

**Upper Hudson Library System
Coordinated Outreach Services Advisory Council
2006 Outreach Mini-grant Recommendations
January 10, 2006**

The UHLS Coordinated Outreach Services Advisory Council met on January 10, 2006, with 9 of 10 members present, reviewed all of the 2006 Outreach Mini-grant applications, and made recommendations regarding the funding of these grants. Twelve applications, totaling **\$13,661.28** were reviewed. There is available funding of **\$10,500** for this grant program.

After the grants were reviewed, the Council recommended funding nine of the ten projects at a total of **\$10,489**. The grants are listed in alphabetical order. Three libraries are recommended for funding at a lower amount than they requested, and two did not receive recommendation for funding.

Albany Public Library: To reach more preschool children by expanding the library's AtoZ literacy fair to the Howe Branch, expanding on an existing program they have in partnership with WMHT and Head Start. Increase outreach to non-head start families by offering them free books, similar to those the head Start children receive. Purchase early literacy tools such as an alphabet rug with bean bags for games and large felt room dividers with felt letters and words for word play. Recommendation: full funding at **\$1250**.

Altamont Public Library: To provide greater opportunities for Library use to residents of local group homes who are developmentally disabled. Purchase adult-themed books for low-literacy adults as well as the video or audio book for non-readers. Conduct 8 book discussions with the Center for the Disabled staff, and establish a book club for this population. Recommendation: full funding at **\$1103**.

Bethlehem Public Library: To bring professional library services (books, librarian-led book discussions, reference/reader's advisory services) to nursing home and assisted living residents who cannot come into the library. Requested funds to purchase 2 audio cassette players appropriate for low vision users and audiobooks. This is an extension of the program started last year with outreach funds. Recommendation: full funding at **\$1250**.

Brunswick Community Library: To create a lap-sit story hour for toddlers with seasonal themes and basic early literacy concepts. Funds would be used to pay the presenter and help pay for materials/supplies. The committee thought the lap-sit idea was important, but they would have liked to know who is going to present the program and why Headstart or Evenstart is not involved. Would like

to see this publicized at the Department of Social Services. Recommendation: Reduced funding to **\$450**.

William K. Sanford Library: To train elders to tell stories. Professional storytellers will hold 8 weekly training sessions for 10 seniors to introduce storytelling, familiarize elders with folktales, helping seniors select a story or folktale to tell, and coach these senior storytellers on performing. Elders will then perform in elementary school in the community and the Riverway storytelling festival. The Council thought the idea was great and the planned activities were well thought out. Recommendation: full funding at **\$1250**.

East Greenbush Community Library: To expand the current Books on Wheels program to seniors in the community. Will use funds to purchase additional materials in large print and audiobook formats. Library will hold a social event/book talk at a local nursing home and a rehabilitation center. Friends of the library will provide refreshments. The committee particularly liked the idea that the goals were very specific and that the Friends of the Library will be involved in this project. Recommendation: full funding at **\$1250**.

Guilderland Public Library: Submitted their grant application after the deadline. The committee decided not to review this grant application.

Cheney Library: To promote reading readiness by creating 10 “theme” backpacks with age-appropriate books for 3 – 4 year olds. This is the same program that was implemented last year with minigrant funds. The committee liked the idea, but noted that there was little information in the final report from last year that indicated these themed backpacks were actually used. Would have liked to know how often the backpacks were circulated. Recommendation: do not fund.

Petersburgh Public Library: To provide library outreach to 50 preschool children. In conjunction with Petersburgh Public Library’s 50th anniversary in June, the library wants to purchase 50 books to give away to preschoolers in a packet containing a library card and information about library hours. The Council liked the idea of a celebration of the Library’s 50th year but felt that the proposal did not go far enough. Would have liked to have seen some sort of follow up to determine if more people used the library or attended more story hours as a result of this give-away. There was no educational component. Recommendation: do not fund.

Poestenkill Library: To provide computing training sessions for seniors citizens in the library service area. The library already offers classes and has a long waiting list. Would like funds to hire a trainer, to purchase a large (19”) computer monitor to enable seniors with low vision to enlarge the text without having to scroll excessively, and to purchase binders and “seniors Guide to the Internet”. Recommendation: Full funding at **\$1226**.

Sand Lake Town Library: To continue an Employment Resource Center to assist and enable the unemployed and underemployed adults in finding jobs. Purchase materials related to resume writing, job searching, interviewing career transition, and civil service manuals. Host two training sessions with Employment Specialist Michael Barber. The Council was concerned with last year's outcome because the number of people attending the training sessions was low. There was no report on whether or not the materials purchased were circulated. Since materials were just purchased last year, the Council wondered about the need for more books. Recommend partnering with Literacy Volunteers or Department of Social Services to get the word out on these programs. Recommendation: reduced funding to **\$640**.

Stephentown Memorial Library: To provide library services (large print, regular print, audio books and CD/Cassettes) to 50 seniors who are unable to get to the library. The biggest question the Council had was how were the materials going to get to the seniors? Who would deliver the materials? How often? The Library wanted to use funds to purchase cassette and CD playing equipment. The requested funds for these items seemed high, and there was no mention of whether or not this was special equipment. The Council liked the concept though. Recommendation: reduced funding to **\$820**.

Troy Public Library: To provide adult learners with new books on test preparation such as GED preparation and civil service exam manuals. Offer programming on test preparation. Council would have liked more detail on how these new materials and programming will be promoted. No information on a community partner. Suggest the library contact Department of Social Services or Department of Labor's One Stop in Troy. Recommendation: full funding at **\$1250**.