Spread the Word Nevada

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Introduction

History and Purpose
Spread the Word was founded in 2001 by two educators, Laurie Hartig and Lisa Habighorst.

Spread the Word’s main purpose is to improve literacy in children who come from low income households. They do this primarily by donating books as well as providing mentorship services.

Community Service Paradigm
Spread the Word falls under the the project paradigm. In the Irony of Service Keith Morton describes a project as “collectively having access to the resources necessary to make something happen” (22). Spread the Word has access to books and mentors to help improve literacy among children, so that’s why it falls under project.

Social Issue Addressed

Spread the Word addresses the issue of literacy among children, in particular those who come from low income households.

Current State and Ideal State

Recent NAEP exam results indicate that six million out of 22 million students between the ages of 13 to 17 struggle with reading. (Haynes 10). Children from lower economic performing cities score three to four years below grade level (Haynes 11).

Data from the Early Childhood Longitudinal Study found that eighth grade students from low income households are roughly five years behind those from high income households. (Reardon et al. 26).

The US has adopted the Common Core State Standards, which aim to give students various skills to help with literacy (Wendt 40).

The ideal state of the would be having a world with a one hundred percent literacy rate. It starts with equal access and opportunity, regardless of economic background.

Service Site Approach to the Issue

This organization does a few things to help narrow the gap. They provide access by giving children free books across the CCSD school district. While not as large as their donation service, they have a program in which they provide children with mentors to help them with reading.

References


I believe that I did make a difference at this site. It may have just been a small one, but even that counts. Working as a group, all of the volunteers there helped make a difference and helped Spread the Word Nevada achieve their purpose.