



ROUND 2 AWARDEES

Chase Books: Father's Day Read-a-Thon

In the second installment of our Father's Day Read-a-Thon, we will use literacy to celebrate dads and father figures in the community. Activities will include storytime, meet and greet sessions with local authors, along with literacy games for the entire family to enjoy. Additional special guests include mascots of the local, fan-favorite teams. This event will be free for all to attend and include giveaways that encourage reading for children at home.

Free Library of Philadelphia and Mama Carla Wiley: StoryQuilting in Community: African-American Cultural Literacy

Mama Carla Wiley is a celebrated African-American cultural and family literacy educator in Philadelphia. She has been a preschool specialist, parenting educator, storyteller/oral historian, quilt historian and writer for over 25 years. She uses storytelling, folktales, real tales and historical events to engage people of all ages around connecting to their cultural heritage and developing key literacy skills.

Friends of J.S. Jenks Academy for the Arts & Sciences: Jenks Book Clubs & Uncle Bobbie's Bookstore Partnership

Jenks Dads on Duty will be volunteering to lead a book club for interested 2nd & 3rd grade boys. We are working with subject selectors for Uncle Bobbie's Books to curate the selection to ensure the most current and diverse voices reach our young men and ignite their journey as lifelong readers. We want to encourage a fun, relaxed environment and will reward the students for completing a book as a group with a pizza party lunch and each will receive a Gift Certificate to Uncle Bobbies to select a book of their choice to encourage them to keep reading.

Friends of Lucien Blackwell Regional Library: Summer Learning Fun!

We will facilitate an eight-week summer program that will be titled, Summer Learning Fun! The purpose of this project is to engage children, grades 2-4, in fun literacy activities that will include: story time with craft activities; Scrabble; Spelling Bees; Bingo and Books; Word Search contests; and book giveaways. All activities will take place at the Lucien E. Blackwell Regional Library outdoor lounge space. The activities will take place once a week for 60-90 minutes.

Kiwanis Club of South Philadelphia: Reading Can Change Your Life

A Read by 4th partner, Kiwanis Club of South Philadelphia, has adopted 2 learning centers. The first is a



daycare center, Designing Minds, and the second is an elementary school, Vare-Washington. This project would involve organizing interactive reading sessions. Kiwanis members would work with the daycare center caregivers and the elementary school principal and teachers to read to the children and follow up with a related project. An example is to provide daycare children with garden related books to keep at school and to take home, and then to plant a garden with them so that they can see how the book comes to life. Similarly, for the elementary school children (K-3), we would provide career related books and have guest visitors from various careers come to visit as well as schedule field trips to career related locations (firehouses, trades training centers, woodworking shops, etc.)

Nerdworks: Little Authors: Empowering Parents to Help their Children Publish Their Own Book

This project will teach parents, together with their children between the ages of 4 and 7 how to move from having their kids come up with a story that is meaningful to them, draw the pictures of each page, write the book (with their children) and publish it on Amazon. The process I have created to teach parents how to collaborate with their children to publish their first book is called: C.R.E.A.T.E.S. This is a 7-step process, which will be taught for free in 2 local community spaces as well as virtually so that we can empower young people to express themselves through the power of writing and publishing in the digital age where barriers to entry are as low as they ever were.

Paul L. Dunbar Elementary School: Summer Reading

This project will be to provide students with diverse and inclusive books for Summer Reading. At Dunbar, most students are significantly behind in reading levels, comprehension and accessibility. Many students who enroll for kindergarten have come with limited reading skills, have not been exposed to one-on-one reading, nor have had access to books at home. This project will not only affect the culture of literacy in the classroom but at home as well creating students' and families' interest in and ability to read; in addition to building home libraries.

Safiyah Islam: Family Literacy Project

The project would be (2) 4-week workshops and 4 parent/caregivers workshops. Each workshop would have one major literacy focus. Each participant would receive a bag filled with new books, activities related to the books and resources to use at home.

- Children 4-9: The children will maintain a journal during the 4-week session. Each week they will be given new journal prompts that will help review the focus literacy skill and practice writing.
- Adults: Adults will practice doing the activities that are assigned to the children, while the children are working with the facilitator. This will give the parents a preview of what is expected for them to help their children to succeed.
- Weekly Parent/Caregiver Workshops: Workshops will be held to give advice to parents and caregivers. Participants will be able to ask questions and learn innovative ways to foster literacy skills at home. These sessions will be for adults only.

Southwark School: Promoting a Love of Reading in 1st & 2nd Grade



Based on the most current and sound educational research, we know that children need lots of opportunities to practice their decoding skills. We feel the best way to support this is to provide all of our students with high-quality, engaging decodable texts. We want to fill our 1st and 2nd grade classroom libraries with these decodable readers and allow students to choose different books to read independently. Right now, our school has a great deal of books that are not decodable, but rather “patterned” books that we now know do not support learning to read as was previously thought. We want to offer our students a variety of decodable texts so that they can practice and improve upon their reading skills. With the funds received from this grant, we would purchase classroom library sets of decodable texts.

To ensure that we are including caregivers in their children’s reading journey, we plan to host a Virtual Parent Workshop during the first quarter of the school year to set families up for success. We will focus on helping families learn how to use these types of decodable books at home with their children. We will offer families tips and tricks on how to support their children’s decoding skills. Additionally, we will host a series of Family Reading Nights throughout the year to promote a family-wide love of learning, and to ensure that we are continually making available spaces where caregivers can ask questions and learn alongside their children.

The Garden Godfather, Inc.: Treehouse Community Book Fair

The Community Book Fair is proposed as an intergenerational community-based event with the goal of highlighting the fun & enjoyment that reading can bring to our lives. This outdoor event would bring together youth ages 6-9, their siblings, families, and caregivers to experience literacy focused games, engage with community reader leaders, local public speakers and artists performances.

The specific carnival games will focus on reinforcing literacy skills in a fun manner for those learning. For example, a basketball spelling bee, spelling ducks, a balloon pop with book titles, or a short story competition where young people are encouraged to finish a story from a prompt. Public speakers and artist performances will provide young people with an example of different forms of expression, which a strong literary background would support them in pursuing.

Zulma Guzmán working with Migrant Education: Jardín de las Abejitas

We propose to continue organizing and holding community-led early learning and literacy circles, twice a week, for newly arrived Latino children aged 2-5 and their parents who live in Southwest Philadelphia. Many children in this community have not had the opportunity to attend preschool education - in the parents' countries of origin, such opportunities were not available to many.

Through our learning circles, which will take place on Thursdays and Saturdays from 10 am to 12 noon for 8 weeks and will be led by parents from the community, we will use music, craft projects that incorporate recycled materials, storytelling of stories and legends, and cultural heritage to develop young children's early literacy skills, prepare them for the United States school system, and grow family language and educational practices as a whole. We hope to use colors, cultural experiences, grandmother legends, and art and culture to foster a love of learning from an early age. This program will be especially useful for children living with histories of trauma related to family separation or difficult experiences in their countries of origin or during the migration process.