



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

**A Progress Report on the Efforts
of This City Reads! in 2008**

February 11, 2009

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

Fourth Report is the fourth 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. 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.

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

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

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! FOURTH REPORT

The information in *Fourth 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 2008.

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. 2008 was the fourth 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 in 2007 and 2008. This year 1,740 children took the assessment. In 2007, 1,912 children were assessed.*

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

TCR Partner organizations are collaborating 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

■ **Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority (AMHA)** · Since 2007, AMHA has partnered with the United Way of Summit County to offer *Born Learning*[™] playgroups at AMHA family developments. The playgroups, which meet weekly, bring children ages 0-4 together with their parents/caregivers for activities which demonstrate how everyday experiences can be turned in to opportunities for learning. This year 133 children and 76 parents/caregivers participated in *Born Learning*[™].

- An important aspect of AMHA's early childhood initiative involves linking families with other early childhood programs. AMHA works closely with Help Me Grow, Child Care Connection, Head Start and other agencies offering quality early childhood experiences.
- Through an annual recertification process, AMHA is able to survey residents with children under the age of 5. (3,000 children under age 5 live in AMHA housing.) Survey feedback provides us with the following information:
 - Awareness of early childhood programs
 - Participation of early childhood programs
 - Why residents choose not to participate in early childhood programs
 - Impact of participation on KRA-L scores

AMHA received initial funding for *Born Learning*[™] from a grant from the H. Peter Burg Fund at Akron Community Foundation and the Women's Leadership Giving Society of United Way of Summit County and has since received additional funding through United Way of Summit County, Akron Community Foundation, Sisler-McFawn Foundation, the GAR Foundation, the McAlonan Fund at Akron Community Foundation and OMNOVA Solutions Foundation.

This City Reads! Partners may request information on replicating *Born Learning*[™] playgroups from either AMHA or the United Way of Summit County.

A grant from OMNOVA Solutions Foundation has allowed AMHA to send postcards for the third year to each child living in AMHA housing who will be beginning kindergarten in September 2008. The postcards are sent during the year preceding kindergarten and include activities for the child to do with his/her parent, guardian, or grandparent to help him/her get ready.

■ **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 1633 children enrolled in Head Start.

■ ASCA Head Start has adopted the Creative Curriculum to enhance its Project Based approach 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 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.

■ ASCA, Inc. co-sponsored professional development sessions titled "Learning Literacy thru Music and Movements" with the Akron-Summit County Public Library. Head Start/Early Head Start teachers, teacher assistants, other support staff and children's librarians from the 17 branches in Summit County attended this fun-filled, action-oriented session. Participants learned using musical instruments, specifically drums, and body movements into their daily curriculum planning to enhance children's learning and boost brain development.

- Approximately 300 children and staff from Five Points I and II Head Start centers attended the Concerts for Kids in April and May.
- Approximately 600 children and staff participated in the Heartbeat Afrika concerts. This is an extension from the professional development sessions co-sponsored by ASCA and Akron-Summit County Public Library. Children and staff enjoyed the performance by the musician and had hands-on experiences with various kinds of drums from different parts of the world.
- All ASCA Head Start sites participated in the Pizza Hut “Book It!” Beginner program. “Book it!” Beginner is a read aloud program that builds reading-readiness skills and established an at-home reading routine by providing interactive classroom materials to teachers.
- The Foster Grandparent Program matches senior citizens and children with special needs at various Head Start and Early Head Start sites throughout the community. Foster Grandparents work one-on-one with the children providing support at ASCA Head Start Program sites. Under the supervision of the classroom teacher, Foster Grandparents assist 64 Head Start 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.
- Sixteen 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 2007-08 academic year, children and team members read core storybooks together in one-to-one reading, participated in print knowledge activities during sign-in/start the day and sharing time, engaged in oral language and connected learning activities like “Let's Find Out About It” during center 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. Each Jumpstart partner child received their own copy of the core story book used during sessions, to total 20 rich children's literature books to take and use for shared reading at home.
- The Akron Summit County Public Library Bookmobile made 159 visits to Head Start sites in 2008 with 2018 books borrowed.
- ASCA Head Start staff participated in several professional development sessions to enhance literacy and language skills for all children. “Creating a Picture Schedule Using Boardmaker” was presented to staff to use in the classroom as a visual reminder for children to keep on schedule for the day. It is also used to assist children with limited verbal skills and English language learners to understand the day's activities and to communicate with teachers and peers. “Scripted Stories” help children understand social interactions, situations, expectations, social cues, unfamiliar activities, and social rules.
- “Preschool Rules” were incorporated as a universal teaching tool for all of the Head Start teachers and staff. It combines written rules as well as picture cues, combined with songs and interactive activities to teach the behavior expectations in the preschool classroom.

■ **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, Dover, 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. 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. There are three components to the model: 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 or clinic.

■ **Jumpstart-Akron** managed by Holly Englert at The University of Akron, and designated a Super-Site by Jumpstart's national office, coordinates 70 UA students who mentor more than 65 at-risk children in five pre-K settings in Summit County. These UA students provide more than 300 hours of service.

■ **The University of Akron Center for Child Development**, Yetty Michael, Director, continues to provide a quality program for 90 toddler and preschool children and their families. The Center 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). Approximately 10 UA service learners work with the children each semester. 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

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)
2003-04	69.0%	(3 rd Grade Reading Achievement Test)
2004-05	69.0%	(4 th 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

■ Children in pre-school through third grade have been attending **Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority's SMART START...Learning Together for a Brighter Future** program at Summit Lake Apartments and Valley View Homes. SMART START brings children and their parents together each month for reading and learning activities. Parents also have the opportunity to learn how they can best help their children succeed in school. SMART START provides rewards and recognition for improving grades, attendance, and reading. Gift cards are given to children when they improve their grades or attendance, meet the 100-Book Challenge, or receive a Good Citizen Award. The child also earns a gift card for their parent as a reward for supporting and encouraging their child.

■ 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

- Dr. Jackie Peck (**The University of Akron**) received funding from the JPMorgan Chase Foundation for a second year a literacy tutoring program at Lincoln Elementary in the Summit Lake neighborhood of Akron. 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 Lincoln staff and provided onsite assistance. Approximately 12 UA students enrolled in an undergraduate literacy course provide tutoring for 26 Lincoln students that focused on student fluency and confidence in reading. At each grade, data show improvement on all 3 aspects of reading that were assessed: word accuracy, word rate, and comprehension. An additional positive outcome is the highly positive UA response to the experience, documented by students' reflective journals and their requests to return to Lincoln Elementary for subsequent service learning opportunities. This grant also provides professional development for Lincoln teachers.

- 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. This program is funded by the Martha Holden Jennings Foundation. In addition, 20 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. These freshmen tutored Leggett students for a minimum of 30 minutes each week.

- 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 thirty 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.

- **Summit Academy**, a therapeutic school serving students with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, Autism and Asperger's Syndrome, implemented the "Reaching the Literacy Summit" program. The program was funded by a grant from the GAR Foundation to improve literacy for students in the areas of fluency, comprehension, vocabulary and overall attitudes towards reading. Kimberly Hauge received the grant.

- The Summit Academy Lunch Bunch Book Club involved 37 students in grade equivalents 4-8 and language arts teachers. Students listened to brief descriptions of book choices, voted on their favorite book and then joined one of three groups. Each Wednesday students could take their lunch to the library and enjoy quiet reading time. At the end of four weeks students met for a "Grand Conversation and Celebration of the books complete with pizza and drinks.

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 - 08, 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 University of Akron College of Education Center for Literacy** sponsored a Family Literacy Quilt activity at the Akron Reading Festival on Saturday February 9 at Main Library. More than 140 quilt squares celebrating literacy were drawn by participating children and then photographed to create a digital quilt. The printed photos form a large quilt that the Center plans to display at the Festival in 2009.

■ The UA College of Education Center for Literacy held a Book Soup event on the Annual Day of Reading. More than 40 students, staff, and faculty brought favorite books to share over a meal of homemade soup, breads, and cookies. Conversations about favorite books were lively and passionate. The compiled list of favorites was distributed to the college later that day. The Center for Literacy plans to repeat the event in 2009.

■ **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 child care 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 child care 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 2008 RTL staff presented 76 workshops to over 900 care providers.
- Akron Public Schools Ask Gilby 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.

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 - **Cuyahoga Falls Library, Hudson Library and Historical Society, Peninsula Library and Historical Society, and Stow-Munroe Falls Public Library** participated in this report.

Akron-Summit County Public Library:

- Juvenile Library Card Registration: 69,537
- Adult and Juvenile Books Checked Out: 5,832,157
- Summer Reading Program Participants: 13,020
- Pre-School Program attendance: 37,012

Other programs that were reported include:

- The **Akron Summit County Public Library (ASCPL)** presented 4,473 programs for children with literacy impact reaching over 151,000 children.
- ASCPL sponsored 27 monthly book discussion groups with 324 sessions. There were also six youth book discussion groups.
- More than 4,953 people participated in 375 computer classes sponsored by ASCPL.
- The **Hudson Library and Historical Society** provided 377 preschool story times to 7,909 children and family members. More than 113 other children's programs (preschool through fifth grade) were offered with 7,019 people attending. In addition, the summer reading program had 1,429 children participating.
- Catch the Reading Bug a 7-week program in the summer, encouraged children to read. The more they read, the better chance they had to win prizes. In 2008, 137 children participated.
- **Peninsula Library** celebrates its birthday each October 31st with a Halloween theme. Both books and candy are handed out. This event is more than 50 years old.
- Preschool programs at Peninsula library provide stories, songs, finger plays, and books to preschoolers and their families. The thirty-seven programs reached 404 children.
- Six t'ween summer reading programs attracted 66 children.
- Eight school age summer reading programs attracted 633 children.

■ **Stow-Munroe Falls Public Library** served 664 people with Adult & Teen book discussion groups.

■ More than 13,420 preschoolers and family members attended story times or participated at daycare centers in Stow-Munroe Falls.

■ **United Way of Summit County** offers *Born Learning*[™] to the community. *Born Learning*[™] is an early learning public engagement campaign that offers tools and templates for information on early learning and school readiness. Each community designs its own approach. *Born Learning*[™] is a partnership of United Way of America, Civitas, the Families and Work Institute, and the Ad Council. It was brought to our community by United Way of Summit County and offers a tangible way for local United Ways and early learning coalitions to make lasting community change to boost school readiness. In Summit County *Born Learning*[™] is a partnership of United Way of Summit County, the United Way of Summit County Women's Leadership Giving Society, This City Reads! and its 70-plus partner organizations.

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, Valley View Homes, and Norton Homes, selects five middle school students from each location to serve as tutors. Tutors work with children in kindergarten through third grade, helping with reading and providing homework help, as part of the Balanced Literacy and SMART START programs. Tutors are paid for each tutoring session; however their compensation 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.

■ **Project Learn** served more than 1,800 adults in 2008, a 10% increase over 2007. Just over 56% of all students increased at least one grade level and more than 185 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 Department of Education and was selected as a national model program by ProLiteracy for the second year in a row.

■ **Akron Summit Community Action, Inc.** ASCA Head Start recruitment brochure is translated into 10 languages: Vietnamese, Hmong, Croatian, Arabic, Korean, Russian, Spanish, Mon, Karen, and Chinese.

■ 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.

■ **Leap Up, a program of The University of Akron College of Education Center for Literacy** trained 130 volunteers who served more than 120 students. In addition, the Center for Literacy places approximately 300 service learners in tutoring sites annually throughout Summit County.

■ The University of Akron consistently provides service to Project Learn of Summit County. Teacher candidates work directly with the family literacy program in downtown Akron and around Summit County. Service learners through The University of Akron Center for Literacy develop curriculum and book packets to be used in one-on-one and group tutoring with children and adults.

■ **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. Suess'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 2008, 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.

■ **YMCA** - Four full-day early care and education centers received books from "First Books". These books were for the children to take home and build their personal libraries. The centers held special events to distribute the books.

■ YMCA established Literacy Centers at four early care and education sites.

■ YMCA centers take advantage of ASCPL bookmobile visits. Summer day camp children visit the library near their center, participate in activities offered and borrow books for independent reading. ASCPL librarians visit the Firestone Park YMCA programs.

■ **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 our 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 text 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 first graduating class of students that are now in Kindergarten at Mason and Leggett schools in Akron. FBGA will 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 450 children received books.

■ FBGA distributed Polar Express gift sets to more than 300 low-income kindergarten children in the Akron area for the Christmas season. Sets were also presented to children living at ACCESS during a party supported by FirstEnergy and the Pajama Project.

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 Margaret Park, Lincoln, and Portage Path Elementary Schools and read an assigned classroom 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** 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 fifth 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.

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

AKRONREADS

AkronReads celebrates 10 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 2007-08 school year, 295 community tutors and 621 tutors from twenty-five businesses provided one-on-one support for 1,611 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 2008:

Akron Auto Club	Lockheed Martin Maritime Systems & Sensors
Akron Beacon Journal	Malcolm Pirnie, Inc.
Akron Children's Hospital	National City Bank
Akron General Medical Center	Ohio Edison
Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority	OMNOVA Solutions
City of Akron	Scanlon & Gearinger Co, LPA
ComDoc	State Farm Insurance
Diebold Corporation	Summa Health System
FedEx Custom Critical	Summit County Juvenile Court
FirstEnergy	United Way of Summit County.
The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co.	The University of Akron
GPD Group	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.

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, 2009 (81)

Akron Aeros	The Greater Akron Chamber	Shaw Jewish Community Center
Akron Art Museum	Green Family YMCA	Show and Tell
Akron Beacon Journal	Goodwill Industries	Springfield Local School District
Akron Children's Hospital	Help Me Grow	Stow-Munroe Falls Public Library
Akron General Medical Center	Hudson City Schools	Summa Health System
Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority	Hudson Library and Historical Society	Summit Academy Schools
Akron Public Schools	Jumpstart-Akron	Summit County Domestic Relations Court
Akron Summit Community Action Inc.	Kids Play	Summit County Children's Services
Akron-Summit County Public Library	Kindermusik with Miss Terri	Summit Education Initiative
Akron Urban League	Lakeview Elementary	S.U.P.E.R. Learning Center - Tutoring & More!
Al Kaf Temple #109	Leadership Akron	Sutliff II Apartments (Cuyahoga Falls)
Barnes and Noble (Montrose)	Lighthouse Academy	Tallmadge Kiddie Kollege
Barberton Public Library	Meaden & Moore	The Akron Area YMCA
Boys & Girls Clubs of Summit County	Metro Regional Transit Authority	The Blue Heron Bookstore (Peninsula)
Callis Tower	Minority Behavioral Health Group	The Chapel
Caring Communities of Summit County	Mogadore Local School District	The Learned Owl Book Shop (Hudson)
City of Akron	Old Trail School	The University of Akron
County of Summit	Oriana House	Turkeyfoot Elementary School
County of Summit Department of Job and Family Services	Overdale Primary School (Tallmadge)	Twinsburg Senior Apartments
County of Summit Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board	Peninsula Library & Historical Society	United Way of Summit County
Cuyahoga Falls City Schools	Phoenix Alternative School	Vision Support Services
Cuyahoga Falls Library	Phoenix Village Academy	Walsh University, Akron Campus
FACT Academy	Portage Trail East Apartments	WBNX
Family & Children First Council	Project AGAPE	Wesley Tower
Farmers Insurance	Project: LEARN of Summit County	Western Reserve PBS
FirstBook-Greater Akron	R-D Bike Shop	
Fishcreek Elementary	Revere Local Schools	
	Rubber City Book Posse	
	Seton Catholic School	

The information in this report has been provided by This City Reads! Partner organizations. Fourth Report layout by Jill's House of Information, LLC.