



Innovation Project Application

Library: Northwest Regional Library System

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Name of Project: Time to Talk: Strengthening Resilience through Community Engagement

#BCPLOutreach #HurricaneMichael #StayCurious

Project Amount requested: \$4999.00

Scope of the Project:

Hurricane Michael hit Bay County hard. Life as we know it will not be the same. Northwest Regional Library System sustained substantial damage, lost one branch, as well as trained staff, hours of service, books, and materials. Bay County Public Library is currently closed. We are, however, THE LIBRARY. Our mission remains, to build a stronger community through inspiration, education, and comprehensive information provision. BCPL Outreach is poised to take library services back out on the road, reach the people where they are now with flexible pop up library events for all ages, in new and unexpected locations. We are prepared to spend 2019 completely outside familiar lines. Our goal is to build resilience through strengthening our critical thinking skills and elevating compassion, showing up and engaging our community in unexpected and widespread conversation, leading adventures in reading, art, and creative play.

What need in the library/community will this project address?

Our community needs a library now, maybe more than ever before. Outreach will be the boots on the ground library in our city. Recovery from a disaster of this scope will be complex and difficult. Our goal is to cultivate resilience through critical thinking and compassion. The main power source is TALK, showing up and jumping into unexpected and widespread, deliberative, conversation, learning to listen, and learning to talk. The elements of engagement include exploring cultural connections, encouraging respect through sharing experiences. We will celebrate the power of reading through comprehensive book-based learning for all ages,

with reading aloud, books to take home, books to own, books to surprise, inspire, and grow, books to replace what we have lost. We have so much to learn in the aftermath of this event. We need science, we need understanding and kindness, we need compassion for one another. How fortunate that these are the standard outcomes of great library programming.

Resources required

Books (Books are the #1 resource for this project):

Books to be available to Outreach for the year, for use, and for distribution.

Staff resources: Craft books, picture books, K-12 fiction and non-fiction, STEM project books

Book club selections for middle school

Giveaway books for families: Board books, picture books

Spanish language books for bilingual and multicultural storytime

Toys (Replace worn toys, expand resources to accommodate larger groups):

Toys to stimulate creative play for babies and toddlers

Board games and puzzles for all ages

Replace broken collapsible tunnel

STEM for children, toddlers through middle school

(Materials to spark scientific inquiry)

Deconstruction tools

Containers, measuring cups, vials

DASH Robot

Miscellaneous supplies for experiments

Arts and Crafts:

Musical instruments

Knitting and crocheting tools

Clay

Beading materials

Painting supplies

Miscellaneous supplies (Paper products, replacement art equipment)

Outdoor equipment (Making field days and scientific exploration a regular event):

Magnifying glasses

Fishing nets
Collection equipment
Balls, frisbees, bean bags, and hula hoops
Bowling, Bocce Ball

Assistive play (Adding hand therapy to our conversations):
Hand and foot, strength and flexibility, equipment
Assorted string

Presentation support (Replace worn equipment, increase visibility and recognition):

IPad 128 GB WiFi + Cellular (offer connection anywhere anytime)

Retractable banner

Folding table and chairs

Seating cushions

Beach wagon

Storage cabinet/utility shelves/storage containers

Outreach t-shirts/hoodies

This is a dream scheme, outfitting BCPL Outreach for a full year. We will show up with enthusiasm and celebrate learning at any level of funding.

Activities/Timeline (include estimated completion date):

(Outreach programming has been on hold while we staff the Bay County Volunteer Reception Center, an Emergency Operations Center initiative.)

January 2019

Resume Storytime for babies, toddlers, families: Learn to love learning, stay curious, actively participate in continuous growth and development. Begin a lifetime of creative play.

Partners: Panama City Mall, Martin Luther King REC Center, Kingdom Impact Center, Doorways of Northwest Florida, United Way, Early Education and Care.

Add World Class Storytime: Approach multicultural awareness with curiosity, respect, and enthusiasm. Emphasis on English as a second language.

Partners: Panama City Mall, MLK Rec Center, Spanish Roundtable, Global Arts Society, CAIR Florida

Resume curriculum support for K-12:

Support the education plan in place, public, private, or unschooled, through enrichment programming:

Focus on Reading to learn, include social issues, science, civics, and great stories.

Reading Rockets at Oscar Patterson, with 2nd and 3rd Grades

JINKS Books at JINKS Middle School

STREAM After school programs, including climate change, robotics, environmental science, and creative play.

Partners:

Bay District Schools, Martin Luther King Jr Rec Center, JUDOS, Kingdom Impact Center, LEAD Coalition STEM After School, St. Andrew BayWatch (Climate Change/Environment Science)

Incorporating ongoing Kettering Foundation training in deliberative conversation in public schools.

Continue Conversations with Seniors and expand to include individual events, at experimental locations, as well as regularly scheduled book clubs. With additional crafting supplies and puzzles, we can expand the audience beyond the readers.

We will add knitting, crocheting, string art, clay, and hand therapy circles.

Partners:

Bay County Council on Aging, Charter Living on the Beach, Alzheimer's Association, Brookdale Panama City, BeeHive Homes, Glen Cove Rehabilitation Center, Glenwood Senior Center, Mathison Assisted Living Facility.

I will adjust the schedule of activities as facilities and organizations become available and functional, and conduct the pop up library experiences in collaboration with partners, circumstances, and opportunities. I expect to spend the year developing a range of programming to meet the challenges of recovery. The fundamental difference, or change in outreach services will be the addition of deliberate conversation with all ages: learning to listen and learning what it means to be heard. I think it is time for us to talk.

TALK. When we get good at this, we'll see what comes next.

By the end of 2019, I hope we will be a stronger, more resilient, certainly well-read community, committed wholeheartedly to the way we live now.

How will the library sustain this project?

A PLAN Innovation Grant will enable Library Outreach to function with financial independence, leaving the full library budget for the library's internal recovery. I believe community engagement is critical to our return to life as we know it in Panama City, but the restoration of our library facilities is visible proof that we are here to stay, essential to our community. We will hope to be ready to finance library operations inside and out, as we enter our new normal in the years to come. I am deeply grateful to the most amazing library cooperative on the planet for the many resources we have enjoyed, and the opportunity to recover and thrive. Thank you, PLAN!

Library Director's signature: Robin Staden Date: 11/7/18

Seni L. Ponce Date: 11/7/18
Signature of agent, office, or board to whom the Director reports

For PLAN use only:

Approved _____ Not Approved _____

PLAN Executive Director _____