



Partner Update 10/1/09

United Way

Big news! We Believe has been awarded a \$150,000 grant from the United Way. This grant will be used to fund the efforts of the Initiative for Lasting Change. The Initiative will focus resources on students attending Pond Family Center, Valley View, Washburn and Westwood Elementary schools, who are below grade level in reading and living in poverty. This grant will allow us to hire Community Liaisons who will work with the families of these students and connect them to community resources to meet their basic needs such as food, clothing, household goods, and healthcare and employment opportunities.

Initiative for Lasting Change Staff

Thanks to the Minnesota Reading Corps we have two Family Liaisons, Sara Windhorst and Cora Hietpas. The Family Liaisons will be working on the Parent Education and Family Involvement component of the Initiative and will complement and support the other 16 Reading Corps members currently serving students throughout the district.

I am excited to announce our first Community Liaison has been hired. Sara Dunbar started working with the Initiative on October 5. Sara will be working with Westwood and Pond Family Center. Two more Community Liaison positions will be hired by the end of this month.

Walmart

A big thank you to Walmart for their donation of \$7,000.00 to support the Initiative for Lasting Change.

Playground Partnership Program

The City of Bloomington, Parks and Recreation Division, the School Districts' Youth and Family Department and Oak Grove Presbyterian Church, joined forces under the We Believe Alliance to pilot a free playground program. The program took place at Smith Park from August 17 – September 2. It was targeted, but not limited to low income elementary aged children living in or near the Valley View attendance area. More than 90 children registered for the program. The program was offered during the last two weeks of summer when other youth programming was not available. Due to the success of the program, Bloomington Crime Prevention Association has awarded We Believe a \$10,000.00 grant to continue the program next summer.

Fairview Pond Clinic

Fairview Health Services is scheduled to open the new community clinic located at Pond Family Center this month. We Believe has been working with Fairview towards opening this clinic for over a year after identifying a need for underserved families to access health care, and thus provide children with basic health care that leads to a better chance of success in school. The goal of the new clinic is to lessen medical problems and lower medical costs for underserved children and families. The Fairview Pond Clinic will begin seeing patients on Tuesday, October 27. The clinic will be open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12:30 to 5:00 p.m. and will provide immunizations/shots; infant, child and teen physicals and wellness exams; multicultural care; and treatment for acute illnesses and injuries.