

LITERACY SUMMIT FOLLOW-UP GROUP
6/27/06 NOTES

Eighteen (18) people attended the first Literacy Summit Follow-up Meeting held 6/27/06 at the Glasser-Schoenbaum Human Services Center. Sarasota County organizations represented at the meeting:

Big Brothers & Big Sisters (1)
Born to Read (1)
Children First (1)
Early Learning Coalition (1)
Emma E. Booker & Brother & Sisters Doing the Right Thing (1)
Jewish Family and Community Services (1)
Literacy Council of Sarasota, Inc. (2)
Literacy Volunteers of America & Zonta Club of Sarasota (1)
Sarasota County Libraries (5)
Sarasota County Technical Institute (1)
The Ritz-Carleton, Sarasota (1)
YMCA (2)

Participants shared a compelling list of possible goals for the Literacy Summit Follow-up group to consider. Goals/objectives include:

Create volunteer program information for employers/employees
Designate literacy volunteerism as a business project
Create connection among English Speakers of Other Languages (Spanish and other languages) at Selby Library

Increase number of volunteers

Develop presentation to recruit volunteers and present at various organizations, businesses, etc.

Create more buy-in from business community, i.e., major employers, county government, Sarasota Memorial Hospital and Venice Hospital, School Board, etc.

Create after-work tutoring programs for parents and provide meal and day care

Develop good long-term marketing strategy

Create ways to reach people who do not speak English or do not read

Increase community awareness of literacy problem in Sarasota County

Increase community engagement in solution of the literacy problem by promoting existing literacy services and exploring new service avenues with special emphasis on employer-based and faith-based volunteer programs.

Collect local and current literacy data. How many and where?

Distribute literacy data to the community.

Create organizational literacy...attach to existing resources such as United Way 211 to be sure referral information is current and accurate

Establish a North County interagency umbrella to link groups, develop partnerships and share resources

Map the entire county. Specify what needs are and show where.

Engage Herald Tribune in sponsoring free page for literacy providers and people seeking literacy services

Market literacy needs and volunteer recruitment to county businesses, trade associations, reality companies, and restaurants, hotels, hospitals, retail and media enterprises

Create neighborhood initiatives...feedback sessions with small groups Invite participants, friends to join in literacy initiatives

Create short story discussion groups at county libraries

Pool resources of people/literacy groups at the table

Create partnerships among organizations

Maintain support for Early Childhood initiatives to decrease needs at later life stages

Create portable programs. What is your literacy group doing that could be shared with another program? Enable each group to focus on their service and to partner with other groups to provide additional services

Expand the volunteer base by training tutees to be tutors.

Identify locations to provide services

Create web site links containing literacy services and referral information

Develop personal, timely and effective communication among literacy groups, community leaders and neighborhoods

Map Sarasota to identify neighborhood/community connectors who would engage in formal and informal conversations with their community members and community leaders to discover the unique literacy needs and priorities of each area and to identify the assets, talents and skills among the neighbors, associations, businesses and institutions in each area

Establish new literacy services by engaging the assets, talents and skills within each neighborhood to create self-sustaining methods of addressing the literacy priorities established by neighborhood members

Develop collaborations among new neighborhood-based literacy services and existing literacy services
