



2011-2012 *Literacy Alive!* Premier Projects

Fitchburg State University

Xi Psi Chapter

Literacy In and Beyond the Classroom

The Xi Psi Chapter at Fitchburg State University had an overarching goal with their *Literacy Alive!* project, which was to encourage and provide resources for children to develop a love for reading. Serving a total of 905 people in their community ranging in ages from 0-13, plus an immeasurable amount internationally, the chapter members of Xi Psi put together several smaller projects with their common goal in mind. Partnering with groups such as the Pearson Publishing Company, the Special Olympics, The United Way, WeGiveBooks.org, McKay Campus Elementary School and other community partners, events were tailored to be engaging and have a lasting impact. The members of the Xi Psi Chapter incorporated the use of technology (e.g., tablet computers and/or smart phones) to use WeGiveBooks.org, which houses a digital collection of Penguin Group's classic children's literature/stories that can be enjoyed in the classroom or at home to enhance early reading experiences. Additionally, with every book ready through the website, the Pearson Foundation donates a book to a child through an international partner. Taking a more grassroots approach with a couple of their small-scale projects, a local new/used book drive brought in over 400 books to be divided and donated to participants of the Special Olympics and at-risk parents through the United Way. The combination of these projects has surpassed expectations of impact on participants!

St. Bonaventure University

Xi Nu Chapter

Preschool Literacy Program

The Xi Nu Chapter at St. Bonaventure University focused their *Literacy Alive!* project on a specific age range and partnered with an organization in the community during their time of need. Making the best out of a situation, the chapter members worked with a local daycare center (that lost resources due to massive water damage) by holding fundraising projects and a book drive. Age-appropriate literacy events with the children, parents, and workers of the daycare were also included to further enforce their scope and encourage lifelong literacy. Through this Literacy Workshop, five centers were planned highlighting five specific books with a corresponding activity that included sensory learning. Each participant was also sent home with a resource page outlining other activities that can be done at home to promote pre-literacy and early literacy skills. Parents and workers at the daycare also were shown a variety of ways to accomplish oral reading and co-reading with children, how to adapt everyday items for use with craft activities related to books, how to connect literature with other subjects, and they gained exposure to new story titles with recent release dates. The impact of this project reached nearly 120 students in 78 families!

Arizona State University

Beta Phi Chapter

Books and Bears Literacy Project

The Beta Phi Chapter at Arizona State University took a fresh approach to a familiar project. Their Books and Bears projects promotes literacy within local elementary school aged children. Having the goal in mind to provide children with the resources to promote language development in their greater community, which also promotes confidence and self-esteem, the Beta Phi Chapter was able to get in the classrooms of Kindergarten through second grade classrooms to positively affect 175 students! The project included having Kappa Delta Pi members read to students in these classrooms and, in turn, having the students read to them aloud from their new books. Additionally, each of the students received a stuffed bear with the Institution's logo on it to promote higher education at a young age with the goal of raising high school graduation rates. The Chapter's long term goal through this recurring project is to equip the affected students with the resources, knowledge, and skills required to attend college.

Berry College

Rho Upsilon Chapter

Literacy Book Bag Program

The Rho Upsilon Chapter at Berry College had a goal to provide books to a low-income school, where students likely do not have the funds to have books in their homes. The purpose of the project was to implement a book bag check-out program where students could take age-appropriate books home at night to read with their families to improve literacy skills and encourage a love of reading. The chapter raised funds through having a Scholastic Book Fair to purchase the age-level appropriate materials. Choosing a class to participate was easy, as a KDP member was placed in a Title I school for her internship/student teaching, working with low-income students in an extremely diverse atmosphere. With the structure of the grade, having team teachers, the project was implemented with two sets of students, totaling 33 students overall. Participants in the project gained literacy skills from having age-level appropriate books available to read at home as well as larger life skills by taking care of materials, sharing materials, and returning materials in a timely manner.

Radford University

Gamma Alpha Chapter

Books on the Go

The Gamma Alpha Chapter at Radford University was driven to increase reading proficiency in grades K-5 students in the community and have used Kindergarten in their pilot program. Labeled Books-On-The-Go, this project is a book bag program aimed at providing supplemental literacy experiences to students, specifically English Language Learners, with in the community. The Chapter worked with Kindergarten teachers at a local elementary for books that could be used for their project, and made recordings of over 40 children's books with help from their Teaching Resource Center. With the knowledge that the local school's focus/goal is to support each student in reaching reading proficiency, this project was developed to assist the partnering school in accomplishing that goal as well as providing experience for their KDP members to practice reading aloud accurately and modeling good reading behaviors for young learners. Further assisting the focus/goal of the school, however, the Gamma Alpha Chapter also projected that their project would increase positive attitudes toward reading, increase word recognition, and increase reading comprehension.