

## Education Report to the United Way of the Lakeshore Board of Directors

August 25, 2015

### Michigan Education Corps

#### K-3

Michigan Education Corps had AmeriCorps members in Muskegon Heights and in Muskegon last year. For the same amount of funding (\$20,000 total), we had AmeriCorps members in two districts as we had just in Muskegon Heights in 2013-14.

Muskegon Heights continued with the model based in Minnesota (the Reading Corps model). In Muskegon Public's two schools (Nelson and Oakview), they did a Michigan-based program – EBLI (Evidence Based Literacy Instruction). Going forward in 2015-16, EBLI will be handled through our state association, Michigan Association of United Ways, while Michigan Education Corps will continue with the Reading Corps model. It looks like Muskegon Public will be able to fund their AmeriCorps members for EBLI, due to a greatly reduced cost share. We will likely be asked to help with Muskegon Heights again (cost \$10,000) – this will, of course, be dependent on positive testing for last school year.

#### Preliminary results show improvements:

##### ***In Muskegon Public (EBLI) –***

*Nelson Elementary - 36 served; 18 were still being tutored, 10 successfully exited. 4 moved out of the school, and 4 ended tutoring but did not successfully exit. 393 hours of tutoring.*

*Oakview Elementary – 36 served, 21 active, 15 successfully exited. 489 hours of tutoring.*

*Moon Elementary – 47 served, 21 active, 23 successfully exited. Two moved from the school, 1 ended tutoring but did not successfully exit. 418 hours of tutoring.*

***In Muskegon Heights, King Elementary (Reading Corps); service did not begin until December. Data represents 6 months of Reading Corps service. –***

*42 students served, 32 active, 3 exited, 1 moved, 6 ceased tutoring but did not successfully exit. All third grade students. 531 hours of tutoring. There is winter to spring reading growth data for 33 of the students – 31 of those increased their grade level reading scores from winter to spring.*

Each week, Reading Corps tutors collect data by conducting 1-minute progress monitoring assessments on each student. All data collected drives decision making for each student to determine if a change is needed with the intervention(s). The data meetings happen monthly with the internal coach, members and a master coach.

## ***Michigan Education Corps cont'd***

### *Pre-K*

Midway through the school year, Michigan Education Corps approached United Way about piloting a pre-Kindergarten version of the Reading Corps. It has been very successful in Minnesota. After some discussion, the program will be piloted at the Orchard View early childhood programs with Head Start students. United Way received a \$20,000 grant from the Community Foundation to help with the costs of AmeriCorps members; there is another \$15,000 needed for it to be fully implemented. We have partnered with the MAISD on this program, and staff training is underway. Stuart Jones, who oversees early childhood programs for the MAISD, said the teachers are very excited about the training and see great potential for the students.

Both the PreK and the K-3 models of the Reading Corps were independently evaluated by the University of Chicago. The program was found to affect the entire classroom and was effective in all school types observed. United Way and the MAISD are excited and honored to be piloting the PreK program in Michigan.

## **Dolly Parton's Imagination Library**

Late last year, we got commitments from donors to institute Dolly Parton's Imagination Library (DPIL). We are piloting the program in the city of Muskegon Heights and in Holton.

DPIL is a program that mails a new book to a child from birth through the fifth birthday. Parents sign up their eligible children; UW adds them to a database and within 6-8 weeks, the child receives a book in the mail. The first book is always *The Little Engine That Could*. Other books are age appropriate, depending on when the child enters the program. A child could enter at 3 months, or at 3 years. There is no cost to the family. The cost average about \$2/book, so about \$25/year.

Brochures were just printed. We will again convene our small subcommittee to start distributing them to parents in Holton and Muskegon Heights. Both superintendents are enthused and supportive.



## 2014-15 Year-End Snapshot Report

*All Lights On Afterschool sites submitted year-end reports:*

### **Muskegon Public Schools Lakeside Elementary** - 28 participants, mostly third grade.

- Highlights: mastered double-digit addition and rounding numbers. 63% (15 of 24) improved reading scores; teachers report marginal improved classroom behavior, as well as improved homework completion & classroom participation. 100% of students reported the program has helped them academically. 100% of parents would recommend LOAS to others.

Quote: On the final day of program, one of the Simpson twins (brothers who attend LOAS) came up to me with tears in his eyes, hugging me. When I asked what was wrong he replied. "I don't want this to be the last day, I don't have anything to do after school any more. Can we please keep going?" It took everything in me not to break down with him. I just reassured him that summer would be exciting for him and that hopefully we'll have LOAS next year doing the same type of fun things.

### **Orchard View Cardinal Elementary** – 34 participants.

- Highlights: 100% homework turned in. 100% of the students saw increases in reading scores.

Quote: "I love Miss LeLe and Miss Brittany. They help me with homework every day and always have a smile on their faces. It feels a lot better to go to afterschool and have someone there to help. Some of my friends go home, boring."

-Marlin, 5<sup>th</sup> grade student

### **Pathfinders** – 65 participants

Highlights: Elementary reading scores increased for 70% of the students. Average 60 minutes of reading and homework each day.

Quote: Our Junior Mentor, Jakeil Smith was invited to interview for the Youth Advisory Board (YAC) of the Community Foundation, because of his affiliation with Pathfinders. He had never been interviewed before and he was proud when they said he not only answered their questions, but he asked them questions which other students did not do.

## **White Lake Area Community Education**

**Ealy** – 41 participants, grades 3-7

Highlights: 100% of students increased reading scores

**Oehrli** – 61 participants, grades 1-5

Highlights: 58 of 61 students increased reading scores

**McMillan** – 26 participants, grades PreK-4

Highlights: 27 of 28 students increased reading scores

Quote: Nicole(mom) and Destiny(child-4<sup>th</sup> grade student at Oehrli Elementary Montague)-Nicole is doing it all on her own after Destiny's dad walked out on them. Mom is very low income and works hard to make ends meet. Mom was laid off from her job at the end of March, but because Destiny had already had such a rough year it was great that she could still come on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday for free to keep her life as normal as possible while mom looked for another job. Nicole told the coordinator that she was so thankful for this grant to allow Destiny to keep one positive thing continuing in her life as she tries to sort through everything else.