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Book and Buddies Mentorship

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Introduction

History and Purpose of Spread the Word Nevada
- Started in 2001 to aid low-income areas
- Now has 53 schools associated with the organization
- Books and Buddies started to offer one-on-one mentorship to struggling readers.
- Goals include increasing:
  - Reading comprehension
  - Oral reading skills
  - Over all reading Proficiency (Spread the Word Nevada, 2001)

Community Service Paradigm
- Spread the Word Nevada serves to create social change
- The Charity paradigm is served through:
  - Donations of books to the organization
  - Monetary donations to the organization
- The Project paradigm is served through:
  - Mentorship
  - Service site administration
- The social Change Paradigm is served through:
  - Spread the Word Nevada's overall goal of Increasing childhood literacy

Social Issue Research

Childhood Literacy Research
- Factors of illiteracy include:
  - Amount of schooling attained by parents
  - Lack of emphasis on the importance of reading
  - Lack of books in the home
  - Poor living conditions
  - Having a learning disability
- Factors that are directly effected by literacy:
  - Involvement in Democratic processes
  - Social mobility
  - Economic growth of a country
  - Recidivism rates
- “85% of all juveniles who come into contact with the juvenile justice system are functionally illiterate” (Music 2012)
- Of the 70% of adults that gain literacy in programs only 16% become repeat offenders (Music 2012)

Current and Ideal State of literacy
- Reardon, Valenti, and Shores state that, “students from low-income families enter high school with average literacy skills five years behind those of high-income students” (2012, p. 17)
- “ECLS-K data indicate that socioeconomic disparities in reading achievement are much larger than racial and ethnic gaps” (2012, p. 26).
- Childhood literacy directly effects literacy in adulthood; thus, increasing childhood literacy could decrease not only recidivism rates, but maybe even reduce crime rates.
- The ideal state would be having a country where no one is illiterate and one where equitable treatment leads to equal educational outcomes.

My Approach to the Issue
- I want to continue working with Books and Buddies and I would like to support organizations like them in the future.
- Working with organizations like them I can help ensure my future high school students get the best education even before they enter my classroom.

Service Learning & Making a Difference

Service to community
- Helping young minds to become thoughtful, reflective, and analytical

Semester Reflection
- What made working at Books and Buddies multiple time so great:
  - First you get to see the growth of your buddies
  - Second you get to form a bond with your buddies
  - Third you get to work with other awesome kids when their mentors are absent
  - Lastly, they make a difference in you

Differences I Made for the Site
- Showing up to read with my buddies every Friday I didn’t have observations
- Working with children who don’t have mentors yet

Personal/Professional Learning
- I like working with elementary age children
- I can teach
- Tutoring is a rewarding experience for both parties
- The world is not always as black and white as it used to seem

Personal Change, Efforts and Outcomes
- Serve genuinely lest the effort become arduous
- With genuine effort both those served and those doing the service can improve together

References


Appendix

Differences in My Own View
- What made working at Books and Buddies multiple time so great:
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