Purchasing an Advanced Workstation in Education (AWE) at the Bondurant Community Library in Bondurant, Iowa

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INFO 520
Grant Proposal
Date June 6th, 2010
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

For the past thirty years, Bondurant Community Library has been the cornerstone of the community of Bondurant. The Library is committed to provide citizens will free access to information to support their needs. Since 2001, the Bondurant library has held weekly storytimes allowing children to grow in their reading, social, and educational development. Within the next five years the Bondurant community is expected to see a 70% increase in population adding the demand for library to expand.

As the population increases, the library is seeing more of demand for age specific activities to enhance a child’s educational needs in areas of reading, writing, and math. In early January 2010, the Library received a community report that place a goal for the library to expand its services to expand services to preschool age children and their parents so they will have “access to programming, early childhood literacy materials, and services to provide for the developmental of critical literacy skills” (Bondurant, 2010). In order to meet this demand, the library proposes to purchase the Advanced Workstation in Education (AWE) to allow for children to have a self interactive resource that will foster their learning of literacy skills in the areas of reading, writing, and math. The library is asking Target Corporation for $2,800 dollars to cover the cost to purchase the product and to have the initial operating funds.

THE BONDURANT LIBRARY

The Bondurant Community
The Bondurant Community Library is located twelve miles from the Des Moines, Iowa, the state capital and is near some of Iowa’s top attractions such as *Adventurer Land Amusement Park*, *The Iowa State Fair Grounds* and *Prairie Meadows Casino*. Bondurant was founded on December 23, 1887 by Alexander Bondurant a little over one-hundred years ago (Bondurant, 2002). Bondurant has grown to a population size of 2,951 and is expected to continue to rise for the next five years (Bondurant, 2002). The largest employer in the city is the Bondurant Farrar School District made up of one elementary school and one high school/middle school. The rest of the business in the city are Diamond Crystal (Food and Spice), and Farmers Elevator (agriculture). The Bondurant community offers local daycare for working parents and a private preschool.

**Library History:**

The library was founded in 1976 and it was located in a small brick building downtown (Bondurant, 2002). After, twenty-one years the library moved to a 1,920 square feet space for the library to grow (Bondurant, 2002). It was in 2003 that the library received accreditation from the state of Iowa (Bondurant, 2002). Within the last two years, a new library was designed and in 2008 it opened and increased to a size of 7,365 square feet (Bondurant, 2002). The total library holdings are 17,312 and are divided up by: 15,073 books and serials, 40 magazine subscriptions, 410 in audio, 1,466 in video, and 363 in other materials (Workform B, 2001).

The library has twelve computer stations for internet access and wireless Internet. The library has provides a community room for the public to rent for community events. The library offers services such as circulation of books, videos,
DVDs, and CD books. It also provides programming that includes: a summer reading program, weekly storytimes, outreach programs to the school, tours of the library, and monthly programs for elementary aged children. The library is open 47.5 hours per week.

**Library Mission and Values**

The mission statement of the Bondurant Library was revised in on September 6th, 2007 by the Board of Trustees:

“The Bondurant Community Library was established for the purpose of providing the residents of the community and surrounding area access to books and other resources and services for the needs of: information, continuing education, culture, and recreation. The Bondurant Community Library seeks to build knowledge, understanding, appreciation, and wisdom in those it serves, and it supports lifelong learning in a welcoming environment, resources, cultural activities, programs and services. The library collaborates with other community groups to meet the educational, informational and recreational needs of the entire community” (Bondurant, 2007).

The Bondurant Community Library upholds the following core values statements in order to support the needs of the community to the highest measure possible (Bondurant, 2007):

- We value the library as a public forum: it is a community facility for open communication of ideas and information; its collection, displays, programs, and services reflect an array of opinions and viewpoints.
- We value the community by actively participating in it and endeavoring to enhance the quality of its life.
- We value full and equal access to information, the building, its services, and its programs.
- We value the collection of and accessibility to information in all formats: print, electronic, audio, and video.
- We value our customers by responding to them with equal, respectful, accurate, and friendly service to all.
• We value reading and learning and promote both for all ages.
• We value the privacy of our users by keeping their transactions strictly confidential.

Library Staff

The Bondurant Community Library has two full time staff members and includes the Director and the Reference Librarian. The additional three staff members are part time and include the Assistant Director and the Youth Services Librarians. The Director, Reference Librarian, and Assistant Director are all certified by the State of Iowa for the library to continue to receive state funding. The Reference Librarian is the only staff member at this time that holds a Masters in Library and Information Science. Additional staff members have degrees in areas of English, Liberal Arts, and Psychology.

STATEMENT OF NEED

“Through subtle changes in regular library story hours and the addition of parent-education classes, the libraries have to introduced adults to new concepts and strategies to help prepare children for reading” (Arnold, 2004).

Early Literacy at the National Level

In 2006 and report by Long Overdue reported that 74% of Americans want to see some sort of early literacy programs in their local community (Public, 2006). Another research study has indicated that one-third of North American children who enter kindergarten is not ready and lack skills that are needed for a success in education (MacLaen, 2005).

Early Literacy at the State Level
In 2008, the State of Iowa laid out their five year plan for libraries and goal number two states that libraries “Sustain a state of lifelong learners by developing early literacy skills, a love of reading and information literacy skills. The plan continues to say that within six months after training 60% of library staff will use early literacy strategies. (Wegner & Dixon, 2007)

Early Literacy at the Community Level

The start of 2010 the Bondurant community conducted an assessment that lays out a five year plan for the community. Within that assessment the library was included. The library staff reviewed the Community assessment and developed goals in the Library’s’ strategic planning for 2010-2011 and 2011-2012. The third goal of this assessment speaks about early literacy and states “the library will began to offer resources and activities that related to early literacy beginning in fall 2010 (Workform B, 2001).

The Library’s Current Approach to Early Literacy

In 2001, our current Director designed the first storytime program at the Bondurant Community Library. The storytime program was designed for all age groups from eighteen months to five years. The program is designed to include a selection of finger plays, rhymes, a variety of books, and a craft. In 2009, the storytime program began to focus its attention on the trend of early literacy. It has established a program entitled Early Morning, Early Start and provides early literacy information through take home activities such as fingerplays and new letters. According to our
annual report of 2008-2009 the library has seen a 29.9% increase in its programming (Bondurant, 2009).

It is apparent that our country, our state, and our community’s goal for libraries are to be a home for providing early literacy resources. The library needs to stay abreast of any trends of early literacy by providing educational resources. The library is looking for collaboration with the Target Foundation to supply funding to expand our early literacy programming to allow children not to be restricted to these vital resources. Through this collaborative partnership our library will be able to successful obtaining our strategic goal to enhance our communities’ literacy skills so that our citizens can lead more productive lives that will benefit our Community.

**PROPOSED PROGRAM**

**Advanced Workstation in Education, Inc (AWE)**

The Advanced Workstation in Education, Inc. is a program that is designed for children between the ages of two and ten years old. The objective is to provide these children access to variety of activities that build on the skills of reading, writing, and math. The system includes a computer, a colored keyboard, a mouse, and the software which is uploaded into the system. AWE can be customized for each user it “keeps track of each individual progress, providing statistical improvement and it also provides customized programming” (Brisco, 2010).

**Project Goals:**
Goal 1: To provide children access to an early literacy curriculum that is multi-sensory through AWE Early Literacy Workstation that teaches them subjects of reading, writing, and math prior to kindergarten.

Objective 1: Within one year from the initial starting date, at least 250 children will have used the workstation.

Evaluation: Youth Services along with the Director will supply a tally sheet that will keep a record of how many users have used the workstation. The tally sheet will be calculated each month and we divided by library traffic to receive a percentage.

Goal 2: To increase awareness to parents and educators about of early literacy activity at the library through the use of AWE Early Literacy Workstation.

Objective 2: Within one year from the initial starting date, at least 250 families and 135 of the 175 educators at the local schools will be provided with information about early literacy and about the AWE Early Literacy Workstation. Youth Services Librarians along with the Director will attend school visits to discuss early literacy importance and how the AWE Early Literacy Workstation provides activities with that focus.

Evaluation: Of the 300 brochures that the library takes to school visits the Youth Services Librarian along with the Director will calculate how many were given out and divide it by the original number to provide a percentage.

Materials Needed:
The materials needed to assist the library with the above goals include:
The AWE Early Literacy Workstation English Edition to include the computer, mouse, colored keyboard, and printer. Additional materials that the library will need are marketing materials to promote the service and early literacy in the community.

**Timeline**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>Date (Month and Year)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Submit Grant Proposal</td>
<td>May, 2010</td>
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<tr>
<td>Expected Grant Notification</td>
<td>September, 2010</td>
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<tr>
<td>Obtain AWE Early Literacy Workstation</td>
<td>October, 2010</td>
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<tr>
<td>Set Up AWE Early Literacy Workstation</td>
<td>October, 2010</td>
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<td>Training Session for Staff</td>
<td>October, 2010</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public Introduction of AWE Early Literacy Workstation at the library</td>
<td>November, 2010</td>
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<tr>
<td>Collection of Tally Sheet</td>
<td>November, 2010-September 2011</td>
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<tr>
<td>Director and Youth Services staff travel to schools to talk about early literacy and AWE Early Literacy Workstation</td>
<td>November, 2010-September 2011</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prepare Results Report for September (1 year since purchase of AWE Early Literacy Work Station)</td>
<td>August, 2011</td>
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**BUDGET**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Estimated Cost</th>
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<tr>
<td>AWE Early Literacy Workstation</td>
<td>$2,800.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marketing Materials</td>
<td>$500.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Staff Hours for Program Development and</td>
<td>$36.72</td>
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Early Literacy Station Proposal

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Marketing. 4 hours a month at an hourly rate of $9.18</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Costs</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$3336.72</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>In-Kind Donation from the Library</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$536.72</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Request from Target</strong></td>
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<td>$2,800.00</td>
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**CONCLUSION**

The Bondurant Community library will continue to listen to the voices of the community who stress the importance of early literacy to a child’s educational development. The library recognizes the need for early literacy programs as they provide parents and their children an educational advantage to prepare them for school. The process of incorporating these programs and resources lives up to the mission of the library as a place to stimulate a person both young and old to be a lifelong learner.

**REFERENCES**


