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Strengthening Our Legacy for Literacy

my place² grow.

dream.

create.



Although Cleveland Public Library continues to evolve in the way it serves the community, at the heart of what we offer are the tools and the environment for fostering a lifelong interest in reading. As a community deficit fighter, we have made literacy and education a priority.

Recognizing that no one is too young to enjoy a good book, we offer storytime several times a week at most branches. For the third year, we also provided our On the Road to Reading program in which our literacy van makes stops at homes, pediatrics centers, Cleveland Metropolitan School District preschool classes, home day care centers and Women, Infants and Children (WIC) offices to train adults to conduct their own storytime sessions. The program was expanded last year to include outreach to a shelter for homeless women and their children.

Five of our Library branches also participated in the federally funded America Reads program, which provides after-school tutors in the branches to help with homework and assist with reading. In 2009, we partnered with Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C) and Cleveland State University to improve the program.

As is true in most years, we were especially proud of the achievements of our Summer and Winter Reading Clubs, which include thousands of area students. “Be Creative @ Your Library” was the theme for last year’s Summer Reading Club and was supported by a number of special programs designed to inspire more students to read. These included everything from a drumming workshop, which taught the importance of drumming as a form of communication in Africa, to the Big Book Project, which challenged the children at each branch to create their own life-sized book displays. More than 4,600 students participated in the Summer Reading Club.

Our Winter Reading Clubs experienced similar success, with more Cleveland-area schools participating in 2009 than in 2008. Artemus Ward School was recognized, for the third straight year, for its ability to motivate students to read more. Students at the school read more than 30,000 titles during the 2009 winter reading season, earning them the No. 1 spot in the competition.

We again hosted our Teen Summit in October as part of Teen Read Week. Keynote speaker Tony Medina hosted writing workshops, while a number of local youth entrepreneurs participated in the Beat the Odds session by demonstrating how they had successfully employed their skills at a young age.



Anne Marie Brown, media specialist at Artemus Ward School, praises the contributions of Cleveland Public Library in helping students to read. [VIDEO]



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