

FY2023 Buncombe County Tipping Point Grant Report

Organization Name:	Literacy Together
Project Name:	Youth Literacy Tutor Intern Model

Activities Accomplished	Annual Goal	Amount Completed
Number of youth literacy tutors	5	5
Percent of students who improve in at least one literacy skill area on post-test	90%	88%
Percent of students who report improved confidence in reading	90%	90%
Percent of tutors who indicate a positive experience with the tutor training, resources and materials provided and support throughout the year from staff	100%	100%

Expenses (please list <u>all</u> grant related expenses)	Amount Spent
Five intern stipends	\$ 5,000.00

TOTAL: \$ 5,000

Narrative summary of grant related activities

During the 2022-2023 academic school year the Youth Literacy program implemented two models for 1:1 reading tutoring for elementary age children; a volunteer tutor model and a paid internship program. Volunteer tutors and paid interns worked 1:1 with students reading below grade level who attended after-school programs in the Asheville community. Volunteer tutors and interns were recruited, trained, and supported with opportunities for on-going training and collaboration during the school year. From January 2023 – June 2023, thirty-five volunteer tutors supported students attending the after-school programs at Youth Transformed for Life, the Christine W. Avery Learning Center, Reynolds Middle School, Weaverville Elementary School, and Johnston Elementary School. Volunteers provided 1:1 literacy tutoring with their student(s) twice a week for 45 minutes per session. The paid internship program employed twenty young adults supporting students in the after-school programs at Youth Transformed for Life, the Christine W. Avery Learning Center, the Stephens-Lee Recreation Center, and West Buncombe Elementary School. The paid interns each tutored between four and eight hours each week. From January 2023 – June 2023, sixty-three students received 1:1 tutoring support in the Youth Literacy program.

For the 2023 summer paid internship program, there are currently thirty young adults, between the ages of 15 and 22, providing 1:1 literacy tutoring to summer camp participants. We are supporting three summer camp programs; Youth Transformed for Life, the Christine W. Avery Learning Center, and the YMCA program located at Johnston Elementary School. The Youth Literacy program is providing reading tutoring to approximately 90 elementary age students during the summer program. Students receiving tutoring support are performing below grade level in the academic area of reading as identified by a pre-assessment administered at the beginning of the summer camp. One-to-one tutoring support is provided 90 minutes each week for each student paired with an intern. The individual student results on the pre-assessment guide the literacy skills addressed in the lessons. In addition to tutoring sessions, each week the interns participate in a professional development day. Professionals from the Asheville community provide workshops on a variety of topics; effective literacy instructional strategies, engaging struggling readers, financial literacy, effective resume writing and interview skills, and the importance of community engagement.



Transforming Lives Through Literacy

Igniting Superhero Readers

Literacy Together is committed to the expansion of the Youth Literacy program. Funds from the Tipping Point grant are supporting this growth. The Youth Literacy program supports elementary age children by implementing 1:1 reading tutoring with students attending area after-school programs during the academic school year and summer camp programs.

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The breakdown of tutors and students by program, race, age, and grade, as well as results, are as follows:

January 2023 – June 2023 Academic Year Program:

Volunteer Tutors - 35

Interns - 20

Race

White - 30

Black - 2

Hispanic – 2

Asian - 1

White – 7

Black – 7

Hispanic – 5

Asian - 1

Tutor Age

15-23 - 20

24-55 - 6

55+ - 29

Students – 63

Race

Black – 54

White – 4

Hispanic – 5

Grade

K – 2

1 - 12

2 - 15

3 - 13

4 - 13

5 – 6

6 - 2

Goals: We are on track to meet and exceed our goal of training 50 tutors and working with 75 students during the academic school year.

Results: A pre-assessment was administered at the beginning of the 2022 school year. A post-assessment was administered in May 2023 to measure student achievement gains for the 2022-2023 academic year in reading. This assessment was administered individually and consisted of six subtests: alphabet identification, visual letter and sound recognition, auditory letter and sound recognition, word/phoneme separation, WADE sight word recognition, and WADE spelling.

Number of students with a completed pre and post assessment – 56

(of the 63 students who participated in the 1:1 tutoring during the school year, not all students completed the school year in the after-school program)

<u>Subtest</u>	<u>% of students who demonstrated gains</u>	
Alphabet identification	51/56	91 %
Visual letter and sound identification	45/56	80 %
Auditory letter and sound identification	46/56	82 %
Word/phoneme separation	52/56	93 %
WADE sight word recognition	53/56	95 %
WADE spelling	50/56	89 %

2023 Summer Program (June 20 – present):

Interns - 30

Race	Age
White - 21	15 - 3
Black - 1	16 - 4
Hispanic - 6	17 - 4
Asian - 2	18 - 4
	19-5
	20-4
	21-4
	22-2

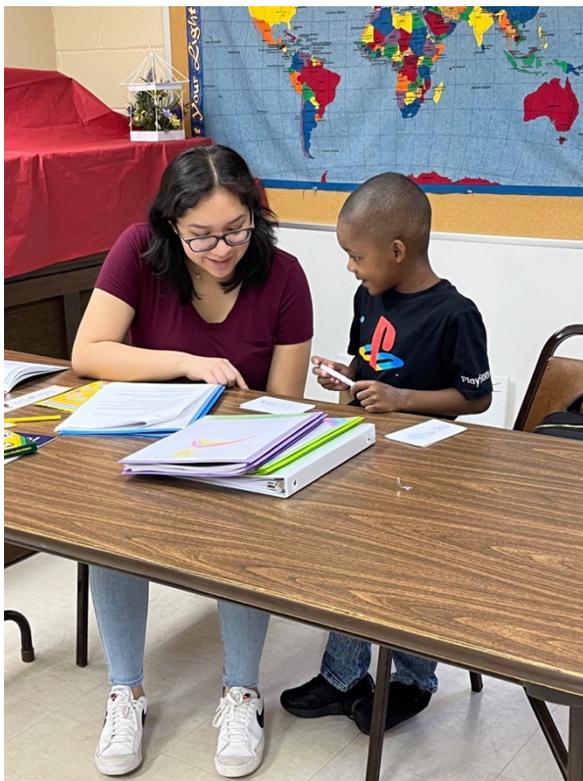
Summer Camp Students – We are in the process of administering the pre-assessment to the summer camp participants. Pre-assessment results will determine the students who will receive tutoring support during the eight-week summer camp program. Each intern will be assigned three elementary age students to provide 1:1 tutoring. We predict we will support approximately 90 students during the 2023 summer internship program. Each student will receive 90 minutes of 1:1 tutoring support teach week.

Goals: We are on track to meet and exceed our goal of training 30 tutors and working with 100 students by the end of this three-year grant.

Results: A post-assessment will be administered in August 2023 to measure achievement gains in reading.

Pre / Post Assessment Subtests: Spelling, Word Reading, Word Identification, Syllable Division

Results beyond what test results show are breakthroughs in literacy skills and increased confidence. Students begin to feel a sense of accomplishment and a renewed desire to learn.



Intern Story:

From Abigail Pantoja

Working with Literacy Together has been a rewarding experience for me and the children I tutored. Something that stood out to me was how my student progressively became eager to start our weekly session. At one point in time, our session almost lasted two hours due to my student wanting to read more and learn new vocabulary through a game. I really liked how my student would involve me in his reading, by doing so it seemed more fun rather than just work.

What's Next:

We will continue to expand our partnership with Asheville Parks and Recreation after-school programs. We began the partnership with the Stephens-Lee Recreation Center in January 2023. The internship began with five interns all enrolled in the Stephens-Lee teen program. The staff at Stephens-Lee has indicated they would like to double this number to 10 interns for the Fall 2023 semester. The Stephens-Lee staff has also requested to attend the Youth Literacy training to better support the Youth Literacy program and the interns. We plan to expand the partnership with the YMCA to include additional after-school program sites. We began working with the after-school program at W. Buncombe Elementary School in January 2023 with three interns. We plan to

increase the number of paid interns through a collaborative effort with Erwin High School. We have discussed with YMCA Youth Services leadership the potential to place volunteer tutors as well as interns with Johnston Elementary School and Eblen Middle School after-school programs beginning in Fall 2023. This expansion will include working with middle school age students as well as elementary age students. We will strive to increase the number of interns and volunteer tutors assigned to Youth Transformed for Life and the Christine W. Avery Learning Center through recruitment efforts. The communication network for the paid internship opportunity for young adults continues to grow with area high schools and colleges. The Youth Literacy program director regularly attends school and organization meetings to promote the internship opportunity.