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 Nevadas 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, Valenlino, 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.