Summit Chapter Self Esteem Building Reading and Literacy

Readers to Leaders Program

**Timing, duration, frequency of program**

Monthly, from September through May

**Fiscal Information**

Budgeted expense total for program last year: $1,000

Value of in-kind donations (estimated total): $100-200, mostly for art supplies

**Partnerships**

Our Lady Help of Christians, East Orange, NJ

What role does your partner(s) have in the program? We provide the program to their Pre-K students

**Clients**

Number of children/families served your last fiscal year: 18

Age range of clients served: 2 ½ - 5 years old

**Volunteers**

How many volunteers participate in this program (planning and working): 15

What roles do the volunteers have in this program? Planning and executing reading enrichment visits. Steering committee of 7-8 people plus additional volunteers to visit classroom

**Program Description**

Overall goal of this program: To instill a love of reading and books in pre-literate children, and to provide them books to have at home to share with their families.

What service/materials do you provide to your clients? We read a book and sing songs and lead discussions with the children. We provide all materials and organize a craft or an activity that corresponds to the book, and also provide a healthy snack

The steering committee meets a few times a year to decide on the books volunteers will read, and the corresponding crafts and snacks provided, as well as dates. 8 visits are planned per school year--once per month, excluding June. A book is purchased for each child in the Pre-K classroom from FirstBook.org, a non-profit organization whose mission is to remove barriers for low income children so that they can learn. The books are discounted by approximately 60%.

One person for each visit is responsible for organizing the craft, one person brings the snack, and one person prepares the lesson. The volunteers meet locally and carpool to the school. They spend one hour in the classroom, talking with the children, reading the book and discussing it, singing songs, etc. Following the story, they help the children with a craft which relates to the book, and then give them a healthy snack, which may or may not correspond to the theme. They each receive a new book to bring home.

CCS has also provided reading guides and other materials to the parents, including suggested reading lists and directions to the local library. Themes have included seasons, feelings, friendship, etc. The children have come to look forward to the visits, and they know the volunteers.

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