Families Learning and Serving Together through the Library

National Center for Families Learning
San Mateo County Libraries
Sponsored By

Endless Bookshelf

Building a love of Reading Together

Discover the Joys of Reading

The National Center for Families Learning and Unite for Literacy are proud to welcome you to Endless Bookshelf, created to inspire and help families read more together. You’ll find resources to improve reading skills and fun tools to keep track of your reading. Sign up for free and start building your Endless Bookshelf today!
NCFL Mission

NCFL works to eradicate poverty through education solutions for families.
Core Competencies

- Intensive two-generation solutions
- Innovative solutions to community challenges
- PD and learning communities, including digital networks that reach 10 million annually
- Research and tools to assist literacy and learning efforts nationally
NCFL’s Footprint

NCFL is leading two-generation models in 103 cities with hundreds of partners.
Theory of Change
What is Service Learning?

Learning through organized service that:

• Meets the needs of a community

• Is coordinated with a school or community group

• Is integrated into and enhances curriculum or educational activities

• Provides structured time for participants to reflect

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Family Service Learning

• Process for families to learn together as they serve their community

• Effective method for youth and adults to gain college and career readiness skills

• Carefully planned and designed project that spans an adequate period of time for effective execution

• More than a one-time volunteer experience
The Process
Investigation

- Involves all participants and their ideas
- Could be sparked from different angles
  - a need that is seen in the community (homelessness)
  - a topic that participants find interesting (access to books)
  - a theme that is common among participants (food insecurity)
  - a topic that is current in the learning environment (safety)
Planning and Preparation

- Consider strengths of all participants—even young children
- Consider how to leverage partnerships
- Determine administrative needs, tools, transportation needs
- Determine the learning outcomes
• Not the first step—or necessarily the most important!
• Focus on skills and knowledge being built throughout
• Incorporate reflection while the experience is ongoing
Reflection

- Should allow different means of reflecting
- Should help all participants to really explore the service-learning experience
  - What did they do?
  - How did they feel before, during, and after?
  - How do their actions connect to them, society, and what they have learned?
Demonstration of Results and Celebration

- Participants share what they have done with the larger community
  - What they have learned
  - Results of the project
  - Next steps
  - Connection to the community

- Can be formal or informal
- Should involve all participants
Sustainability

- Build strong, enduring partnerships
- Generate and leverage resources
- Identify and secure funding sources for the future
- Institutionalize service learning as an integral part of your program
About San Mateo County Libraries (SMCL)

• 12 Libraries and a Bookmobile

• SMCL Mission: Strengthen our community by creating an inclusive sense of place and environment for learning

• Located between San Francisco and Santa Clara counties, and a part of the Silicon Valley.

• Over 30% of the population is foreign born.

• Highest cost of living in the U.S.
Family Service Learning at SMCL

Cleaning East Palo Alto
Steps for Success at East Palo Alto Library

- Investigation
- Planning
- Preparation

- Action: Clean Up Day

- Reflection
- Demonstration of Results / Celebration
Steps for Success at East Palo Alto Library

• Sustainability:
  • Families continued cleaning efforts
  • Third FSL Project: Earth Day walk & tree planting
Smcl Program Recommendations

- One investigation as base for 3 FSL projects
- Connected FSL Projects
- FSL Projects connected to personal goals
- Partner with organizations in the community
- Concentrate on process and family involvement, practice at library events
- Have a calendar with dates, times, and deadlines
Implementation within the Library

- Program messaging for staff buy-in
- Branch / space challenges
- Staffing / childcare
- Scheduling a year-round program
- Addressing community concerns
- Combining program goals and participants of this program and other library programs already in place
Family Service Learning Outcomes

- Expanded voice, social capital, and networks
- Expanded self-efficacy and self-confidence
- Increased content knowledge
- Increased use of technology skills
- Increased opportunities to develop work-based skills

*Learn more in NCFL’s Family Service Learning brief.
Service Learning

• Perdimos la verguenza de pedir cosas en la comunidad, para beneficios de otros. [We stopped being embarrassed to ask for things out in the community so that we could benefit others.]

• Talking to community members, confidence, organization, asking for more help.

• We laughed because some of us never learned to use a scissor and cut the papers funny.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Leadership &amp; Community Engagement</th>
<th>2016-2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Initial Interview</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(n=666)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteered for local group</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attended local community event</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helped to organize a project in your community</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Led a local community, school, or any other event</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participated in a community service project</td>
<td>34%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
## Goal Attainment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Goal</th>
<th>n</th>
<th>Ranked “important” or “very important” by:</th>
<th>Achieved by:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To earn more money</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>604</td>
<td>240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>%</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To upgrade my skills to keep current job</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>453</td>
<td>239</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>%</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>53%</td>
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<tr>
<td>To get a better job</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>568</td>
<td>224</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>%</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To earn a GED certificate/high school diploma</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>464</td>
<td>153</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>%</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To improve my English language skills</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>538</td>
<td>338</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>%</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>74%</td>
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<tr>
<td>To obtain the knowledge necessary to pass the U.S. citizenship test</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>421</td>
<td>162</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>%</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To become a better teacher of my child</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>646</td>
<td>436</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>%</td>
<td>97%</td>
<td>96%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Camp Wonderopolis® Grants

Let’s Learn Together Outside

Annual Conference

ncflc™ National Center for Families Learning

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conference.familieslearning.org
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