



## **THE COMMUNITY LIBRARY 2023 Final Report**

### **Community Outreach Initiatives**

**Grant Amount: \$17,350**

#### **Grant Program in Review:**

Your friends at The Community Library are energized by the results of our ongoing efforts to plant seeds of literacy to grow throughout the county by offering a variety of enriching, accessible, and free educational outreach programs for the diverse populations who live in our community.

The English Language Learning classes continue to shine and have been called by one participant, “circles of hope.” Students experience a safe, welcoming environment where they can share stories of living in a new culture; find new friends and a supportive network; and develop language skills with the help of trained, professional language instructors. These classes are “stepping-stones” that change lives! The winter session saw attendees from – Belarus, France, Cuba, Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Peru, Mexico, and one participant from Ukraine, who shared homemade bread with the class – the circle of hope spans the globe and enriches our lives here in Idaho.

#### **Objectives and Outcomes:**

The overarching objective of The Community Library’s outreach initiatives is to cultivate a rich literary environment that fosters literacy for *every* member of our community.

We saw robust participation in our English Language Learning classes with 760 participants (71 unique individuals) during the fall and winter sessions. Although we looked to increase the number of students over the previous year, in the end, it was virtually equal to the sessions in 2022/2023, when we experienced an influx of Peruvian immigrants.

Our Outreach Librarian faced an unexpected challenge this past summer when the Hunger Coalition changed the number of days the Bloom Truck Bookmobile circulated throughout Blaine County from 4/5 days a week to 3. The lack of access to the Bookmobile impacted the number of Summer Reading Program participants, which dropped from 373 in 2022 to 306

in 2023. Additionally, with fewer days, fewer library cards were given out, 384 in 2022 compared to 264 in 2023. The Bookmobile resumes a four-day-a-week schedule in 2024!

Successes included new collaborations with La Mesa Comunitaria (The Community Table), and creating welcome bags with bilingual books and other goodies for new immigrant families through Hemingway School for kindergarteners to 5<sup>th</sup> graders.



Discovering new books on the Bloom Truck Bookmobile.



English Language Learners proudly complete the course!

### Budget

The Community Library received \$17,350 from the Wood River Women’s Foundation to help fund community outreach initiatives and the Outreach Librarian position.

<b>Expenses</b>	<b>Amount requested from WRWCF</b>	<b>Actual Expenditures</b>
Outreach Librarian	10,000	10,000
Instructor Salaries, Marketing & Instructional Materials for English Language Learning Classes	7,350	7,350
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>17,350</b>