

Jesse White
Secretary of State
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My dear friend, the late state Senator Penny Sevens, would have been proud of the work being done today to educate families in her memory through the Penny Sevens Family Literacy Program. This issue highlights the activities of last summer's programs, which tied reading and learning to agriculture, finances and even healthy eating. These programs led participants to improve their reading skills through entertaining and engaging experiences. More than 2,000 Illinois families learned together through this inspirational program last summer. I hope that the learning experiences you read about here will inspire many more families to participate in this literacy effort and literacy programs to continue providing innovative and unique ways for parents and children to learn and grow together.



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FY12 Penny Sevens Program serves 2,153 families

The Penny Sevens Family Literacy Program provides integrated instruction to parents and children together during the summer months when traditional educational programs are not providing services. Families receive instruction in adult education, child education, interactive parent-child activities and library services.

In fiscal year 2012, 52 Penny Sevens projects throughout the state served 2,153 families, 2,852 adults and 5,153 children. As a result, adults learned to be their child's most important teacher; families learned to use the resources and services available through their local library; 3,279 books were added to Illinois library collections; and 6,417 books were given to families to build their home libraries.

Benton Public Library

The theme at Benton Public Library was "Reading Is So Delicious." Families learned about the value of nutrition, and the local home extension office provided story times on nutrition. Families learned



Participants in the Benton Public Library program toured several areas of the SIU-Carbondale campus, including the greenhouse and the vermiculture center.



Family game night was a big hit at Berwyn Public Library.

to follow recipes, participated in craft times with master gardeners and participated in weekly special activities such as an Eatable Science program. A field trip to the Agricultural Center at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale offered families a chance to travel together, learn about farms and see unique activities such as the vermiculture (worms) center.

Berwyn Public Library

A Fairy Tale Ball that included puppetry, storytelling, crafts and a tea party with the Mad Hatter kicked off the program. Family game night was a big hit, with the library providing word and math games, puzzles, treasure hunts, mind-benders and more. Participants received books to take home, and the program culminated with a Back to School Night where the children received a bag of school supplies.

Joliet Public Library

Programming was structured around a weekly "early literacy" theme. The goal was to show par-

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FY12 Penny Severns Program (continued from page 1)



Making bubbles out of everyday items at Joliet Public Library.



Families at the Kishwaukee College program created money mobiles using replicas of U.S. paper money and coins.



A scrapbook was made by adults to reflect the summer activities at Literacy Chicago.



A teenager gets help on a graphic comic book at Metropolis Public Library.

ents how they could implement early literacy found around the house. Many activities included using recycled household goods as craft supplies. During a session on singing, families made musical instruments using empty plastic and paper containers. The nutrition session allowed adults to read food labels, learn about portion size and a balanced diet, and exercise to keep their family strong and healthy. Parents learned the importance of spending more time reading with their children, and families received books for their home libraries.

Kishwaukee College, Malta

Through the "Reading Makes CENTS" program, parents listened to stories and worked with their children on literacy projects related to counting or money. Children discovered how bartering led to the need for a monetary system, and families learned math skills using fruit and candy pieces in the "Eating Fractions" activity. Children created their own edible caterpillar for the *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* story, and the Outdoor Fest involved math games and craft activities.

Literacy Chicago

Lesson plans were developed for multi-level learners that included reading relative to health/nutrition, meal preparation, family budgeting (grocery shopping) and exploring career interests with field trips. Reinforcing what they had learned, families created a scrapbook of their activities to continue learning at home. For the nutrition lesson, a family spelling word list consisting of an actual grocery list was prepared, the cost of food using sale receipts was discussed, and families toured the local grocery store.

Metropolis Public Library

The adults in the summer program participated in the "Love to Read" book club to improve their reading skills. The teens participated in the "Leap into Literacy" program that helped to foster literacy values as well as appreciation of the arts. Both the adults and teens worked as a team to create a graphic comic book. The teens loved putting a story with the art creations.

Indian Trails Public Library, Wheeling

Parents were introduced to nutrition and diabetes prevention. One activity involved parents sharing a recipe with the class and listing the ingredients. Magazines, posters and PowerPoint slides were used to provide information about various healthy foods and serving amounts. Parents were encouraged to make their original recipes healthier by making substitutions in the recipe and bringing their healthy dish to share on the last day. As a result of the program, everyone changed their eating and shopping habits and one participant reported a significant weight loss!



Families learned to use the computer and explored online reading websites at Indian Trails Public Library.



At Chicago's Centro Romero, parents and children composed a poem about their family after reading bilingual stories that focused on family.

Mt. Prospect Public Library

Pamphlets from the *Every Child Ready to Read @ Your Library* series were used to discuss reading readiness skills at various levels of child development. Moms were grouped according to their child's age and brainstormed ways to facilitate their child's reading progress. Moms were given take-home activities to do with their children such as making a shopping list, sorting coupons, labeling items at home, etc. One mom impressed her sons when she taught them how to access the Internet at the library. The family now goes to the library independently to use the computer, explore books, toys and educational games.

Centro Romero, Chicago

Activities focused on a different book or topic each week and were broken down into components appropriate for parents, school-aged children, younger children and families. Dr. Seuss's *Sneetches* was the focus of one week's activity, where parents read a translated Spanish version and compared it to the English one. Teens worked with volunteers to read the story to the younger children. Families were then given a scripted version of *Sneetches*, which they acted out and videotaped.

FY12 Illinois Literacy Program statistics

Fiscal year 2012 final reports submitted by programs funded through the Illinois State Library Literacy Office revealed the following statistics:

Adult Volunteer Literacy

- 19,930 – Adult learners served
- 38 – Average age of adult learner
- 37% – Adult learners employed
- 53% – Adult learners studying English as a Second Language (ESL)
- 7,976 – Volunteers serving adult learners
- 47 – Average age of volunteer tutor

Family Literacy

- 1,380 – Adult learners served
- 88% – Female adults
- 70% – Adult learners studying ESL
- 31 – Average age of adult learner
- 55% – Obtained a library card
- 1,931 – Children served
- 50% – Female children
- 4.5 – Average age of child

Workplace Skills Enhancement

- 865 – Employees assessed and/or instructed
- 53% – Female
- 42.19 – Average age of employee
- 94% – Employees studied ESL

Correctional Facilities

For incarcerated adults, participating in literacy tutoring at correctional facilities may open a door to education. Some inmates actually provide literacy tutoring to their fellow inmates. To participate in the program, participants must score below the ninth-grade reading or math level or speak limited English.

- 16 local correctional facilities, 10 state facilities and 1 federal facility provided literacy services.
- 1,826 incarcerated adults qualified and became students
- 257 inmates whose skills exceeded high-school level became peer tutors.
- 128 tutors from local communities tutored in correctional facilities.
- 20 facilities received instructional materials and 12 received support services.
- Tutors provided services in both adult basic education instruction (23 facilities) and English as a Second Language instruction (6 facilities).

Libraries as Partners

- 50% of all Illinois public libraries participate in Adult Volunteer Literacy programs.
- 444 (62%) public libraries offer the library facility as a tutoring site.
- 393 (55%) public libraries refer prospective students and volunteer tutors to literacy programs.
- 301 (42%) public libraries provide tours and orientation.
- 240 (42%) public libraries help advertise the literacy program.
- 195 (27%) public libraries house a bilingual book collection.
- 188 (26%) public libraries house a high-interest/low-vocabulary reading collection.
- 118 (16%) public libraries provide computer training assistance.
- 55 (8%) public libraries donate a high-interest/low-vocabulary reading collection.

More statistical information on Illinois' literacy effort is available at www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/literacy.



FY14 Adult Literacy Grant Applications available

The FY14 Adult Literacy Grant application is available at www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/literacy/adultlitgrants.html for Adult Volunteer Literacy, Penny Severns Family Literacy and Workplace Skills Enhancement projects. Completed applications and all applicable supporting documentation must be submitted **via email as PDF attachments to literacy@ilsos.net by 11:59 p.m., April 15, 2013**. For more information, call 217-785-6921 or 800-665-5576, ext. 3.

Spotlight Awards nominations due March 1

Nominations for Spotlight on Achievement (adult learners) and Spotlight on Service (volunteer tutors) Awards are due March 1. Nomination forms are available at www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/literacy/spotlight-awards.html. For more information, contact Diane Manning at dmanning@ilsos.net or 217-524-3005.

Volunteer grant reviewers needed

Librarians, literacy professionals and others are invited to apply to be volunteer grant reviewers for the FY14 Adult Literacy Grant program (Adult Volunteer Literacy, Penny Severns Family Literacy, Workplace Skills Enhancement) in accordance with IL ADC 23 3035.230. There is no pay or honorarium to be a volunteer reviewer; however, reviewers will be reimbursed according to State of Illinois travel regulations and rates for hotel, mileage and per diem for a grant review session in Springfield or at various videoconference sites throughout the state.

If your agency is applying for any of the FY14 Adult Literacy Grant categories, you are not eligible to be a volunteer reviewer.

For application information, call the Literacy Office at 217-785-6921.

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ON THE HORIZON

March 6-8 — IACEA Conference, Springfield, www.iacea.net

March 14-16 — Illinois Reading Council Conference, Springfield, www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org

March 20-23 — Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) International Convention & English Language Expo, Dallas, TX, www.tesol.org/convention2013

March 23 — On the Road to Literacy Conference, Chicago, www.lvillinois.org

March 24-28 — COABE (Commission on Adult Basic Education) LAPCAE (Louisiana Association for Public, Community & Adult Education) Conference, New Orleans, LA, www.coabe.org

April 14-20 — National Library Week, www.ala.org

April 19-21 — Illinois PTA Convention, Lisle, www.illinoispta.org

April 19-22 — International Reading Association's Convention, San Antonio, TX, www.reading.org

April 21-27 — National Volunteer Week, www.pointsoflight.org/signature-events/national-volunteer-week

April 28-30 — National Conference on Family Literacy, Louisville, KY, www.familit.org/conference

More literacy event information is available at www.cyberdriveillinois.com (click Departments, Illinois State Library, Literacy, Calendar of Literacy Events).

WWW



www.libraryliteracy.org

Maintained by California Library Literacy Services, this site has a wealth of information including lesson plans that may be used with adult learners.

Kids.gov

Provided by the U.S. government, this site includes many educational and fun links for kids, parents and teachers. Included are links to government information and services from government agencies, schools and educational organizations, all geared to the learning level and interest of the child.

www2.dollargeneral.com/dgliteracy/pages/grant_programs.aspx

Grant applications are available through Dollar General Literacy Foundation, including Adult Literacy, Family Literacy and Summer Reading grants. The deadline is Feb. 28, 2013.