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IDENTIFIERS Library Services and Construction Act; Tutor Training

ABSTRACT

This final performance report provides project outcome information and data to the U.S. Department of Education for the federally-funded Library Literacy Program. The Stratford Library Association (Connecticut) conducted a project that involved recruitment, retention, training, basic literacy, collection development, tutoring, intergenerational/family, and English as a Second Language (ESL) programs. The project served a community of 100,000-200,000, and targeted workforce/workplace learners, intergenerational/families, ESL, and learners in adult education and literacy classes. Tutoring was done one-on-one and in small groups, using the Literacy Volunteers of America (LVA) method. The project served 338 adult learners, and provided 890 hours of direct tutoring service. The report provides a comparison of actual accomplishments to goals and objectives set forth in the grant application; a comparison between proposed and actual expenditures; specific details of activities undertaken; the role the library played in the accomplishment of the goals and objectives; agencies and organizations that assisted in the project; and the impact of the federal project on the ongoing program of the library. Appendices include newspaper articles; program brochures and flyers; thank-you letters from students; and a bibliography of books, tapes, and software, arranged by topic. (SWC)



Stratford Library Assocation, Final Performance Report for Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA) Title VI, Library Literacy Program

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Stratford Library Association 2203 Main Street Stratford, CT 06468

> Barbara Moren 203-385-4164

Grant Number R167A20401

Grant Award: \$33,663

Amount Expended: \$33,663



Part II: Quantitative Data

Provide the following information about this project by filling in the blanks or putting a checkmark next to the answer that best describes your project. If any of the questions are not relevant to this project, write N/A.

| 1. | What is the size of the community served by this project? | | | |
|-----------|--|--|--|--|
| • | under 10,000 between 10,000 - 25,000 between 25,000 - 50,000 between 50,000 - 100,000 between 100,000-200,000 over 200,000 | | | |
| 2. | What type of project was this? (Check as many as applicable) | | | |
| | X Recruitment X Retention X Space Renovation Coalition Building Public Awareness X Training Rural Oriented X Basic Literacy Other (describe) Collection Development Tutoring Computer Assisted Other Technology Employment Oriented Intergenerational/Family English as a Second Language (ESL) | | | |
| 3. | Did you target a particular population? (Check on many or any line to be | | | |
| J. | Did you target a particular population? (Check as many as applicable) Homeless Homebound Hearing Impaired Seniors/Older Citizens Visually Impaired Migrant Workers Learning Disabled Indian Tribes Mentally Disabled Intergenerational/Families Workforce/Workplace English as a Second Language Inmates of Correctional Institutions Other (describe) Learners in Adult Education and Literacy Classes | | | |
| 4. | If this project involved tutoring, what tutoring method was used? | | | |
| | Laubach _x_LVA Michigan Method Orton-Gillingham Other (describe) | | | |



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8. During the course of this project:

| How many adult learners were served? (i.e., individuals who made use of the |
|---|
| library's literacy project services in some way) 338 |
| Of those served, how many received direct tutoring service?31 |
| How many hours of direct tutoring service did they receive? 890 |
| How many new volunteer tutors were trained?11 |
| How many current volunteer tutors received additional training? 8 |
| How many volunteer tutors (total) were involved?24 |
| How many non-tutor volunteers were recruited? 6 (strictly for childcare |
| How many service hours were provided by non-tutors? 124 |
| How many librarians were oriented to literacy methods, materials, |
| and students? N/A |
| How many trainers of tutors were trained? |

Part III: Narrative Report

Provide a narrative report that includes the following information:

- 1. A comparison of actual accomplishments to the goals and objectives set forth in the approved application. Describe any major changes or revisions in the program with respect to approved activities, staffing, and budgeting, including unspent funds. Explain why established goals and objectives were not met, if applicable.
- 2. Provide a comparison between proposed and actual expenditures by budget category, i.e., personnel, travel, materials, etc.
- 3. Provide, as appropriate, specific details as to the activities undertaken e.g., if library materials were acquired, describe the kinds of materials purchased; if a needs assessment was conducted, describe the results of the assessment; if training was provided, describe the training and include the dates and topics; if services were contracted out, describe the contractor's activities.
- 4. Describe the role the library has played in the accomplishment of the goals and objectives set forth in the approved grant, including whether the library was involved in the project's implementation or as a resource and site only.
- 5. Provide names of agencies and organizations recruited to volunteer their services for the literacy program or that were involved in the coordination and planning of the literacy program. Describe the nature of their role.



| 6. | Provide the names and locations of libraries and other sites whose facilities were |
|----|--|
| | used for this project. |

| 7. | Describe the impact of the Federal project on the ongoing program of the |
|----|--|
| | grantee. |

Note: Narrative reports are not expected to exceed 20 double-spaced typewritten pages.

[Further monies or other benefits may, but not necessarily, be withheld under these programs unless these reports are completed and filed as required by existing law and regulations (20 U.S.C. 351 et seq.; 34 CFR Parts 75 and 77).]



Part III: Narrative Report

1. GOALS

A. Lifelong Literacy Program

- class visits with a total of 295 contacts with students enrolled in Workplace, Continuing Education and Evening High School classes. She also conducted four computer training classes for 12 adults. The project goal was to reach 344 adult learners (a number derived from program enrollments). Class attendance at these programs, however, varied; thus, the number or students contacted was lower than anticipated.
- (2) 87% of the students participating in the visits asked real life questions. Over 95% of these questions were answered with library materials or referrals.

Students enrolled in the Pre-GED Program at
Stratford High School and the LVA Workplace Literacy
programs received on-site visits only. The Pre-GED
Program is computer-based and attendance is
irregular, making class visits to the library nearly
impossible.

The Workplace Literacy programs were more structured, but company release time was not available for visits to the library. However, all of the workplace students' real life questions were



answered. Ms. Moren photocopied and mailed appropriate articles, flyers, or referrals to the students. This material could then be incorporated into their reading and English lessons.

- (3) Circulation of Adult Basic Education (ABE)
 Materials increased by 35% from September, 1992 to
 September, 1993 (from 940 items 1992 to 1265 items in
 1993). Although this is a healthy increase, it is
 lower than the 100% increase projected. ABE
 circulation has, however, increased by 100% since
 October of 1991.
- (4) Although, it is difficult to determine precisely how many students returned on their own to the library. Anecdotal evidence from teachers and a sampling of library card use indicates that anywhere from 25% to 60% of the students did return independently.

B. Parents as Teaching Heroes (PATH)

(1) With a total of 31 learners in the PATH program, the numbers have far exceeded expectations. Of the 31 learners, eight have received more than 50 hours of tutoring (based on two hour sessions); five additional learners received 30-49 hours of tutoring. Two learners have each received 71 hours of tutoring.

When the program began in November 1992, there were four learners left from the previous year.

Three returned and one is still with the program as

of September 1993.

- (2) From the initial three learners the PATH program has grown to 14 (who attend on a regular basis) as of the end of September 1993. During the year PATH has had an additional 14 mothers and fathers who have stayed for a portion of the year and needed to leave for several reasons, such as:
 - > returning to work.
 - > changing work shifts.
 - > staying at home with a new born child.
 - > leaving the area.
- Program) test is preferred in Connecticut, the PATH coordinator felt this test was too intimidating for new students and might discourage them from continuing in the program. Instead she administered the READ (a basic reading test) or the ESLOA (an English as a second language test) to new students. She did, however, CAPP students after they had received 20-30 hours of instruction and again after 40-60 hours of instruction.

Test Results - Averages

New students - READ results: 3-4 grade reading level.

ESLOA results: level 2 (practical vocabulary; but no grasp of grammar).



- After 20-30 hours of tutoring (65% of the students received this much instruction)
 CAPP results: 5-6 grade reading level.
- After 40-60 hours of tutoring (26% of the students received this much instruction)
 CAPP results: 7 grade reading level.
- (4) Of the 19 tutors (six volunteers were non-tutors who worked directly with the children and five tutors came in only for a very short time 10 hours or less or for specific reasons such as tutoring a particular student in math); 11 were tutor trained in Literacy Volunteers of America's "Basic Reading" or "English as a Second Language".

The six volunteers who worked with the children were given guidance and direct help by the project coordinator, who is also an early childhood specialist. Three of the six volunteers were former teachers of children. Two of the remaining three were parents and/or grandparents of young children.

as some of the tutors and childcare helpers) went to the Stratford Library for a story hour given by the Children's Department of the library. Children and parents participated in games, songs, poetry and listening.

In addition, many of the parents used the time at the library, either before or after story hour, to

peruse the books, look up pertinent information, or take out books.

Almost all of the learners had a tour of the library given to them by the Reference Librarian, Barbara Moren. They were introduced to the new online catalog and shown library resources. Literacy students and teachers were predominantly interested in literacy materials; however, math books and many children's books were also borrowed.

learners. The workshops were presented to the learners. The workshops were contracted from the staff of Parent's Place, a parenting drop-in and workshop center. The workshops covered developmental needs of young children, self esteem, dealing with problems, and positive discipline. The workshops were designed so that parents had active participation amongst themselves and with the workshop leader. A text was used to prepare the learners for the next workshop. In some cases learners read this text with their tutors.

2. EXPENSES

Salary and Wages

Proposed

Actual

Librarians

\$4200.

\$4939.54

Class visits (preparation and follow-up);
material selection; computer purchase and setup
(software selection, installation and setup)
and project coordination required more time
than projected.

Supplies

<u>Proposed</u>

Actual

Computer

\$1800.

\$2060.48

It is essential that an adult basic education computer be user friendly. For this reason Ms. Moren opted to purchase a Gateway 486 with ample space to store all the software programs on the hard drive. The extra funds spent insure that despite the disk space needed by programs, students will be able to easily access them thru a main menu.

Tutor Instructional Supplies

Proposed

<u>Actual</u>

\$1570

\$1130.50

The <u>Developing Capable Workshop</u> series, budgeted at \$970, was released in 1993 on video tape. Purchase of this video series instead of paying for a workshop was not only cost effective; it allows a wider audience to



receive this education.

Student Instructional Supplies

| Proposed | Actual |
|----------|----------|
| \$575 | \$575.48 |

Contractual Services

PATH Coordinator

<u>Proposed</u> <u>Actual</u> \$12,000 \$12,006.72

Library Materials

<u>Proposed</u> <u>Actual</u> \$4098 \$5319.82

190 items (books, media and software) were purchased (Appendix D). Quality basic reading software was particularly expensive.

Other

Administration Proposed Actual \$2820 \$2080.46

The cost of an audit was avoided by not spending over \$25,000 in the library budget year (July 1992 to July 1993).

LVA Tutor Training Workshop <u>Proposed</u> <u>Actual</u> \$1500 \$1500



Parenting Workshop <u>Proposed</u> <u>Actual</u> \$500 \$500

Rental of Classrooms

<u>Proposed</u> <u>Actual</u> \$3750 \$2700

Actual

\$600

The Sterling House Community Center was unable to lease space to PATH during the summer. The PATH program moved to Johnson Academy (part of the Stratford Public School System) for 10 session in the summer and no rent was charged.

Printing Costs

(Bus tokens)

Proposed Actual \$250 \$250

Local Transportation

Proposed \$600



3. ACTIVITIES

A. <u>Lifelong Literacy Program</u> - Activities

- (1) Designed and distributed over 200 flyers

 promoting library literacy services (Appendix B)
- (2) Conducted 33 Class Visits and four Adult Basic Education Computer Training Classes:

November 9, 1992 Stratford Evening High School

November 16, 1992 Stratford Continuing Education English as a Second Language Basic and Intermediate Classes

November 17, 1992 Stratford Continuing Education
Pre-Ged Classes and ESL
Advanced Class at the High
School

November 24, 1992 Stratford Continuing Education English as a Second Language Advanced Class

December 9, 1992 Stratford Continuing Education ESL - Beginner and Intermediate Classes.

December 10, 1992 Stratford Employment and Training

January 28, 1993 Emson Research - 3 Workplace Literacy Classes.

February 3, 1993 Emson Research - 4 LVA Workplace Literacy Classes.

February 23, 1993 Bead Industries - 1 LVA Workplace Literacy Classes.

March 3, 1993 Stratford Evening High School 12th grade.

March 17, 1993 Bead Industries - LVA Workplace Literacy - 2 classes.

March 24, 1993 Stratford Evening High School and Intermediate ESL Class.



March 31, 1993 Stratford Continuing Education ESL - Advanced visit. April 7, 1993 Stratford Employment and Training visit. April 20, 1993 South End Community Center Class Visit. June 8, 1993 Parents as Teaching Heroes tour. June 22, 1993 Parents as Teaching Heroes tour. Adult Basic Education Computer August 4, 1993 Training Class August 24, 1993 Adult Basic Education Computer Training Class. September 21, 1993 Adult Basic Education Computer Training Class. September 28, 1993 Adult Basic Education Computer Training Class.

At each visit students Mrs. Moren explained how the library has become a center for lifelong learning. She gave specific examples of interesting questions answered by Reference Librarians at the library, reassuring students that there are no foolish questions. The only foolish question is the question that isn't asked. Students were encouraged to formulate there own real life question. They were then shown how to use library computers and resources to answer these questions.

(3) Real Life Questions

Sample real life questions:

Where can I find a typewriter to use?

Where can I find day care for my child?

How can I find a job as a janitor?

Help understanding punctuation, quotations marks and question marks.

How do I get customers for my landscape business?

Do we have a special book for writing wills?

How do I paint my house?

What can I do to become a registered nurse in the U.S.?

What salary are used car salesmen paid?

What is the law on abortion in Connecticut?

Everything on Malcolm X.

What information do you have on premature babies?

How to get an alcoholic to admit or realize they have a problem?

Books on infant care.

Is it possible for a woman with an ovarian cyst to get pregnant?

Is it possible for people with bad diseases to get pregnant?

How to type - where to go for typing instruction.

How to repair cars - an easy book for women.

How can I improve my spelling?

I want to learn computer vocabulary.

Do you have any books for Polish speaking people?



How can I get information about working at home?

Books on planning weddings.

Answering these questions was the focus of the visits and tours. The librarians answered about 95% of the questions using library materials, referrals and interlibrary loans.

(4) Materials Purchased

The library purchased 190 items (Appendix D). First consideration was given to materials that answered student real life questions and requests by tutors and teachers.

(5) Adult Basic Education Computer

SLA purchased a Gateway 486 computer. All software programs were loaded on the hard disk and can be easily accessed by a menu.

An Adult Basic Education Computer training class was advertised (Appendix B) and four classes were scheduled. The most popular software programs thus far are Type to Learn, Mavis Beacon Teaches Typing, Career Finder, and Resume Processor.



B. Parents as Teaching Heroes - Activities

The recruiting of both parents and tutors was an on-going job. Parents were recruited from:

- > the Stratford/Bridgeport Head Start Program (in September 1993 the program had three parents from Head Start).
- > from contacts with a social worker in a Bridgeport Church working with Hispanic residents.
- > the Stratford elementary schools.
- > from the Literacy Volunteers of America's office list of clients.

In addition, the project coordinator attended meetings of the Community Organizations Council whose membership includes representatives from all community organizations. She also attended the Early Childhood Council in part to recruit new PATH participants.

Tutors were recruited from Literacy Volunteer of America - Greater Bridgeport (LVA) and from contacts made by the project coordinator:

- > as a speaker at a retired teacher's meeting.
- > at a Stratford Resource Fair, featuring all the community organizations.
- > as a speaker at the Stratford Board of Education's annual PTA meeting.

The PATH program was held each Tuesday and



Thursday morning throughout the year (with the exception of two weeks at Christmas when the building was closed, school vacation weeks in February and April, and the three last weeks in August when the building was being cleaned).

Each session was three hours long with two hours devoted to tutoring the learners and one hour spent with the learners working and playing with their children and/or networking with parents in the program through informal conversations, guided workshops on specific topics, or informal discussions of particular problems shared by a few of the parents. Parenting books, specifically used by the PATH program, were displayed for parents to read there or to borrow and take home for one week.

On Tuesdays of each week, during the school year, the parents and children walked two buildings down to the Stratford Library for Story Hour. On Thursdays of each week, parents worked on a craft project, such as puppet or toy making or holiday decorations with their children. Many of these projects were tied into a piece of children's literature, such as the making of a soft sock snowman and reading the picture book The Snowman. Reading from the many children's books available was encouraged for the parents. This time was spent on enhancing parenting skills through direct instruction



and role modeling by the project coordinator and the child care helpers.

Special community people have been invited in to voluntarily speak with parents in an informal question and answer session:

- > a woman gynecologist talked about women's health and specific problems of pregnancy.
- > a public health nurse spoke to the learners about communicable diseases, such as TB and Aids.
- > a woman came in to talk to the group about consumer math and getting better buys at the grocery store.

A workshop leader was contracted to do four workshops on parenting concerns.

Each program day started with a social breakfast-like atmosphere. Freshly make coffee and tea was made available along with a sweet treat and plenty of fruit (LVA funded this, not LSCA). Parents, tutors and often children gather to exchange "hellos" and "pleasantries" before tutoring begins.



4. ROLE OF THE LIBRARY

The Stratford Library contributed to this project in the following ways:

- 1. Administration of the grant and budget.
- 2. Coordination of grant activities.
- 3. Conducting story hours for PATH programs.
- 4. Implementation of the Lifelong Literacy component.
- 5. Selection, purchasing and processing of library materials.

5. CONTRIBUTING AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

Literacy Volunteers of America - coordinated and implemented the Parents as Teaching Heroes Program; and facilitated library visits to workplace literacy programs.

Sterling House Community Center - provided five rooms and playground facilities for the PATH program.

Johnson House at Stratford Academy (Stratford Public School System) - housed the PATH program for 10 sessions during the summer.

General Electric Employee Volunteers - initiated plans to renovated the children's PATH facilities at Sterling House.

Parent's Place - conducted parenting workshops.

The Stratford Continuing Education Department encouraged teachers to participate in the Lifelong
Literacy visits.



Bead Industries - facilitated Ms. Moren's visits to workplace literacy classes on company time.

Emson Research - facilitated Ms. Moren's visits to workplace literacy classes on company time.

Stratford Employment and Training - offered hours of class time for library visits.

6. SITES USED

Stratford Library Association 2203 Main Street Stratford, CT

Sterling House Community Center 2283 Main Street Stratford, CT

Johnson House at Stratford Academy 719 Birdseye St Stratford, CT

Stratford High School 45 N. Parade St. Stratford, CT

Bead Industries, Inc. 110 Mountain Grove Bridgeport, CT

Emson Research Inc. 1100 Boston Ave. Bridgeport, CT

7. Impact on the Ongoing Program

Stratford Library Association is a regional source for Adult Basic Education Materials:

> Students enrolled in a New Haven based English as Second Language certification program use SLA materials for papers and classroom presentations.



> Teachers from the International Institute, Bridgeport Adult Education, Mercy Learning Center and Bullard Havens Technical School in Bridgeport use and recommend SLA materials.

Federal LSCA funds impact the adult students:

- > PATH participants who otherwise would not have entered a library now regularly attend story hours there.
- Adult learners who did not have library cards, or rarely used the ones they had, now have the opportunity to get a card and use it to borrow books and materials.
- Adult learners were unaware of the resources available at the library. They are now familiar with them and know that the library is a place to go when they have questions. Many use material to supplement their classroom instruction.

The grant has impacted regional literacy tutoring:

- > Teachers and tutors became aware of the library resource for their students. Initially, Ms.

 Moren needed to convince teachers that a library visit would be beneficial. After participating in successful visits, however, several teachers initiated visits for the next semester.
- > It has added a family literacy component to the community literacy services.



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It has provided an alternative location for literacy tutoring. While the Stratford Library has been used extensively with tutors and learners, Sterling house is a new venue.

The adult basic education computer empowers students:

- > They learn new technology in a non-threatening atmosphere.
- > They may now work independently on typing, reading, spelling, math, and life skills.



Appendix A Newspaper Articles





The Bookmark

A publication of Literacy Volunteers of America-Greater Bridgeport

January, 1993



Kathy Fagella works with some of her young charges on recognizing shapes.

PATH — A New Coordinator and a New Home...

Kathy Fagella may know everyone in Stratford, but now she has a few more friends — a group of children and their mothers who come to the Sterling House in Stratford for the PATH program.

The Stratford native, an educator and teacher in both public and private settings, wanted to expand her horizons. While she had extensive early-childhood training, she was intrigued by helping both children and their mothers to learn to read and interact together.

The most rewarding aspect of her job is the "joy of seeing people make progress with the tutors and the realization that occurs when mothers realize "they are their children's first teachers."

And that's exactly what the acronym PATH — Parents as Teaching Heroes — should mean. The PATH program is funded through an adult literacy grant recently awarded to the Stratford Library Association. We salute Kathy and her assistants, all volunteers, in their efforts.

The PATH program is always looking for volunteers. The group meets Tuesdays and Thursdays at Sterling House from 9 a.m. to noon. If you're interested in volunteering, call 579-2208.

LVA Goes to Denver

Yolanda Pesquera, participant in the PATH program, and Sonja Ahuja, Workplace Program Director, represented the Greater Bridgeport affiliate at the National Conference for Literacy Volunteers of America held this past November in Denver, Colorado. They were among more than 900 delegates from throughout the United States to attend the two-and-one-half day event featuring workshops for professional and volunteer teachers, tutors and administrators in literacy programs.

Yolanda was the '92 recipient of LVA's Eleanor Arno Award granted annually to sponsor a learner as a delegate to the national conference. She attended the special track of learner oriented workshops offered for the first time at the '92 conference. In her comments to the LVA/GB board of directors, she described the experience by saying, "There was a lot of warmth and love there. Students really felt for each other and would do anything to help you." As our student delegate, Yolanda was very effective in networking on behalf of our program and returned with contacts, materials and many new ideas to enhance our efforts in family literacy and to bring students into affiliate activities.

continued, page 3



A Message from the President



The arrival of a New Year gives us a great opportunity to look back on our recent accomplishments as well as looking ahead to 1993. Thanks to the hard work of hundreds of dedicated volunteers, there's a lot to look at in both directions!

The past few months have included a wide variety of important initiatives:

 We conducted a meaningful conference on Family Literacy with the support of the legal community and a number of our sister agencies. This coincided nicely with the expansion of our efforts in this important area and the hiring of Kathy Faggella, our new Family Literacy Coordinator.

- Our Workplace and Community Literacy programs are continuing to produce tangible results, and the Board has put special emphasis on plans to improve the way we support our tutors and other volunteers, who are the lifeblood of our organization.
- We've had three successful fund-raisers (a pasta dinner, a Holiday card sale, and a theater performance). While there have been too many people involved to thank everyone individually, special thanks go to the Knights of Columbus—Park City Council, Jennifer Samor, Bruce Dubow, Vinny Faggella, and the Square One Theater for making these events happen.
- Our Program, Finance and Public Relations Committees, composed of Board members and volunteers, are each moving forward with enthusiasm and creativity.

• We've established a new Strategic Planning Committee, under the leadership of Bob Craig, to tackle the longer—term issues we need to understand and deal with in order to be effective in the future. This group will make a preliminary report to the Board this spring.

And that's just the past few months: fasten your seatbelts for 1993!

We expect that 1993 will be the most active year in the history of our organization. We have more volunteers, working on a wider variety of projects, than we've ever had in the past. And, as always, we need your help.

You can help no matter what your own talents, interests and availability might be — there are more than enough opportunities. Whether it's tutoring in one of our programs, helping to plan a fund—raising or program—related event, serving on a committee, writing grant proposals, or simply helping out at the office, making phone calls, or even just attending an event, you can make a difference.

If you're already involved in LVA, you can help even more by talking about LVA with a friend. If each of us could find just one more quality volunteer today, our ranks would be twice as strong tomorrow — and that would make a difference!

To find out more about how you or someone you know might be able to help us in the fight against illiteracy, just call our office at 579-2208 and let us know you're interested. I'm sure we can find a rewarding opportunity.

Best wishes for a great 1993 to you and your family.

Ken Weinstein

Coming Soon to Your Mailbox!!!

THE PROBLEM: LVA needs volunteer help! Volunteers need to know how they can be of help to the organization!

NEEDED: A list of jobs and a list of available volunteers to fill those jobs and a way to match the two.

FIRST STEP: A survey will be sent to all volunteers at the end of January. The purpose of the survey will be to find out what volunteers would like to do to help LVA.

SECOND STEP: To create a database from the survey answers which will match LVA needs with volunteer abilities.

YOU CAN HELP!

Watch for the survey to appear in your mailbox.

Please complete and return the survey.

Be ready to answer the call when LVA needs your talents, skills, abilities, enthusiasm and dedication.



THE STRATFORD

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1993

PATH Project helps families read

By Dorothy P. Eu<mark>erle</mark> Bard Editor

Parents are their children's irst and most important eacher. Helping families to reak the cycle of illiteracy, s a new program, PATH arents As Teaching Heroes taking place at Sterling louse Community Center or parents with preschoolrs. The project is sponsored y Literacy Volunteers of Greater Bridgeport and the tratford Library Assoiation. Kathy Faggella of tratford is the project oordinator.

Activities are going on in everal areas of the uilding. Tutors work with arents to help them chieve their personal goals. It the same time, in another rea, their preschoolers, ges two to five, are being ared for and given the oportunity to play with other hildren, listen to stories, eaint, do crafts, and play carning games.

Faggella said because a parent is a child's first and

most important teacher, there is a time period for the parent and child to read, work and play together.

A story hour at Stratford Library on Tuesday is a fun part of each week, she added, as children and their parents were walking to the nearby library to join in the library's children's story hour. They also can use the library's materials.

Faggella explains the program was developed for the parent who wants to improve reading and writing skills, study for a GED (high school equivalency diploma), be better prepared to assist children with their homework, or for the foreign born learners, to speak English.

Testing is performed before and after to assess parents needs, to find out where they are and their individual needs, explained Faggella.

Parenting skills is a big part of the program, she added. Children's literature



Photo by Dorothy P. Eue

Parents As Teaching Heroes (PATH) project volunteer math tutor Dana Mastrony, a student at Sacred Heart University, works with parents on an algebra problem at Sterling House.

is available and, during the morning, parents are encouraged to read a story to their child. She re-emphasized the great influence parents have on their children's lives as their first teachers.

She had high praise for the volunteers who serve as tutors - some are retired teachers, others are college students. They come from Monroe, Trumbull, Bridgeport, and Stratford.

"Our tutors are wonderful, terrific," said Faggella.

"Right now, there are more

tutors available than learners." She is eager to get the word out to the public about the availability of this free program. Flyers have been distributed to schools, churches and other public places and Faggella said she is very willing to speak to individual groups about the project.

"It's tough to get people, who would benefit from PATH, to commit," she said. Transportation is often a problem.

Language can be a barrier, preventing a parent from

getting a job, said Faggella Skills are needed to get a comparable job when they come here from another country.

Volunteers are needed to help provide a supportive environment for parents and their children to learn and grow together as a family unit, said Faggella.

Anyone who would like more information about th PATH program may conta Literacy Volunteers of Greater Bridgeport at 579-2208 or PATH Coordinator Kathy Faggella at 375-5711



OPINION

PATH offers hope to parents, children

P-A-T-H. Parents as Teaching Heroes. This is the title of a new program housed by the Sterling Community House, to bring youngsters and their parents together reading. The Literacy Volunteers of Greater Bridgeport and the Stratford Library Association are sponsors of the project.

The concept is simple. Parents are the first and best teachers for children. They learn by example. If mom and dad are reading, the children will pick up a book as a matter of habit. What PATH tries to do is identify the reading skills of parents and work for improvement. Parents who want to help their pre-schooler, or want to help with homework, study for a high school equivalency or want to take English as a second language, can meet with the tutors in the program and map out a strategy.

The lessons and tutorials are reinforced by activities at the <u>Stratford Library</u>, such as the weekly story hour. Those in the program are allowed, also, to use any materials in the library to aid them in their sessions.

One of the major successes of the project is the group of volunteers project director Kathy Faggella has been able to collect. These hardworking individuals, coming from all walks of life, are eager to give of themselves to aid their charges.

The PATH program is a fine example of what can be done to curb the illiteracy rate in our area. It is unfortunate that adults learn too late the hard lesson that reading is the most important skill anyone can possess in today's world. With programs such as this, however, adults can not only help themselves and improve their reading skills, they can make sure their children are able to compete on equal footing with their peers.



Library visit puts student on job track



Tyrone Mendenhall's visit to the Stratford Library Association paid off as he pursues a new career.

Tyrone Mendenhall found a visit to the Stratford Library Association put him on a new career track. Mendenhall was a member of the Stratford Evening High School English classes when teacher Susan Nicolini-Saylor and principal Barbara Essery brought their adult students for a tour of the library facility.

Students researched "real life" questions as they learned to use SOLAR, the library's new, state-of-the-art online catalog. Specific questions about careers, car repair, pregnancy and child care were popular topics, according to Reference Librarians Barbara Moren and Ann Ciorciari, who served as guides for the special class visit. "It was particularly rewarding to see students so engrossed and interested in the materials they were finding," Moren said.

After his library experience, Mendenhall sent a letter to Moren revealing some good news for the student:

"I am writing you this letter to tell you thanks for the carpet installer's information. I went out and looked for a job installing carpet and found one. I am a carpet installer's helper and look foward to going to work now because I am learning a trade."

The Stratford Library Reference Department is staffed daily with trained professionals able to assist patrons on a one-to-one basis. For further information, call the library at 385-4164.

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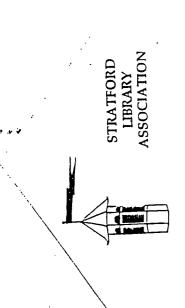


Patrons are discovering the many merits of the new Adult Basic Education computer on display at the Stratford Library Association. Designed specifically for adult learners, the computer is located in the A.B.E. section in the library's main lobby

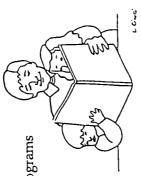
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Appendix B Flyers





Over 300 Adult Basic Education Books and Workbooks



Family Literacy Programs





Computer & Software for the Adult Learner

Meeting Rooms



Free Copies for Tutors

35

Books on Tape Videos

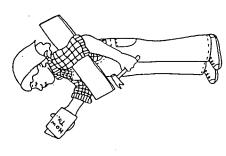
Stratford Library Association - A Center For Lifelong Learning

STRATFORD LIBRARY ASSOCIATION 2203 Main Street Stratford, CT 06497 Director: Edythe M. Landes Westbound Westbound: 1-95. Take Exit 32. Left on Linden Ave. Left on West Broad Street. Under Highway and around trefflo circle Into ASSOCIATION Esstbound: Take exit 32 Around traffic circle on West Broad Street and directly into parking lot. STRATFORD LIBRARY Directions to the Stratford Library Parking lot. 1900 - 1 1 - 1 Linden Ave Exit 32 Stratford Library Parking Beldwin Center 1-95 į Exit West Broad Stree East Bound

 $1\frac{1}{2} \times 2\frac{1}{4}$

Math

ADULT BASIC EDUCATION MATERIALS & SERVICES



Life Skills

Literacy Services/Barbara Moren

Phones

Main Street

Reading

385-4164

10-8

Monday

Hours

Room Reservations

Information Circulation

385-4162 385-4161 385-4160

10-8 10-8

Wednesday

English as a Second Language

Aprenda Inglés

Tuesday

Thursday

38

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Young Adult

Children's Reference

385-4165

385-4167

385-4164

10-6 10-5 10-5

Friday

Saturday

(C)

STRATFORD LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

ATTENTION: TUTORS & STUDENTS!

Learn to use our new

ADULT BASIC EDUCATION COMPUTER

Software programs include:

Math Blaster

Essential Grammar

Spell_It

Managing a Checking Account

Word Attack

Mavis Beacon Teaches Typing

Fractions

Essential Punctuation

Class will be held:

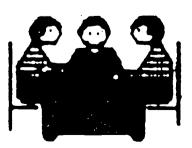
Wednesday, August 4, 1993 7-8:30 pm

Stratford Library Association Main Lobby 2203 Main Street Stratford, CT

Class size is limited

Reservations required by calling 385-4162

Monday thru Thursday: 10-Noon





PATH

Parents As Teaching Heroes

is a program for parents with preschoolers

It is for YOU is:

You want to improve your reading and writing skills

or

You want to study for your GED (high school equivalency diploma)

OI

You want to be better prepared to help your children with their homework

or

You want to learn to speak English (for the foreign born learner)

- •Tutors will work with you to help you achieve your personal goals!
- •At the same time, your preschooler (aged 2-5) will be lovingly cared for and given the opportunity to play with other children, listen to stories, paint, do crafts, and play learning games!
- •And because YOU are your child's first and most important teacher, there is time for you to read, work and play together, also.
- •A Story Hour at Stratford Library is a fun part of each week! So join us for a cup of coffee (or tea), bring your preschooler, and do what you've only wished about.

Join us every Tuesday and Thursday morning, 9 am-12:00 noon

at

Sterling House Community Center
2283 Main St., Stratford

For more information call:

Kathy Faggella, Project Coordinator, 375-5711

This program is free and is sponsored by the Stratford Library Association and Literacy Volunteers of America.





LITERACY VOLUNTEERS OF GREATER BRIDGEPORT

STRATFORD LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

P.A.T.H.

Parents As Teaching Heroes

This family literacy program is for parents of preschool children. With the help of individual tutors, the parents will improve their reading and writing skills, study English as a second language, prepare for the high school equivalency test (GED) or brush up on math skills to help themselves and their families.

The children of the P.A.T.H. parents are cared for while the parents study and are given the opportunity to play learning games, listen to stories, do craft projects, play outdoors with large motor skill equipment and have snacks. They attend a story hour each week at the nearby Stratford Library. Time is also provided for parents and children to interact and work and play together.

Tutors are an essential part of the P.A.T.H. program. The parents benefit from the one-on-one training they receive from having their own tutors. Tutors are rewarded with seeing the progress made by their learners.

To be a tutor, you must be available on Tuesday <u>and/or</u> Thursday mornings, sometime between 9:00 and 11:00. Tutoring time is usually 1 and 1/2 hours per session. P.A.T.H. is held at Sterling House Community Center on Main St. in Stratford. Training, in basic reading and English as a Second Language, is provided for tutors by Literacy Volunteers of America.

P.A.T.H. also welcomes volunteers who would like to work with the children. For more information, call 579-2208 or 375-5711.

| · · | |
|--|--|
| I wish to help as a volunteer:(Clip. Send to I | LVA office, 177 State St., Bridgeport, CT 06604) |
| \Box tutoring the adults in P.A.T. | Н |
| \square working with the children in | PA.T.H. |
| Name | 1 |
| Address | |
| | Phone |
| | |



Appendix C Letters



March 20, 1993

Dear Mo Ciociari, Thank-you very much Jor Setting my English Class and I come and work on our research papers. I accomplished alot. You Chelped me so much If it wasn't for you el wouldn't have gotten any thing done. you showed me books on Stephen King's Place ground that I never Theord of. Now when I

ERIC PRINTED TO PRINTE

2

have to do another research paper I will know where to look

and how to look for it.

Yours Truly, Jennifer Piel Dear Ms. Morent Ms. Ciociari

I want to thank you for letting the class and I to come to the library on Wed. night. Althourgh I was not there I missed a lot. The last time I was at the library you helped me a lot with research of Malcolm X and the books that I need. Again I want to Trank you

Yours Truly Sallein Battle Dear, Ms Horen? Ms. Cioniucia,

I would like to theink you

both sornehping me find some books about

My tem paper Both of you helped he

a lot because I never been there before.

And I went back again without my

class and I found a lot of things on

my own thanks too you. And I even

Signed up for a library card.

Thank you Portra Geissin

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MArch/22

Dear Ms. Moren,

I wanted to think you for taking
the time to help me look up my Subjuct even
though we didn't have the right topic (Cryogenes).
I wanted to thank even more spending extrating
in finding the right topic (Croonies) and sending
the printout of the listings. I really appreciate
it.

Thank you, Charl Stryker

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Dear Ms. Ciaciari

Thank you for helping my locate and find my looks. So I would like to say thankyou very much.

> Yours Truly, Tim Sand

Dear Me Moren and me Ciaciari

thank you for all your helpfull and with your help the computers were easy to use Thank you, P. Barreirer

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

| 4 march 23, 1993 | |
|---|---------|
| Dear Mrs. Moren, | |
| Thank you for your time | , |
| durary with my class, and | |
| you helped me jund a lot cb information on my topic, | |
| and it bloots burdall this | |
| don't think it would have | |
| Coura half of the information, | |
| | ······· |
| Danielle Merto | |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |



Dear Mo. Moven, I would like to thank you for helping me with the computer and showing me how to look up books. I could only find one book but it had a lot of information that I could not find in any of the broke I allieady Dad.

Sincely, Wayne

• • • • • • • •

and the contract of the contra

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Appendix D Bibliography



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Beginning Clerical Worker by John C. Czukor

Building Custodian, Building Superintendent, Custodian Engineer

by Hy Hammer and Robert Padula

Electrician-Electrician's Helper by Rex Miller

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English/Polish Edition

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Fractions: Multiplication and Division by Educational Activities
Intelligent Tutor Pre-Algebra by Intelligent Software
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New Math Blaster Plus by Davidson & Associates
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TUTORS

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TYPING

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WRITING

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