

Memorandum

TO: NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES &
EDUCATION COMMITTEE

FROM: Jane Light

SUBJECT: PARTNERS IN READING
PROGRAM UPDATE

DATE: May 16, 2011

Approved

Date

5-18-11

COUNCIL DISTRICT: Citywide
SNI AREA:

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Committee accept the report of the update on the Library's Partners in Reading Program that provides adult and family literacy services to the residents of San José.

OUTCOME

The Committee will understand the activities, new developments, and recent accomplishments of the Library's Partners in Reading program.

BACKGROUND

Partners in Reading (PAR) delivers adult and family literacy services to residents of San José and over the past 21 years has instructed approximately 4,328 adults. The primary source of instruction has been one-to-one and small group tutoring from 3,478 volunteers in reading, writing, problem solving, and computer and life skills. Following 14 hours of instructional training, tutors are matched with an adult student and meet three to four hours a week for a minimum of six months at a San José Public Library. Working together, the tutor-student pair identifies goals that form the basis of the instructional plans and designs methods to help reach these goals. Some typical goals include opening an email account, writing checks and paying bills on their own, reading a book to their child, and becoming a citizen.

In support of parents with low literacy, PAR offers services to families with children from birth to five years of age through the Families for Literacy (FFL) program. Parents learn to support their children's early literacy development through techniques such as storytelling, creative interaction, book sharing and the creation of a home library.

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ANALYSIS

Since last year's report, programs have expanded to include vocational literacy and ESL (English as a Second Language).

PAR received a \$95,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) to develop a vocational literacy and ESL training program entitled *Work Wise: Improving Job Performance and Proficiency*. The target audience is low skilled incumbent workers, typically immigrants, who need to develop language and literacy skills to sustain their employment or increase their opportunities for advancement. Customized training classes that teach English and literacy skills through vocational content are being developed and delivered at work sites. Instructional priorities are determined through interviews with supervisors and employees, as well as observations of job tasks and basic skill testing. Sample instructional topics include job safety, following and giving directions at work, and ordering and using supplies. Through each of these topics, language and literacy skills are taught that are applicable to the specific jobs.

By leveraging the DOL grant, Partners in Reading received two related grants that build on *Work Wise*. The first, from the California State Library, provided \$83,816 to develop work-related curriculum and instructional materials for tutors based on *Work Wise*. It also supports one-to-one tutor instruction for *Work Wise* participants. The second grant from the Silicon Valley Community Foundation is for \$50,000. These funds are being used to extend *Work Wise* through March 2012 and make possible additional employee classes in vocational literacy and ESL.

Employees from San José State University are participating in classes for custodians and housekeeping staff. In addition to working with the University, PAR is collaborating with Building Skills Partnership and the Service Employees International Union (SEIU –UHW), as well as the Center for Employment Training. Through these collaborations, PAR has secured the participation of Kaiser Permanente San José Medical Center, Good Samaritan Hospital, and the Head Start Program of the Santa Clara County Office of education in the workplace literacy program.

The *Work Wise* grants provide the initial seed money needed to introduce and integrate vocational literacy and language programs into PAR services. They also enable new partnerships with employers and organizations involved in the vocational and ESL fields. These connections are key to linking PAR to other resources and increasing its name recognition as a viable provider of adult education services.

In addition to the vocational language and literacy programs, PAR collaborates with agencies such as Catholic Charities, FIRST 5 Family Resource Centers, East Side Union Adult School and the Salvation Army to provide ESL and literacy classes, as well as tutors to supplement instruction for parents, adult students and incarcerated adults.

Impact

PAR continues to expand, reaching greater numbers of adult learners and training increased numbers of volunteer tutors. The following chart shows the significant growth of the program over the past

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year. The 41% increase in instructional hours is of particular importance as increased instruction can directly impact the accomplishments of the adult participants. Further, the value of the volunteer contribution cannot be overstated. The 25,498 volunteer hours equate to \$597,000 in time and talent.

Growth of Partners in Reading

Category of Impact	FY2008/09	FY 2009/10	Impact
Learners	256	335	31%
Tutors	233	312	34%
Instructional Hours	8,709	12,311	41%
Volunteer Hours	20,506	25,498	24%

EVALUATION AND FOLLOW-UP

This is an informational Library update to the Neighborhood Services & Education Committee.

PUBLIC OUTREACH/INTEREST

- Criterion 1:** Requires Council action on the use of public funds equal to \$1 million or greater. **(Required: Website Posting)**
- Criterion 2:** Adoption of a new or revised policy that may have implications for public health, safety, quality of life, or financial/economic vitality of the City. **(Required: E-mail and Website Posting)**
- Criterion 3:** Consideration of proposed changes to service delivery, programs, staffing that may have impacts to community services and have been identified by staff, Council or a Community group that requires special outreach. **(Required: E-mail, Website Posting, Community Meetings, Notice in appropriate newspapers)**

This memo does not meet any of the above criteria.

COORDINATION

Not applicable.

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CEQA

Not a project, File No. PP10-069(a), City Organizational & Administrative Activities, Annual Reports

/s/

Jane Light

Library Director, Library Department

For questions please contact Judy Klikun, Manager, Partners in Reading, at (408) 808-2363.

***Report on San José Public Library's
Partners in Reading Program***

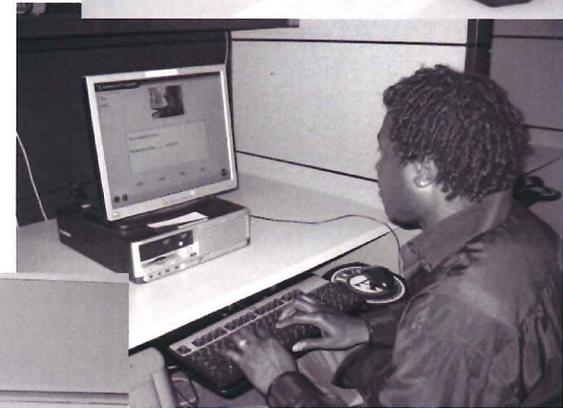
June 9, 2011

ITEM: d(3)

City of San José

Report on Partners in Reading

- **San José Public Library Program**
- **Adult and Family Literacy**
- **312 Active Volunteer Tutors**
- **335 Adult Learners**



Report on Partners in Reading

New Program Initiatives

Work Wise: Improving Job Performance & Proficiency

- **\$95,000 Grant, U.S. Department of Labor**
- **Customized Vocational English & Literacy Training at Worksite**
- **Low & Unskilled Workers**



Report on Partners in Reading

Work Wise for Tutors

- **\$83,816 Grant, California State Library**
- **Design Work - Related Curriculum & Materials for Tutors**
- **Tutoring for *Work Wise* Participants**



Work Smart: An Industry Specific Vocational ESL Project

- **\$50,000 Grant, Silicon Valley Community Foundation**
- **Extend Vocational Training through December 2011**
- **Offer Additional On-site Training**

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Questions ?