

## MID-YEAR REPORT FOR OUTCOME PROGRESS FY 2020-21

**Reporting for: July 1 – November 30 of the current year!**

**Agency Name: Raising Readers in Story County**

**Program Name: Out of School Learning**

Brief Description of Program: RRSC provides two community-based free tutoring programs to serve children, Harrison Barnes Reading Academy - Summer Reading Buddies (HBRA -SR) and Harrison Barnes Reading Academy – After School Tutoring (HBRA – AS), in grades K-3. RRSC train volunteer tutors to provide 1-to-1 evidence-based literacy support through individualized lesson plans. Site supervisors develop lessons and supervise sessions. This past summer we switched to a virtual format for this program. RRSC provides virtual links to leveled books for tutoring sessions. Over the summer, gift books were provided weekly. For the school year, which is still virtual, gift books are being provided on a monthly basis. For Kindergarten students, RRSC adjusted the HBRA curriculum for the school year to meet student needs who are being affected by the pandemic. It is a combination of Dialogic Reading and Words their Way curriculum.

- 1. Program/ Service Outcome (Change/ Benefit to Clients/ Community) – please refer back to the corresponding ABF 5(O) and provide an update on program/ service outcome from July 1 to date:**

Test scores reported by the Iowa Department of Education show there are students in Story County who do not meet benchmark standards by the end of 3rd grade. Statistics show direct correlations between 3rd grade reading ability and later academic and life outcomes. To address this, the goal of both HBRA programs is to help students either maintain or improve their reading level by increasing their exposure to quality high interest books at the appropriate level, writing, and phonics. We are also increasing the awareness about literacy by engaging and educating over 300 annual HBRA volunteers and parents.

- 2. Measurement Used (How Often, Tools Used) – please refer back to the corresponding ABF 5(O) and provide an update on measurement used from July 1 to date:**

Both HBRA programs use internal pre and post assessments, which provides the students' reading level and Words Their Way word sort level. Volunteer tutors and site supervisors are continually monitoring and evaluating students' abilities and adjusting lesson plans. RRSC also conducts parent and volunteer surveys and tracks reading minutes.

- 3. Measurement Update (Please provide update on measurement data collected based on the ABF 5(O) from July 1 to date):** Please see above.

- 4. Outcomes Achieved (Result to Clients/ Community) – please refer back to the corresponding ABF 5(O) and provide an update on the outcomes achieved from July 1 to date:**

HBRA – SR served 211 students virtually across the county, of those 203 completed pre and post assessments. 63 (30.0%) maintained their reading level. 118 (58.1%) improved their reading level, 181 (89.2%) improved or maintained their reading level. Students logged 100,384 reading minutes over the summer 2020. HBRA – AS is currently serving 55 students virtually throughout the county, the program runs October-April. Pre-testing is done; post-tests and results will be available in April.

**5. Barriers Encountered (please refer back to the corresponding ABF 5(O) and provide an update on the barriers encountered from July 1 to date):**

The pandemic has presented challenges for program budgets. RRSC has moved all programs online. Maintaining safety and quality of programs, results in serving fewer students per session. Increased staff time and cost are needed to serve the same total amount of students. Additionally, book distribution for program participants takes more planning and time, to organize the book bags and pick up times and locations, instead of giving to students in person. Recruiting volunteers in person is no longer a viable option, additional staff time and costs are incurred. Further, the added cost of the online platform itself and the time needed to transition program materials to a virtual format.

**6. Clients Served (please refer back to the corresponding ABF 5 Service Statistics and provide an update on number of clients served from July 1 to date):** Between the two HBRA programs we have served, 266 students since July 1, 2019.

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**8. Have you had to turn any clients away that desire to participate in this program? If so, why? If so, how many? If so, when?** We currently have 16 students on our waiting list for HBRA – After School Tutoring. The additional students would have exceeded the optimal number of students each site supervisor would be able to accommodate in their lesson planning and sessions. After receiving approval to reallocate funds from Thrive by Five, we are in the process of adding another session and hours for staff to serve additional students. RRSC will also begin work with additional 1<sup>st</sup> grade students whose reading scores have also been affected by the pandemic.

**9. Comments:**

<b>Staff Use Only:</b>		
Change/ Benefits demonstrated for client/ community?	Yes	No
Quantifiable Outcome Measures?	Yes	No
Outcomes Reported?	Yes	No

**Agency Name: Raising Readers in Story County**

**Program Name: Thrive by Five**

**Brief Description of Program:**

StoryPals is a preschool programs in which volunteers go into Story County schools to work with students using research based Dialogic Reading and other language and literacy developmental skills. This year RRSC has converted the program to a virtual format. In light of the pandemic, RRSC made several adjustments to Thrive by five programming. RRSC partnered with ACPC to provide virtual StoryPals. Further, in lieu of starting an in person Small talk as was planned, in January RRSC will launch a virtual parent education program called STARS. The new program partners with agencies providing at home visiting programs and utilizes the same LENA software and curriculum as Small Talk. Participants learn skills to increase the quality and quantity of literacy interaction with children. Step into Storybooks is an annual event in Ames and Nevada, community partners help to create literacy focused learning stations for children and families. We are continuing to plan with community partners what that event will look like during a pandemic. Story Time provides a language and literacy rich environment to children with low-income while parents attend Baby Bump and Beyond meetings. As their meetings have moved to a virtual format, we are providing a pre-recorded Storytime with tips for parents.

**1. Program/ Service Outcome (Change/ Benefit to Clients/ Community) – please refer back to the corresponding ABF 5(O) and provide an update on program/ service outcome from July 1 to date:**

The goal of StoryPals is to increase participants' experience with quality books and enhance their vocabulary and early literacy skills. The goal of STARS is to increase the number of words and turns spoken to a child. The goal of Step into Storybooks is exposure to quality children's books and literacy enriching activities to replicate at home. The goal of Story Time at Baby Bump and Beyond is to share and provide quality, developmentally appropriate children's books supporting a print-rich environment for at risk and low-income families. Test scores reported by the Iowa Department of Education show there are students in Story County who do not meet benchmark standards at the start of Kindergarten. We work with children and educate caregivers on early language and literacy development to address this issue.

**2. Measurement Used (How Often, Tools Used) – please refer back to the corresponding ABF 5(O) and provide an update on measurement used from July 1 to date:**

StoryPals implements internal pre and post observation based assessments, evaluating 6 pre-literacy skills necessary for reading. STARS uses a recording device to track the number of words and turns spoken to a child at home. Step into Storybooks utilizes event attendance and parent surveys. Storytime uses pre and post parent surveys; specifically measuring how much parents, read, play, and talk at home with their child.

**3. Measurement Update (Please provide update on measurement data collected based on the ABF 5(O) from July 1 to date):**

Please see above.

**4. Outcomes Achieved (Result to Clients/ Community) – please refer back to the corresponding ABF 5(O) and provide an update on the outcomes achieved from July 1 to date:**

StoryPals is currently serving 46 four-year old students, pre testing has been done, and post-test and results will be available at program end. STARS is currently piloting the program by serving 2 families, and will launch a full session in January. Measurements are taken throughout the program. Step into Storybooks will be evaluated upon completion. Storytime measures will be implemented again when the Baby Bump and Beyond program resumes in person sessions.

**5. Barriers Encountered (please refer back to the corresponding ABF 5(O) and provide an update on the barriers encountered from July 1 to date):**

The pandemic has presented challenges for program budgets and logistics. RRSC has moved all programs online. Maintaining safety and quality of programs, results in serving fewer students per session. Increased staff time and cost are needed to serve the same total amount of students. Additionally, book distribution for program participants takes more planning and time, to organize the book bags and pick up times and locations, instead of giving to students in person. Recruiting volunteers in person is no longer a viable option, additional staff time and costs are incurred. We also lost long-time volunteers and community partners in the transition to virtual programming. Further, the added cost of the online platform itself and the time needed to transition program materials to a virtual format.

**6. Clients Served (please refer back to the corresponding ABF 5 Service Statistics and provide an update on number of clients served from July 1 to date):**

Approximately, 48 children/caregivers, have been served since July 1, 2020.

**7. Have you had to turn any clients away that desire to participate in this program? If so, why? If so, how many? If so, when?**

**8. Comments:**

**Agency Name: Raising Readers in Story County**

**Program Name: Advocacy**

Brief Description of Program:

**Advocacy for Social Development:** RRSC advocates for literacy in a multitude of ways; by providing parent & volunteer education, increasing access to quality books through direct and indirect programming: Reach Out & Read, Read to Succeed, Little Free Libraries, Gift Books, Reading Corners, and through social service agencies. RRSC takes a leadership role in Story County Reads, partners with other community agencies to stack programming, stresses the importance of literacy through social media and newsletters, holds events like Read Across Story County, gives presentations, & coordinates book drives.

**Program/ Service Outcome (Change/ Benefit to Clients/ Community) – please refer back to the corresponding ABF 5(O) and provide an update on program/ service outcome from July 1 to date:**

Research shows that giving children access to high quality books and increasing their language and literacy development, has long term effects on their academic, social-emotional, and economic future. Advocacy is a critical component to highlighting the importance of literacy while providing techniques and tips, increasing the access to quality books, and fulfilling the mission of RRSC; to improve language and literacy development in children birth to age eight and nurture healthy parent-child relationships.

**1. Measurement Used (How Often, Tools Used) – please refer back to the corresponding ABF 5(O) and provide an update on measurement used from July 1 to date:**

RRSC tracks the number of public presentations, media interviews, the number of volunteers and hours and the number of books given out. We are also starting to implement program surveys to gauge the average number of minutes read of program participants and the number of individuals who attribute an increase in reading minutes to our programming.

**2. Measurement Update (Please provide update on measurement data collected based on the ABF 5(O) from July 1 to date):** Since July 1 Raising Readers has given 7 public presentations, mobilized approximately 183 volunteers who donated 2570 hours, and gave out approximately 2546books (this does not yet include numbers from Reach Out and Read or all of the numbers from Read to Succeed).

**3. Outcomes Achieved (Result to Clients/ Community) – please refer back to the corresponding ABF 5(O) and provide an update on the outcomes achieved from July 1 to date:**

Please see above.

**4. Barriers Encountered (please refer back to the corresponding ABF 5(O) and provide an update on the barriers encountered from July 1 to date):**

The pandemic has presented logistical challenges for Advocacy programs. Reading Corners and

Gift Books are being affected by closures. RRSC is working to develop new methods for distributing those books. Presentations may also be affected as less groups are meeting. We will also need more time in coordinating volunteers or doing projects like book distribution and labeling books ourselves as many do not feel safe doing these things in person.

**5. Clients Served (please refer back to the corresponding ABF 5 Service Statistics and provide an update on number of clients served from July 1 to date):**

Approximately 2658(duplicated) clients have been served since July 1, 2020 (this does not yet include numbers from Reach Out and Read or all of the number from Read to Succeed).

**6. Have you had to turn any clients away that desire to participate in this program? If so, why? If so, how many? If so, when?**

No clients have been turned away.

**7. Comments:**

**Staff Use Only:**

Change/ Benefits demonstrated for client/ community?	Yes	No
Quantifiable Outcome Measures?	Yes	No
Outcomes Reported?	Yes	No