



**VERMONT
Humanities
COUNCIL**

Literacy Mini-Grants 2007

The Vermont Humanities Council awards small grants that make a big difference for literacy. VHC provides “mini-grants” to non-profit organizations for the enhancement of existing literacy programs. Grants of up to \$250 may be used for projects such as humanities-based educational materials, field trips, books, or other special expenses incurred as part of a literacy program. The applicant must be a non-profit organization, even if not formally incorporated. Also, the project must be consistent with the Council’s mission. Applicants are encouraged to use these funds to raise matching funds or matching in-kind materials or services in their community.

VHC awards grants on a first-come, first-served basis. The grant process is an easy one-page application, and awards are made based on the impact a project has on literacy in the community. Each grant recipient is asked to submit a short report describing how the funds were used and the effect the project had on their work with literacy.

Descriptions of grant recipients from recent years are listed as examples of projects funded. Through funds provided, these groups have more fully addressed the literacy needs of Vermonters of all ages – preschoolers and their parents, childcare providers, at-risk elementary and middle school children, teen parents, corrections inmates, English language learners, and adult literacy students.

If you are a nonprofit organization interested in a Vermont Humanities Council mini-grant, visit www.vermonthumanities.org for an application form, or contact Director of Literacy Programs, Jan Steinbauer 802.262.2626 ext. 310 jsteinbauer@vermonthumanities.org Verizon’s *Check Into Literacy* program funds this Mini-Grant program.

Sample Past Grants

Vermont Reading Partners, Manchester ~ to VRP to purchase books to celebrate the progress participants have made over the school year. Twenty-four students will receive this gift from their literacy mentors.

Everybody Wins! Vermont ~ for speakers at spring Parent and Mentor Workshops at 12 schools throughout Vermont. The workshops highlight literature and literacy. Speakers present information about the importance of literacy skills and help participants to develop skills in reading aloud to children.

Sunrise Family Resource Center, Bennington ~ for gift books for children at a series of seven monthly “community picnics” for families. Staff members read books aloud

and model positive interactions with children while sharing a story. To encourage early literacy in the home, children choose a free book to take home.

Greensboro Wonder and Wisdom ~ for the Summer Journeys program, an eight-week enrichment program aimed at promoting a lifelong love of learning and increasing the literacy skills of elementary age children. Each child will receive a book each week that supplements and supports the program theme.

Humanities Camp youth assistants ~ for stipends for six high school age “graduates” of VHC Humanities Camps to return as assistants. This provided an empowering experience for these youth and positive role modeling for younger campers.

Highgate Success by Six ~ to Highgate Success by Six to send one book a month to 50 needy families in their area. The books arrive with other essential information for families and promote the importance of reading and early literacy. The books are read during weekly playgroups attended by the families, and extension activities are built around the stories.

Stepping Stones Preschool, Proctorsville ~ for the development of book bags for preschoolers to take home weekly and share with their families. Each themed bag contains books, a song, and several related activities to promote early literacy and the joy of sharing books.

Fairfax Success By Six ~ for themed gift books to be shared at a community Fire and Safety Day that included story times with the books being read by uniformed personnel. This event is part of an on-going schedule of literacy activities for families. A subsequent story hour with a firefighter at the local library will further encourage families to read at home.

Fletcher Free Library, Burlington ~ to purchase books for a discussion entitled "A Long Journey." This discussion will offer recent immigrants and refugees a chance to talk in English with ESL students from CCV. They will also be working on their literacy skills, fluency, and comprehension.

Lamoille Valley Success by Six ~ to Lamoille Valley Success by Six to print a newsletter for area parents and providers. This newsletter includes a list of suggested children's books for adults to read with young children, information about professional development and parenting workshops related to language and literacy development and articles focused on the promotion of language and early literacy.

Vermont Adult Learning, Colchester ~ The project purchased the books and funded a weekly 2-hour book discussion on the Middle East for adult learners.

Child Care Providers' Network of Rutland ~ to the provider's network for the purchase of books that will be part of a totebag of resources for 25 local area child care providers. These books will play a large part in bringing early literacy skills to children and families in child care settings.