



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

**A Progress Report on the Efforts
of This City Reads! in 2007**

February 13, 2008

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

Third Report is the third 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 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. 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

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!

THIRD REPORT

The information in *Third 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 2007.

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. 2007 was the third 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 2007 Akron Public Schools unofficial results indicated that for children entering kindergarten, approximately 31% scored in the 24-29 range, 40% scored in the 14-23 range and 29% scored in the 0-13 range. This year 1,912 children took the assessment.*

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

■ **Calico Center** continues to enrich literacy skills of children age one through five it serves. Children participate in daily circle time activities which include story time and word/picture recognition. Language skills are addressed and enhanced by the use of verbal, sign language, and picture cues. The community-based early intervention staff of speech-language therapists and early intervention specialists continues to facilitate speech and story time groups throughout Summit County at local YMCAs, libraries, and centers.

■ **Akron Summit Community Action, Inc.'s (ASCA) Head Start Program** is a comprehensive early childhood development program that promotes school readiness by enhancing the social and cognitive development of children through educational, health, nutritional, social and other services to enrolled children and families. There are 1735 children enrolled in Head Start.

■ 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 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.

■ 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 or two children in various educational activities.

■ 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 2006-07 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.

■ **Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority (AMHA)** has partnered with the United Way of Summit County to pilot *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.

■ The effectiveness of the playgroups is being measured in three ways: (1) A pre and post questionnaire is given to parents/caregivers to measure their perceptions about the importance of early childhood education and their roles as their children's first teachers; (2) The increase in the number of families sending their children to pre-school is measured ; and (3) Parents/caregivers sign a release. KRA-L scores can be obtained once children start school to see if *Born Learning* may have had an impact on their readiness for kindergarten

■ 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 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 second year to each child living in AMHA housing who will be beginning kindergarten in September 2008. The postcards are sent during the year preceeding kindergarten and include activities for the child to do with his/her parent, guardian, or grandparent to help him/her get ready.

■ **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. Reach Out and Read provides primary care doctors with a standard model to incorporate into their practice. The model has three key components: At well-child visits from 6 months to 5 years, doctors and/or nurses provide parents with information about the importance of reading aloud to their children; During the visit, the doctor/nurse gives the child a new, developmentally appropriate book to take home; and volunteers model reading techniques for parents by reading books to children in the waiting room of the doctor's office or clinic.

■ **The Akron Summit County Public Library Bookmobile** made 107 visits to Head Start sites in 2007 with 5,014 books borrowed.

■ **Jumpstart-Akron** a program of The University of Akron, designated a Super-Site by Jumpstart's national office, provides 80 UA undergraduate students who mentor more than 65 at-risk children in four pre-K settings in Summit County. These UA students provide more than 300 hours of service. Jumpstart-Akron is in its second year of piloting a new literacy curriculum

■ **The University of Akron Center for Child Development**, a quality program for 80 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 continues to show impressive gains in their reading proficiency scores. Akron leads the list of Ohio's Big-8 school districts in the 2006-2007 Local Report Card

Akron Public Schools

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.

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

“Akron is reading and the results are showing! Across the district total reading scores are up 42.4 percent over 2006. Fifth grade reading scores alone increased 10.5 percent from 2006. This City Reads! partner organizations continue to elevate reading to its proper place of importance within this community and we are seeing the results! Each person who has personally committed time to a reading initiative in our county has made a difference in a child's life. This quote from an unknown author captures the spirit of the broad impact This City Reads! is having on our Akron students: 'When you read a classic you do not see in the book more than you did before. You see more in you than there was before.' ”

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, Valley View Homes, and Norton Homes. (Teachers from Barberton City Schools facilitate the program at Norton 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 Target 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 to begin 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. Program staff worked closely with Lincoln administration and school improvement staff to shape the literacy tutoring to best meet the needs of the students. Approximately 12 UA students provided tutoring focused on increasing student fluency and confidence in reading. Data from the first semester of implementation show third grade participants increased their fluency from an average words correct per minute (WCPM) of 69.5 at the beginning of September 2007 to an average WCPM of 93.9 in November 2007. UA students were highly positive about the experience as reflected in their journals and their requests to return to Lincoln Elementary.

■ **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 third 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.

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 year four, 2007, 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 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

- **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.

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:

- Library Card Registration: 327,000
- Adult and Juvenile Books Checked Out: 6,705,880
- Summer Reading Program Participants: 13,880
- Pre-School Program attendance: over 100,000

Other programs that were reported include:

- The **Akron Summit County Public Library (ASCPL)** presented 4038 programs for children with literacy impact reaching over 131,000 children.
- ASCPL sponsored 27 monthly book discussion groups with 324 sessions. There were also six youth book discussion groups.
- More than 4,740 people participated in 408 computer classes sponsored by ASCPL.
- **Summit Education Initiative** in conjunction with Coming Together launched Plug Ins For Parents, a web-based resource for parents that tells them about more than 200 programs offered by more than 40 nonprofits in Summit County, for children from pre-kindergarten through grade one.
- The **Hudson Library and Historical Society** provided 333 preschool storytimes to 7,284 children and family members. More than 113 other children's programs (preschool through fifth grade) were offered with 7,341 people attending.
- **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, and This City Reads! and its 70-plus partner organizations.

- **Peninsula Library** sponsors *Get a Clue at Your Library*, a weekly activity to promote reading for ages preschool through 12. Each participant kept track of minutes they read each week and then had a chance for their name to be drawn for a prize. For ages 5 and up, six different programs promoting books were offered from January through October.
- *You Never Know at Your Library* is a Peninsula Library summer reading club for teens ages 11 and up to encourage reading. For each book the participants read, they had a chance to win a book.
- Peninsula Library offers *Preschool Story Time* for preschool ages 3 and up where stories, songs, finger plays, and books are introduced to preschoolers and their families. This program is twice a week from January through May, September through December.
- **Stow-Munroe Falls Public Library** served 513 people with Adult & Teen book discussion groups.
- More than 13,525 preschoolers and family members attended story times or participated at daycare centers in Stow-Munroe Falls
- **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.
- **The University of Akron Center for Literacy** launched a Writer-in-Residence program during fall 2007. Vanita Oelschlager was the first writer to participate. She gave a presentation on her writing processes for more than 100 undergraduate students enrolled in literacy education courses and provided each student with a copy of her book.
- **Akron Area YMCA** used the *Reach Out And Dance (ROAD) Program* of the **Cuyahoga Valley Youth Ballet** to bring dance instruction to two of the YMCA day camp sites, Riverfront and Firestone Park. In preparation for the week of instruction, the day campers at Riverfront researched dance, music, and clothes of the 70s and those at Firestone Park did similar research for dance, music, and clothes of the 80s. They borrowed books from the library to do their research. The week ended with a performance for parents and staff.
- Cuyahoga Valley Youth Ballet also provided free tickets to performances of "Nutcracker" and "Snow White" for YMCA After-School Program children. Prior to the performances children borrowed books from the library on ballet and the programs they would see.
- Youth participating in an equestrian program at YMCA Camp Y-Noah used the library to do research on horses they would be riding, grooming and caring for at camp.

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** enrolled 720 students and provided more than 30,000 hours of instruction at ten locations throughout Summit County. More than 56% of all students advanced at least one grade level during the year. One hundred twenty-five (125) people earned their GED and one hundred five (105) people entered employment. More than one hundred twenty-five (125) people volunteered as one-on-one tutors or classroom aides. Project Learn was selected as one of six model programs by ProLiteracy for its accountability efforts and was rated as “superior” by the Ohio Department of Education for Fy2006.

■ **Akron Summit Community Action, Inc.** Fifty-four percent (54%) 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: The Value of Learning Through Play and Promoting Positive Behaviors with Children. 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.

■ Pam Oviatt, an independent consultant, conducted training sessions for Head Start/Early Head Start teaching staff and parents titled “Is it playing or is it learning?” In the session, the staff and parents learned that a developmentally appropriate learning environment for infant/toddler and/or preschool classrooms is crucial. From various activity stations, Mrs. Oviatt demonstrated how learning through play is effective and appropriate for young children. Family packs were distributed that support learning through play in ways that families can understand and use.

■ The Barberton Outreach Program site participated in a Back-to-School Supply Kit Giveaway to fifty families. In addition, at Christmas, twenty-five books were given to families. Donated books and magazines are made available to clients on an ongoing basis. More than 500 books and magazines have been distributed.

- **Akron Public Schools Basic and Literacy Education (ABLE)** started a book club in two of their evening classes. Each month, adults read a book and discuss the theme, characters, and author intent.
- **The University of Akron** trained 130 volunteers who served more than 120 students. In addition approximately 380 students completing service learning requirements provided tutoring in sites throughout Summit County. Also, more than 30 students read to children in physician's offices as part of the Reach Out and Read program.
- 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.
- Dr. Jackie Peck provided leadership for continuation of The University of Akron Center for Literacy *Family Place*, supported through a UA Community Outreach Partnership Grant (COPC) grant and the UA College of Education. She delivered more than 20 English language workshops for English language learners during spring 2007. Five adults and two young children representing Mandarin, Arabic, and an Indian dialect regularly attended.
- Approximately 12 UA football team members served as volunteer readers with Leggett School students.
- 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 34,000 books in 2007. 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 2007, the members from several communities and events donated over 10,000 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.

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 and Northeast Ohio Universities College of Medicine and Pharmacy (NEOUCOM) to place students in various offices to read to children. ROR recruits and trains long-term student and adult volunteers. In 2007, 41 volunteers logged more than 450 volunteer hours.
- **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.
- **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. Families and community attend an end of the semester literacy celebration at Schumacher Academy in the Buchtel cluster where students engage in reading performance. 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.
- 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. A graduate student conducted research on access, support, and retention issues in adult literacy.

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 2006-07 school year, 1,295 community tutors and 326 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, African American 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 2007:

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

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, 2008 (76)

Akron Aeros	Fishcreek Elementary	Rubber City Book Posse
Akron Art Museum	The Greater Akron Chamber	Shaw Jewish Community Center
Akron Beacon Journal	Goodwill Industries	Show and Tell
Akron Children's Hospital	Help Me Grow	Springfield Local School District
Akron General Medical Center	Hudson City Schools	Stow-Munroe Falls Public Library
Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority	Hudson Library and Historical Society	Summa Health System
Akron Public Schools	Jumpstart-Akron	Summit Academy Schools
Akron Summit Community Action Inc.	Kids Play, Inc.	Summit County Domestic Relations Court
Akron-Summit County Public Library	Kids Play	Summit County Children's Services
Akron Urban League	Kindermusik with Miss Terri	Summit Education Initiative
Al Kaf Temple #109	Lakeview Elementary	Sutliff II Apartments (Cuyahoga Falls)
Barnes and Noble (Montrose)	Leadership Akron	Tallmadge Kiddie Kollege
Barberton Public Library	Lighthouse Academy	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	Overdale Primary School (Tallmadge)	Turkeyfoot Elementary School
County of Summit Department of Job and Family Services	PBS 45 &49	Twinsburg Senior Apartments
Cuyahoga Falls City Schools	Peninsula Library & Historical Society	United Way of Summit County
Cuyahoga Falls Library	Phoenix Village Academy	Vision Support Services
FACT Academy	Portage Trail East Apartments	Walsh University, Akron Campus
Family & Children First Council	Project AGAPE	WBNX
Farmers Insurance	Project: LEARN of Summit County	Wesley Tower
FirstBook-Greater Akron	R-D Bike Shop	
	Revere Local Schools	

The information in this report has been provided by This City Reads! Partner organizations.
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