



Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, Inc.
Community Outreach Programs Funding Request

Name of Program: Leading to Reading

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Program Goals:

- To provide books for children from low and moderate income families
- To increase parent involvement in their child's reading
- To increase AAUW visibility within the community

Mission:

Early literacy skills greatly increase the likelihood of school success. The project increases equity by providing reading opportunities for children from low and moderate income families. It also provides philanthropic opportunities for members, senior citizens, community organizations and tweens who take part.

Target Audience/Support for community needs:

Leading to Reading works with agencies serving low and moderate income families. We collaborate with approximately 20 agencies across Dutchess County and some parts of Ulster County. The focus is on the cities of Poughkeepsie and Beacon and the eastern part of Dutchess County where there are greater pockets of poverty. The project serves those families who have few books at home or limited access to public libraries.

Community Partners:

We provide books and literacy activities to the following agencies: Astor Early Childhood Programs (Poughkeepsie, Wappingers Falls, Beacon, Amenia, Dover Plains, Red Hook), Hyde Park Universal Pre-K program, Community Family Development Center, Catharine Street Community Center, Tubman Terrace Academic Skills Program, Grace Smith House, Vassar Brothers Medical Center, Hudson River Lodging, Rural and Migrant Ministry, Book Buddies (Literacy Connections), AgriBusiness Child Development Center, House of Hope, and Abilities First. We work in conjunction with the Astor Early Childhood Programs, Poughkeepsie Day School, Friends of the Poughkeepsie Public Library District, and the Poughkeepsie Public Library District.

Community support has been provided by: Friends of the Poughkeepsie Public Library District, the Manor at Woodside, Kohl's Associates in Action, AAUW Cuisine Interest Group, Wappingers Congress of Teachers, Wappingers Congress of Retired Teachers, Community Nursery School (Poughkeepsie United Methodist Church), 4Imprint.com, and Books for Kids.

Member Participation:

104 members are on the volunteer list for Leading to Reading to attend work sessions, serve as community readers, or take part in our activities. There are 58 members who serve on the planning committee to determine yearly events, community partners, and funding opportunities.

Sustainability:

The project should easily be maintained for the next several years. Community support for the project has been growing, and we continue to receive requests for books and suggestions for collaborations. Member

enthusiasm has remained high and a number of members have joined AAUW so that they can take part in the project. The funding base has also increased recently.

Benchmarks of Success:

The project was started in 2004 and has continued to grow. The number of community collaborations has increased, over 34,000 books have been distributed, and several new outreach programs have been initiated. These include the Books for Babies and Laundromat Libraries.

Proposed Budget

Expenses:	
Books	\$6750
Book labels (parent information inserts)	375
Printing & colored paper	140
Materials for kits	300
Plastic storage bags	575
Storage crates	60
TOTAL	\$8200
Revenue:	
Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, Inc.	\$3000
Additional grants	3375
Kohl's Associates in Action	500
AAUW-NYS	250
Member Donations	275
Stewart's Holiday Match	700
Wappingers Congress of Retired Teachers	100
TOTAL	\$8200
In-Kind Donations	
Books for Kids: books	
4Imprint.com: string bags	
Friends of Poughkeepsie Library: used books	
Kohl's Associates in Action: volunteers	
Manor at Woodside: storage, work and meeting space	
Member donations: stuffed animals	
PUMC Nursery School: books	
Wappingers Congress of Teachers: books	

Funding Request:

Since we did not request any money for the 2017-2018 program year and asked that money be put in abeyance, we are requesting \$3,000. All money provided will be used to purchase books and materials for the family reading kits, books for children in the Poughkeepsie City School District, infant books for the Books for Babies program at Vassar Brothers Medical Center, and materials and pre-school books for the Laundromat Libraries.