

**INITIATIVES TO IMPROVE
READINESS AND REDUCE SUMMER
LEARNING LOSS***

**Rotary Literacy Initiative Task Force
Rotary Club of Hagerstown
Sep. 2011 to present**

PROGRAM	DESCRIPTION	PARTIES TO THE PROGRAM
PREDOMINENTLY PRE-K		
Imagination Library	Community Foundation participates with Dolly Parton Foundation to mail one book per month to at-risk child under 5. Participation by referral from Department of Social Services, Head Start, Health Department, and other agencies serving children under 5. Mail 1100 book per month.	Community Foundation of Washington County Dolly Parton Foundation
Reach Out and Read	Work with Pediatricians to participate in Reach Out and Read. A Task Force volunteer (a dentist) meets with pediatricians in their offices and facilitates enrollment of physicians and organizes resources so they can best encourage parents to read to their children.	Department of Pediatrics, Meritus Medical Ctr.
Parent Learning Parties	Interactive, hands-on, parent/child “parties” that promote young children’s development of school readiness skills. Based on the belief that parents are their child’s first teacher, Learning Parties teach parents how to make everyday moments learning moments through playing, singing, talking, reading, and engaging in fun activities.	Head Start of Washington County Boys & Girls Club Hagerstown Area Religious Council
HUB@USMH	Frostburg State University MAT (Elementary) and Early Childhood Education programs at the University System of Maryland Hagerstown Center have received a grant and are organizing a year round enrichment program for downtown at-risk children and their families. The principle is to engage and help parents with life skills and the confidence to help enrich the lives of their children.	Frostburg State University University System of Maryland Hagerstown APPLES for Children

PREDOMINENTLY SUMMER		
Meal Machine—Summer Feeding Program	Community Action Council retrofit a small truck to serve meals over the summer to children in poor neighborhoods. Volunteers from churches read and conducted storytelling sessions. Originally started with 2 stops/3 times per week. In year 2 had 4 stops and more than doubled the number of children served. Program now run by the Washington County Public Schools.	Washington County Public Schools Community Action Council
Meal Mach. w/ Bookmobile & Mobile Dental	Scheduled bookmobile and/or mobile dental unit to accompany the Meal Machine.	Washington County Free Library Washington County Health Department
Summer Reading Programs	These non-profits provide summer care for up to 3000 students K-12. Grants for operating these programs came from a philanthropic organization with ties to the Task Force.	Girls, Inc. Boys & Girls Club
Summer Learning Camp	Summer programs at select elementary schools for K-1-2-3 graders who are targeted due to 1) being at risk or 2) performance in the extreme low range of test scores.	Washington County Public Schools
Pals @ USMH	Frostburg State University MAT (Elementary) and Early Childhood Education programs at the University System of Maryland Hagerstown Center organized a 'drop by' summer enrichment program for downtown at-risk children using Education student volunteers.	Frostburg State University University System of Maryland Hagerstown
Summer Playground Reading Program	Washington County Parks & Recreation invited the bookmobile to visit the organized summer playground locations weekly. High school student volunteers went to the playgrounds on other days and read to or work with children on reading.	Washington County Parks & Recreation Washington County Free Library High School Student Volunteers
Literacy Kits	Citicorp provided book and accessories in kits for at risk children at Girls Inc. and Boys and Girls Club.	United Way of Washington County Citicorp

PREDOMINATELY AGE 5-8/9, SCHOOL YEAR		
Agriculture Literacy Unit	Farm Bureau grant paid for renovation of a van. It is organized to travel to elementary schools to provide children with the opportunity to improve reading comprehension and language development while learning about agriculture.	Farm Bureau
Reading Cafe'—Ruth Anne Monroe Primary	A structured mentoring program built around reading for 1-2	Washington County Public Schools

School	graders for select group of at risk students.	
GENERAL LITERACY		
Little Free Libraries	Started (6) as individuals and churches placing Little Free Libraries where visitors could “take a book/leave a book”. Tech High students, as part of a community service project, constructed 25 more LFL to be placed in intentional locations starting in Spring 2015.	community movement (6) Washington County Public Schools (25) City of Hagerstown Early Childhood Advisory Council
Community Book Drive (annual)	Book drive to collect children’s books. Over 50 businesses, churches, and organizations set up donation bins to collect books. Fed Ex picked up books and delivered to a central warehouse donated by Lowes Home Improvement store. There books were sorted for damage, appropriateness, and approximate grade level. The RLTF assigned the books to select Washington County non-profits. 30,000 collected/distributed over 3 years.	United Way of Washington County Fed Ex, Volvo, Lowes Hagerstown Area Religious Council Rotary Club of Hagerstown
Private libraries	Books were made available to regional housing authorities.	Housing Authority of Washington County Hagerstown Housing Authority

ADVOCACY		
Leadership Washington County	One of the year’s program days has focused on the issue of early childhood literacy and development in Washington County and the ramifications for social, health, and economic profile of our community. LWC has provided this class day for 4 years.	Program Day (4)
Summits on Early Childhood Literacy (4)	Three Summits attended by over 110 people each year to raise awareness, provide professional development, and develop plans for moving forward. Received a great deal of publicity for the issue. The Fourth Summit is scheduled for May 15, 2015.	Rotary Club of Hagerstown (1) Volvo (1), Manpower (1) Early Childhood Advisory Council (1)
Dozens of presentations to civic organizations and local government councils		Task Force Members
Media Coverage Columns and Letters to the Editor Interviews on TV and Internet	Herald Mail Newspaper HMTV-6 WHAG-TV Baltimore Sun	Task Force Members

*Advocated, encouraged, promoted, requested or otherwise fostered.
As of February 2, 2015.