



**THIS CITY READS!
SECOND REPORT to the COMMUNITY**

**A Progress Report on the Efforts
of This City Reads! in 2006**

February 14, 2007

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 goal.

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

Second Report is the second annual report of the partner organizations of This City Reads! The report is released each year 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 2006.

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! (TCR) 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 lack 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. The TCR 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 if they need to improve their literacy skills.

TCR Partners work as an alliance to share resources and work together around a shared mission. By design, no formal organization exists. The Akron-Summit County Public Library 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 Dr. Sue Long and Dr. Sandy Auburn and a volunteer Coordinating Council of the partner organizations lead the work of the alliance. Carrie Burrier directs a five-member team of library staff that provides coordination and support. TCR received a grant from the GAR Foundation in 2006 to assist the alliance in its work.

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.

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.

This City Reads! goals are to:

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

The Annual Day of Reading, established in January 2004 as a way to capture the imagination and engagement of thousands of people throughout our community continues to grow. In 2004, more than 59,000 people read at one time for 30 minutes. In 2005, greater than 92,000 people read. This year, 2006, This City Reads! goal is 100,000 people! The Day of Reading is scheduled on the second Wednesday in February. This year, it will be held on February 14.

YEAR	READERS
2004	More than 59,000
2005	More than 92,000
2006	94,574

THIS CITY READS! SECOND REPORT

The information in Second 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, 2006.

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. Last year, 2006, was the second year of testing. Official results have not been released. Unofficially, the state is considering 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

In 2006 Akron Public Schools unofficial results indicated that for children entering kindergarten, approximately 30% scored in the 24–29 range, 42% scored in the 14–23 range and 28% scored in the 0–13 range. This year 1,830 children took the assessment.*

TCR Partner organizations are developing information and materials to address the reading readiness of children who will enter kindergarten in the coming years.

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

Indicator One Activities

- Three workshops for 75 teachers, librarians, and child care providers sponsored by Akron Public Schools, Akron Summit Community Action, Inc., and Akron-Summit County Public Library provided information, strategies, and techniques to address KRA-L issues.
- Libraries in Akron and Summit County served 90,000 preschool children in programs for young children.
- The **Akron Art Museum's** *Mini-Masters* is a hands-on art program for preschool children ages 2–4. Activities are based on objects from the permanent collection and introduce classroom and developmental concepts related to the Ohio Department of Education Early Learning Content Standards. Literacy concepts approached include a focus on acquisition of vocabulary through discussion of museum-related objects and word/image related matching games. Picture books are often utilized. Mini-Masters art activities are process-centered, and participants are encouraged to explore materials in their own unique ways. At the conclusion of the program, students demonstrate their art and literacy comprehension as tour guides to parents at a Mini-Masters exhibition.
- **Akron Summit Community Action, Inc.'s** (ASCA) Head Start Program, integrates Ohio Department of Education Early Learning Content Standards to guide curriculum planning and implementation to promote school readiness. Head Start children and their families participated in the Annual Pizza Hut Book It! Program in March 2006 where over 1,000 books were read at centers across the county.
- Twenty Head Start children from the Five Points I and II Head Start Child Development Center received enriched mentoring from Jumpstart-Akron, an AmeriCorps program through The University of Akron, which provides one-on-one support in the areas of language, literacy, and social skills. During the 2005–06 academic year, children and team members read books together in one-to-one reading, participated in print knowledge activities during sign-in and recall, engaged in problem solving and learning activities in choice time, and participated in linguistic and phonemic awareness activities during circle time. All of this supplemental support provided additional literacy experiences for children for four hours twice a week for twenty weeks.
- Head Start students attended the Li'l Inventors Program at the National Inventors' Hall of Fame. Two hundred fifty (250) children received scholarships to attend. This science-enriched program links children's learning in all areas of the Ohio Department of Education's Early Content Learning Standards.
- Calico and Oak Creek Head Start Child Development Centers received accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young children (ANEYC).
- ASCA Head Start utilized Project Based Curriculum that involves children in investigating topics of their interests. This approach not only enables children to learn facts about the topics, it also helps children to gain confidence in their ability to engage in problem solving, graphing, charting, interviewing, sketching, and team building. Children also learn academic skills such as being persistent in looking for answers and how to conduct research.

■ Six hundred ninety-one (691) Head Start children and 105 adults attended the *Concerts for Kids* in May of 2006. They learned protocols of music listening and appreciation, high/low pitches, movements, and the sounds made by different instruments.

■ **Akron Children's Hospital** continues the national program *Reach Out and Read* dedicated to fostering the development of early literacy skills among children as a standard part of pediatric primary care. Pediatricians and nurses give the parents or caregivers of children ages 6 months to 5 years age-appropriate children's books at their well visits and suggestions on how to help their children develop a love of books and reading. Volunteers model reading techniques for parents by reading books to children in the waiting room of the doctor's office or clinic. Reach Out and Read distributed approximately 34,000 new books in 2006 at pediatric community sites in Akron, Ashland, Barberton, Dover, Ellet, Fairlawn, Green, Hudson, Kent, Medina, Tallmadge, Twinsburg, Wadsworth, and Wooster. The program is supported by Kohl's Department Stores.

■ The **Akron-Summit County Public Library** Bookmobile made 159 visits to Head Start sites in 2006 with 5,600 books borrowed.

■ **Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority** (AMHA), through a grant from the OMNOVA Foundation, is able to send postcards to each child living in AMHA housing who will attend kindergarten in 2007. Postcards include activities for the child to do with parents, guardians, or grandparents to help get ready for kindergarten. Themes include music, colors, and counting among other subjects. The KRA-L committee of This City Reads! helped develop this activity.

■ AMHA and Barberton City Schools partnered in a program for children entering kindergarten. Over the six hours of programming, children worked on readiness skills while parents learned techniques to help their children succeed in school. Staff from Barberton City Schools designed and ran the program. Funding was provided by the Barberton Community Foundation.

■ AMHA partnered with Woodridge Local Schools in a four hour-per-day four-week program for children entering kindergarten. Funding came from the Ohio Department of Education and the Summit County Department of Job and Family Services.

■ **Jumpstart-Akron**, a program of **The University of Akron**, designated a Super-Site by Jumpstart's national office, provides 70-75 UA undergraduate students, AmeriCorps members from all majors, as mentors to preschoolers of need from lower-income families in Akron, Ohio. Four schools in Akron are partners. Specific programs are mentioned throughout this report. Also, Jumpstart members (12) participated in a summer program for 10 weeks working in pairs in preschool classrooms, in collaboration with mentor teachers, to serve their children and help support and develop literacy.

■ The **University of Akron Center for Child Development**, a program for toddler and preschool children and their families, is licensed by the State of Ohio and accredited by the National Academy of Early Children 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 leads the list of Big-8 school districts in Ohio in the 2005–2006 local report card and on this Fall's third grade reading scores.

Akron Public Schools

2005–05	68.0%	(3rd Grade Reading Achievement Test)
2004–05	71.5%	(3rd Grade Reading Achievement Test)
2004–05	69.0%	(4th Grade Reading Achievement Test)
2003–04	69.0%	(3rd Grade Reading Achievement Test)
2003–04	60.1%	(4th Grade Reading Proficiency Test)
2002–03	51.2%	(4th Grade Reading Proficiency Test)
2001–02	47.8%	(4th Grade Reading Proficiency Test)

Dr. Sylvester Small, Superintendent of Akron Public Schools, comments:

"I have great news from Akron Public Schools! Across the district total reading scores are up 31 percent over the previous year. Sixth grade reading scores improved 45 percent. How did that happen? It was a community effort. Teachers, students, parents, 682 AkronReads volunteers and more than 43 This City Reads! partners worked together throughout the year to focus on reading. By combining our efforts, we leverage the power of reading to promote success for individuals and the community as a whole. Reading is essential to all learning. Why? I really can't say it better than Dr. Seuss: "The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn the more places you'll go."

Indicator Two Activities

■ The **Akron Aeros Baseball IS Education** program is aligned with the Ohio Academic Content Standards and available to educators to help students prepare for reading proficiency tests. The *Sports Readers* curriculum helps children gather facts from a baseball game and use those facts to compose an article reporting on the game. The *What Does This Mean* curriculum helps children explore language by playing with letters that make up titles of baseball statistics.

■ In 2006, 21,000 people attended Aeros' education days

■ **Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority** enrolled approximately 35–40 children, age pre-school through third grade and residing in Summit Lake Apartments, in *Smart Start: Learning Together for a Brighter Future*. In its third year at Summit Lake, this year the program began in Norton Homes in Barberton with the participation of Barberton City Schools. Both programs provide rewards and recognition for improving grades, attendance, and reading. At Summit Lake, Target gift cards are given to children when they improve their grades or attendance, meet the 100 Book Challenge, or receive a Good Citizen Award. In Barberton children are rewarded with gift cards if they read or are read to for 20 minutes a day, four days a week. Summit Lake Apartments also hosts the Youth Education for Tomorrow (YET) program. Approximately 45 children are enrolled in the literacy program that meets three evenings per week, two hours per night. YET is a national program, funded by Title 1, that has been shown to improve reading scores an average of 1.3 grade levels for children who participate a minimum of 90 days.

■ **Akron Art Museum** program *ArtSource* is a free outreach program designed for students in grades 1-5 that promotes and strengthens their visual literacy skills and appreciation for the arts. All programs support the Ohio Academic Content Standards for the Visual Arts and content standards for other academic areas. *Picturing the Story: Narrative Artworks* presentation emphasizes 3rd grade Ohio Academic Content Standards for Visual and Language Arts. Children are asked to make connections between visual literacy and reading skills as they discover their inner storytellers and investigate artworks from the museum’s collection that are rich with narrative possibilities. Participating teachers are sent information packs that include information about the presentation themes, examples of the works of art, artist information, class discussion topics, and suggested pre-and post-visit activities.

■ Each of ten **Summit Family & Children First Council’s** Help Me Grow sites incorporate literacy into home visits and monthly parents support groups. Help Me Grow also provides quarterly free developmental screenings at Summit County libraries. Bookmarks were developed and distributed detailing activities for parents to do with their babies at each age and stage to strengthen language skills.

■ **Kids-Play, Inc.**, partnered with Akron Summit Community Action, Inc., to provide the Ohio Department of Education Early Learning Initiative Program for all pre-schoolers. All Kids-Play sites used the Early Language and Literacy Classroom Observation tool to improve literacy activities. Twenty children at the Akron location received one-on-one support as part of the partnership with Jumpstart at The University of Akron.

■ **Project AGAPE** begins to work with children at the age of five. The program is geared toward preparing students to take standardized tests, focusing on writing extended responses and identifying key points of stories.

■ **The University of Akron *Leap Up*** program (funded by Martha Holden Jennings Foundation and with support of the UA COPC grant) provided service learning hours for freshmen enrolled in Exploratory and Pre-Education Learning Communities in University College. During Fall 2006, more than 120 freshmen and several honors students tutored 137 Leggett School students for 30 minutes each week. Sessions focus on reading, writing, and oral language development. Over the three years of Leap Up tutoring, the 3rd grade reading pass rate has increased from 63% to 86%. In 2006–07 Leggett School holds the Ohio Department of Education “Effective School” designation.

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 the same 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 counted people reading only and omitted sites. More than 94,500 people reported their simultaneous reading at school, at work, at home, at the library, in churches, at the airport, and other locations..

INDICATOR THREE

Community Events celebrating and recognizing reading

■ 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 3,000 books are collected each year and donated to Readers at Risk for distribution to children throughout the community. TCR partner organizations, Borders Books & Music in Cuyahoga Falls and Boys & Girls Clubs of Summit County, contributed more than 1,000 books. 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.

■ The **Akron Art Museum** Get Caught Reading Photo Contest encourages support for student photographers to show people in our community “caught in the act of reading.” The second year of the contest was 2006. More than 100 photographs were entered. The event is very popular and the winning photos are displayed at the This City Reads Night at the Aeros game. The Akron Beacon Journal and Akron Life and Leisure magazine published winning photos and a special recognition reception was held for the 12 winners. The photos are used on the TCR website.

■ The Akron Civic Theater second annual “Akron Reading Festival” in September 2006 drew more than 3,000 people for a weekend of reading events with authors, activities, and special events at Lock 3 and the Akron-Summit County Public Library. A community-based team fostered collaborative planning and promotion.

■ **Kids-Play-Akron** celebrated the Annual Day of Reading with older children by visiting the Akron Aeros stadium. Aero's staff gave each child a book and also read to the group. Special guests came to Kids-Play to read to the younger children

■ The **Akron Area YMCA** after-school students at the Green YMCA participated in the Read, Write, Create program. A family celebration was held at the end of the year to unveil a newspaper and book of bio-poems created by the students

■ The **Akron Area YMCA** put the Summer Reading Tips developed by TCR Family Reading Network in a handout that was distributed to parents with children in the 7 Early Care and Education Centers and the after-school programs. Distributed at the beginning of the summer, parents could take advantage of the many ideas for literacy activities.

■ **United Way** Volunteer Center organizes *Read-to-Me-Day* each year. On October 25, 2006 more than 300 volunteers, most of whom were volunteers from Summit County companies, read to children in 425 classrooms of Akron Public Schools.

INDICATOR FOUR

Use literacy as a companion for TV

■ **Akron Public Schools'** *Ask Gilby* program airs 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 every Wednesday on WOAC-67 at 10 AM with a potential audience of 1.3 million households throughout Cleveland, Akron, and Canton.

■ **Akron Public Schools'** 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 of Summit County** expanded workplace literacy services by offering business writing classes for the City of Akron and on-site classes at a new workplace site.

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—Barberton Public Library, Cuyahoga Falls Library, Peninsula Library & Historical Society, and Stow-Munroe Falls Public Library—in Summit County report:

- Library Card Registration: More than 365,000
- Adult Books Checked Out: 2.4 million
- Juvenile/Teen Books Checked Out: 1.6 million
- Summer Reading Program Participants: 18,500
- Pre-School Programs: More than 90,000 young people attended

Other programs reported included:

- Approximately 130,000 young people attended **Akron Summit County Public Library** programs in 2006.
- Akron-Summit County Public Library offered 563 programs in the summer with attendance of about 23,500.
- Akron-Summit County Public Library sponsored about 40 book discussion groups in branch libraries or in nursing homes or schools.
- Over 4,548 people participated in 417 computer classes sponsored by Akron-Summit County Public Library.
- **Barberton Public Library** offered 188 children and teen programs, 230 adult programs, 12 history sessions and 39 computer programs.
- Programs at **Cuyahoga Falls Library** reached 15,676 preschool children, 1,511 children for the summer reading program, 181 adults for computer classes and over 5,000 adults at other programs. Approximately 22 patrons a month received home delivery of books and materials.
- **Peninsula Library** offered 240 programs including Literacy Night at Woodridge, Home School Classes at the library, Special Kids Programs for ages 5–15, preschool Story Hour and Preschool Visits and Summer Reading Club programs.

■ **Stow-Munroe Falls Public Library** had a total Summer Reading Program participation of 1,430 children, 454 adults and 120 teens. Preschool program attendance was 10,948.

■ **The University of Akron Center for Literacy**, *Family Place*, works with Dr. Mary Dee and Asia Inc. to provide services to English language learners. Asian languages translations of events are provided. Translations are shared with the ESL teacher at Leggett Elementary so parents can read the information in their first language.

■ **Jumpstart-Akron** held several literacy related events. In March they hosted a Read Across America Scholastic Book Fair event at the UA Center for Child Development. In addition to providing books for purchase, they host a family night that includes reading, music and literacy activities. In April, Jumpstart For A Day, a day of literacy activities, was held at each preschool center for children and families. A new book was distributed to each child participating. Also in April, Jumpstart-Akron hosted children's author Debbie Clement from Rainbows Within Reach for a volunteer/family appreciation night at Main Library. In August, National Jumpstart created Read for the Record held on August 24, 2006, earning a listing in the Guinness Book of World Records for the most adults and children reading a book together on the same day. The event book was "The Little Engine That Could." Jumpstart-Akron hosted a local event with 50 families with children at Starbucks at Summit Mall. Both Starbucks and American Eagle volunteers from the Summit Mall store locations participated.

■ **Akron Summit County Community Action, Inc.** offered a Financial Literacy program consisting of the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) Program of Akron and the Individual Development Account (IDA) program. Through these programs, individuals learn the danger of predatory lending as well as the principles of financial asset building that can lead to post-secondary education, the purchase of a new home or the start-up of a small business.

■ **Akron Art Museum** docents have organized a book club focused on art-related fiction and non-fiction work. Club members read at least one book per month and meet monthly to discuss the selection. Docents and staff participate in the Annual Day of Reading pledge and report.

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)

■ **Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority**, as part of the *Smart Start* programs at Summit Lake Apartments and Norton Homes selects five middle school students to serve as tutors. Tutors work with children in kindergarten through 3rd grade, helping with reading and providing homework help. Tutors earn \$5 per tutoring session, however only \$1 of every \$5 is initially paid

to each student. The remaining \$4 is held in reserve until the end of the semester, when they have earned enough money to purchase an item they have chosen as a goal. Tutors also assist in the YET program.

■ The **Akron Urban League's *School's In*** program served 109 at-risk youth ages 16–21, assisting them with skills in preparation to pass the GED examination. In 2006, students completed 36 reading labs.

■ **Project: Learn of Summit County** served more than 1,195 adults, a 17% increase over 2005. Just over 50% of all students increased at least one grade level and more than 100 students earned their GED. More than 25,000 hours of instruction were provided. More than 125 volunteers worked with Project: Learn of Summit County as one-on-one tutors and classroom aides. Classes were held at 10 different locations thanks to an increase in funding from the Ohio Department of Education.

■ **Akron Summit Community Action, Inc.** Fifty-two percent (52%) of parents attending Head Start/Early Head Start “Families Turn to Learn” monthly parent meetings demonstrated an increase in knowledge of the discussion topic using a self-evaluation tool. Examples of topics: Reading in the Kitchen and Successful Transitions for School Readiness. ASCA Head Start and Early Head Start promote Family Literacy. A component of Family Literacy is Parent And Child Together (PACT). Home activities promoting PACT are sent home on a regular basis to Head Start families encouraging parents to read and share educational activities with their children..

■ **Jumpstart-Akron** mentored and trained 75 program volunteers. In addition 50 community volunteers helped support Jumpstart’s mission through program development, events, community outreach, etc. During the program year, a new children’s book, donated by PBS 45/49, was sent home once a month with partner children/families to encourage reading together at home. Sixty-five (65) children received 7 new books each.

■ **Project AGAPE** served 51 children in tutoring programs for reading and 51 children in tutoring programs for other subjects. A summer program provides age-appropriate lists of books for children to read with a goal of reading ten books a month. During the summer Project AGAPE participates in community parades and distributes books and magazines. In 2006, more than 1,000 books were distributed. Project AGAPE uses The 100 Book Challenge in their programs. Children are to read at least 15 minutes a day to move to the next step in the program. Different incentives are given when they reach specific step levels.

■ **Akron Children’s Hospital** pediatric providers are aware of the importance of literacy and refer families to the local library or Project: Learn of Summit County to enhance their literacy skills. Reach Out and Read Ohio has teamed with the Ohio Literacy Network to provide literacy services to families served. Ohio Literacy Network will identify a program within the city closest to the family.

■ **Akron Children’s Hospital** also recognizes Dr. Seuss’s birthday (Read Across America Day) on March 2. Every year on this day, Reach Out and Read gives books to all children who are seen in the 15 offices.

■ The hospital also participates in Read to Me Day in October. Employees visit Margaret Park, Lincoln, and Portage Path Elementary schools in Akron and read an assigned classroom a story. The book is then donated to the classroom. This activity is in conjunction with Character Counts! and demonstrates the Six Pillars of Character: Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring and Citizenship.

■ **The University of Akron** trained 131 volunteers who served 122 students. In addition approximately 380 students completing service learning requirements provided tutoring in sites throughout Summit County. Also, students read to children in physician's offices as part of the Reach Out and Read program.

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**

■ **AkronReads** distributed more than 400 books during its programs.

■ **Akron Summit Community Action, Inc.**, Barberton Outreach Program site participated in a Back-to-School Supply Kit Giveaway to fifty families. In addition, at Christmas, 25 books were given to families. Donated books and magazines are made available to clients on an ongoing basis. More than 300 books and magazines have been distributed. The Foster Grandparent Program matches senior citizens and children with special needs at various Head Start and Early Head Start sites throughout the community. The grandparents work with one to two children in various activities including reading for 20 hours per week. ASCA Head Start and Early Head Start promote Family Literacy.

■ The **Akron Urban League** offers an *After School Enrichment Program* for children ages 5-12 that served 40 children. Every week students receive reading tutoring. Every other week, a librarian visits the children and leads a book discussion on a book she assigned two weeks prior. Children visit the library throughout the year.

■ The **Akron Urban League** participates in a program through the National Urban League that provides more than 2000 books a year to distribute to children in the community. In 2006, 1500 books were given to students in Urban League programs.

■ The **Akron Urban League** partners with the *Akron Beacon Journal* for daily newspapers for 109 students in the School's In Program and for 130 children in the Summer Enrichment Day Camp to take home.

■ For the third year at **This City Reads! Night at the Aeros**, over 3,000 new and gently used books were donated in exchange for a ticket to the game.

■ **Summit Family & Children First Council’s Help Me Grow** provided books to 3,289 children in their program. With the book, they are given a bookmark with literacy tips and a puzzle magnet encouraging families to “Read to Me, Sing to Me, Talk to Me and Play with Me.” Each of the 10 Help Me Grow sites incorporate literacy into home visits and monthly parent support groups.

■ **Reach Out and Read distributed nearly 34,000 books in 2006.**

■ **Readers at Risk**, an organization that accepts donated books and prepares them to gift to individual children, distributed over 22,000 books to individuals, schools, and agencies that requested books for child ownership. (Many of these groups are This City Reads! partners.)

■ **Estimated books collected/distributed—63,500.**

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 Summit Community Action, Inc.**, Early Childhood Collaborative with Akron-Summit County Public Library and Akron Public Schools involved children’s librarians, a Head Start teacher, and a Kindergarten teacher from APS. They provided professional development opportunities to early childhood teachers in the area of oral communication and phonological awareness. Librarians also visit classrooms and provide children with story times.

■ **Akron Area YMCA** continued its collaboration with The University of Akron to offer “Read-Write-Create” to students attending YMCA after-school programs. The program engages UA service learners in working with students from kindergarten through 5th grade. The service learners read a book to the after-school students each week. These stories then lead into creative activities such as writing bio-poems, writing articles to be “published” in the after-school sites’ newspaper, brown bag projects, and reader’s theatre. A total of 360 students participated in Read-Write-Create in 2006 at 18 YMCA after-school sites and 3 YMCA day camps.

■ **The Akron-Summit County Public Library** and the **Akron Area YMCA** collaborated so students in the YMCA Kindergarten Plus and after-school programs could benefit from a visit with author Jarrett Krosoczka during the campaign season. His book, *Max for President*, encouraged the children to hold rallies, make signs, give speeches, and vote for the president of their after-school group. Parents were invited to participate with the 150 students who were part of this activity.

■ **Akron Public Schools Basic and Literacy Education (ABLE)** and **Project: Learn of Summit County** gave a practice GED test at the **Akron Summit County Community Action, Inc.**, Five Points Head Start Child Development Center for parents of Head Start and Early Head Start children.

■ **Akron Summit County Community Action, Inc.**, participated in the writing of Ohio's Infant and Toddler Guidelines. Four management staff were selected. These guidelines are seen as the critical first step to ensuring that all Ohio children, birth to three, have responsive, reciprocal, and respectful care. As a result of that care, children will be ready for both school and life.

■ **Project AGAPE** has successfully replicated a national literacy model in over 60 sites around Ohio.

■ **Reach Out and Read** partnered with Borders book store (Howe Avenue, Cuyahoga Falls, location) to collect gently used books. Anyone may donate books. The books are made available in the waiting rooms of all 15 hospital-owned offices for children to take home and keep. Reach Out and Read has volunteer opportunities to read to children in the waiting room at the physician's office. Working with The University of Akron's Center for Literacy and NEOUCOM, students are placed in various offices to read to children. Long-term student and adult volunteers are also recruited and trained.

■ **Summit County Department of Job and Family Services** contracts with many community organizations and encourages GED preparation as a service activity. Family and financial literacy is included as a preferred service in requests for proposals.

■ **United Way of Summit County** Volunteer Center promotes and advertises the need for literacy volunteers.

■ **The University of Akron** students enrolled in the course *Evaluating Language Literacy* 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, students work one-on-one with students during school hours. At Schumacher and Leggett the thirty-hour experience takes place as part of after-school programming. Up to 125 students are served each semester.

■ **The University of Akron** Center for Literacy *Family Place* at the COPC building (560 Allyn Street) provides Leggett Field Trips for classrooms. Under the direction of Dr. Jackie Peck, a variety of literacy activities linked to language arts, social studies, and science content standards for grades K-5 are developed and implemented. During spring 2006, 189 children participated. During fall 2006 164 children participated.

■ **The University of Akron** works with Project: Learn of Summit County. Teacher candidates work directly with the family literacy program. Service learners develop curriculum and book packets to be used in programs.

AKRONREADS

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.

In the 2005–06 school year, twenty-five businesses provided 682 tutors who worked one-on-one with 1,371 Akron Public Schools students in 38 schools.

Other AkronReads events included:

Evening with Books: an annual event since 2004 to promote family literacy. A guest librarian highlights books from pre-kindergarten to adult. Adult books are raffled off at the end of the evening. Every child attending receives a new book. Gilby and a magician entertain students. In 2006, 150 books were distributed.

AkronReads participates in community events that promote reading including the Akron Reading Festival, African American Festival, Read to Me Day, and the Annual Day of Reading.

AkronReads supports Parent Academies, workshops for parents designed to promote understanding of State standards and reading strategies to increase love of reading and reading scores.

The following organizations provided tutors in 2006:

Akron Auto Club	Lockheed Martin Maritime Systems & Sensors
Akron Beacon Journal	Malcolm Pirnie, Inc.
Akron Children’s Hospital	National City Bank
Akron Civic Theater	OMNOVA Solutions
Akron General Medical Center	Roadway Group
Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority	Scanlon & Gearinger Co, LPA
City of Akron	State Farm Insurance
FirstEnergy	Summa Health System
FirstMerit	Summit County Juvenile Court
The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co.	United Way of Summit County
GPD Group	The University of Akron
Greenleaf Family Center	Virtual Hold Technology
Key Bank	

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.

Join with OhioReads

If your organization is not in Akron but you would like to help tutor students, contact your local school district for tutoring opportunities.

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

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

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.

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.

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

Second 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 You Can Participate With This City Reads! Activities

Check the This City Reads! web site 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 January 29, 2007 (63)

Akron Area YMCA	Cuyahoga Falls City Schools	Project AGAPE
Akron Aeros	Cuyahoga Falls Library	Project: Learn of Summit County
Akron Art Museum	FACT Academy	R-D Bike Shop
Akron Beacon Journal	Family & Children First Council/Help Me Grow	Revere Local Schools
Akron General Medical Center	Goodwill Industries	Shaw Jewish Community Center
Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority	The Greater Akron Chamber	Springfield Local School District
Akron Public Schools	Hudson City Schools	Stow-Munroe Falls Public Library
Akron Summit Community Action, Inc.	Jumpstart-Akron	Summa Health System
Akron-Summit County Public Library	Kids Play Akron	Summit Academy Schools
Akron Urban League	Kindermusik with Miss Terri	Summit County Domestic Relations Court
Arlington Church of God	Lakeview Elementary	Summit County Children's Services
Barberton Public Library	Leadership Akron	Summit Education Initiative
Barnes & Noble Booksellers (Montrose)	The Learned Owl Bookshop (Hudson)	Sutliff II Apartments (Cuyahoga Falls)
The Blue Heron Bookstore (Peninsula)	Lighthouse Academy	Tallmadge Kiddie Kollege
Boys & Girls Clubs of Summit County	METRO Regional Transit Authority	Turkeyfoot Elementary School
Callis Towers	Minority Behavioral Health Group	Twinsburg Senior Apartments
The Chapel	Mogadore Local School District	United Way of Summit County
Children's Hospital Medical Center of Akron	Old Trail School	The University of Akron
City of Akron	Overdale Primary School (Tallmadge)	Walsh University, Akron Campus
County of Summit	PBS 45/49	Wesley Tower
County of Summit Department of Job & Family Services	Peninsula Library & Historical Society	
	Portage Trail East Apartments	

The information in this report has been provided by This City Reads! Partner organizations.
Second Report design and layout by Jeff Hentosz, www.aneljack.com.