library & Historical Society
Phoenix Alternative School
Phoenix Village Academy
Portage Trail East Apartments
Project AGAPE
Project: LEARN of Summit County
R-D Bike Shop
Revere Local Schools
Rubber City Book Posse
Seton Catholic School
Shaw Jewish Community Center
Show and Tell
Springfield Local School District
Stow-Munroe Falls Public Library
Summa Health System
Summit Academy Schools
Summit County Domestic Relations Court
Summit County Children's Services
Summit Education Initiative
S.U.P.E.R. Learning Center-Tutoring & More!
Sutliff II Apartments (Cuyahoga Falls)
Tallmadge Kiddie Kollege
The Akron Area YMCA
The Blue Heron Bookstore (Peninsula)
The Chapel
The Learned Owl Book Shop (Hudson)
The University of Akron
Turkeyfoot Elementary School
Twinsburg Senior Apartments
United Way of Summit County
Vision Support Services
Walsh University, Akron Campus
WBNX
Wesley Tower
Western Reserve PBS
White Pond Villa/PK Management