FY2023 Buncombe County Tipping Point Grant Mid-Year Report

Organization Name:	Read to Succeed
Project Name:	Literacy Where We Live

Activities Accomplished	Annual Goal	Amount Completed
Number of youth in Burton Street Community engaged in repairing and building little free community libraries	5	5
Number of families attending literacy-driven community event	25	0
Number of culturally-responsive books with Black characters shared via little free community libraries	100	0

Expenses (please list all grant related expenses)	Amount Spent
Contract carpenter educator to support library repair project	$ 240.00
Supplies for Little Free Library repairs	$ 34.28
R2S community liaison supporting project (7 total hours @ $25/hour)	$ 175.00
TOTAL:	$ 449

Narrative summary of grant related activities

Youth and leadership from Hood Huggers International and staff and community liaisons from Read to Succeed kicked off the project with a planning meeting early in the fiscal year.

The first goal was set to repair an existing Little Free Library in the Peace Gardens on Bryant Street in Asheville's historically Black community. This small wooden library had not been in use for some time and required a significant amount of structural repair (plus a new paint job). Ultimately, the youth wanted to repair it and fill it with culturally-responsive books for local families to take when they visited the Peace Gardens.

Read to Succeed recruited a local carpenter and educator, Quetzal Jordan, to support the project. Five students in the Hood Huggers (Under Instruction) program (2nd through 9th grade) met with Read to Succeed team members and Quetzal three times between August and October to walk through the process of identifying issues for repair, taking measurements, assembling supply lists, learning about different tools to use and carpentry terms, and starting the repair work itself.

Hood Huggers (Under Instruction) onboarded a new Youth Program Director, Devin Jones, in the fall, too, who supported the scheduling and coordination of meetings as well as hands-on repair activities.

Youth learned about different types of saws and drills (hammer, drill, drive) and took turns practicing using them to remove old screws, disassemble broken library parts, cut and replace new wood, and more.

Hands-on experiences like this project offer youth an opportunity to not only try out new trade skills but acquire new vocabulary too. For example, youth learned that "fence" is also a word for a word working tool used to guide or secure a workpiece, "flute" refers to a shallow groove in carpentry, and "tongue" is a type of woodworking joint.

The next half of the year will be much busier as youth finish the repairs, select books to fill the library, and start designing a community literacy event for the spring/early summer that will engage local families. We can't wait!