

The Building Bridges Project Summary

*Monroe County Library System Library Services and Technology Act Grant
Library Services to Youth with Developmental Disabilities: FY-2004*

The purpose of this summary is to describe the steps taken to meet the outcomes and activities listed in the Monroe County Library System Library Services and Technology Act Grant.

Participating Libraries: Fairport Public Library, Greece Public Library, Henrietta Public Library, Webster Public Library

The goal of the project was to provide focused and age appropriate library services to children and youth with developmental disabilities through the following activities:

- (1) Conduct age appropriate programming,
 - ✓ 24 Building Bridges Programs (6 at each library)
 - ✓ children's programs
 - ✓ teen programs
 - ✓ brochure developed to promote project, programs and scheduled events
- (2) Include children in regular library programming
 - ✓ tips for including youth (for parents and for librarians)
 - ✓ accommodation and modification training
 - ✓ teen volunteer disability awareness training
 - ✓ staff training and consultation with librarians
 - ✓ encourage parents to visit town libraries and not limit program participation to those that have been identified as "Building Bridges Programs"
 - ✓ extra effort to make youth with disabilities feel welcomed
- (3) Demonstrate to parents how story times and youth programming can reinforce literacy and language skills
 - ✓ attended parent support meetings to promote library programs/events
 - ✓ PERL provided librarians with a formula to determine reading levels of youth
 - ✓ fun events to promote reading/learning (i.e. Pizza Taste-off, Reading with S.T.R.O.N.G. Pets)
 - ✓ developed up-to-date recommended materials list (to include hi/lo reading materials, resources for parents and professionals)
 - ✓ lead by example
- (4) Providing librarians and library staff with disability awareness training
 - ✓ two county wide training programs
 - ✓ Greece Public Library staff training
 - ✓ Webster Public Library teen volunteer training
- (5) Strengthen and expand collaborations between public libraries, advocacy agencies, and parent groups
 - ✓ parent advisory meetings conducted to determine what parents want for their children
 - ✓ presented information about the Building Bridges Project to local organizations and parent groups that provide services or support families of and youth with disabilities
 - ✓ monthly informational displays at participating libraries highlighting local organizations and parent groups from January-September
 - ✓ informational mailings regarding Building Bridges Project
 - ✓ consistent program updates e-mailed to parents, professionals, and list-groups

Other activities:

- ✓ self-check / evaluation surveys
- ✓ informational / needs surveys
- ✓ programs posted at MCLS website (link: Youth with disABILITIES)
- ✓ Media coverage: television stations, radio stations, newspapers and other publications contacted
- ✓ collaboration with libraries not directly involved with the grant – on an "as need" basis (i.e. teen wanted to volunteer at hometown library; initial contact was made with teen librarian, etc)

The above activities were conducted in order to meet the outcomes outlined in the grant proposal.