

## Choose to Read Ohio 2011 Final Project Reports

### Fairland Local Schools

Project Coordinator: Evelyn Capper

Federal Award: \$8,399

**Project Purpose:** The title of the project was *The Lost Quilter Found: Southeastern Ohio's Legacy in the Underground Railroad*. This grant supported a school and community wide read that included the entire population of students, faculty and administrators at Fairland High School reading a novel by Jennifer Chiaverini, "The Lost Quilter." In addition to those in the school, other teachers in the school district were invited to join in reading the book. Approximately 30 faculty members from other buildings participated. The community read involved local businesses, The Briggs Lawrence County Public Library, Ohio University Proctorville Center and Proctorville Women's Club reading the book. The purpose of the project was to emphasize the importance of reading by involving the community to join students in sharing the experiences and discussions of the chosen title. In addition to the emphasis on reading, project planners wanted to help students connect with the history of the local area. It was felt that involving the community would help culminate these activities. Planners also felt the project would bring the community closer together and create an awareness of some of the issues the community has faced and is facing with racial anxiety. The community event at OU Proctorville Center with the panel discussion provided a wonderful avenue to open dialogue with possible solutions.

**Project Activities/Methods:** Homeroom time was extended each morning as a way to encourage students and faculty to read the book. The English teachers discussed the book in depth with quizzes and tests administered relative to the book. Social Studies teachers used the book as they discussed various battles relative to the Civil War. The choir began working on songs, e.g., spirituals and songs of overcoming adversity. While the choirs were practicing songs from the period, the Family Consumer Science class was creating a quilt. The quilt produced by the class will be displayed in the Fairland High School Library and will serve as a reminder of the project. The advanced ceramics class made Facejugs inspired by this project relating to the artwork slaves brought from their home lands. A general art class made quilt squares out of paper indicating a symbol from an Underground Railroad quilt. Algebra students used Sketchpad to create quilt squares, working with angles and mathematical properties to create various quilt squares. While other class discussions weren't planned, they were initiated by students. A school assembly was held on Tuesday, April 19, 2011. The assembly highlighted the choir, a video created by senior students who gave a brief history of the local contribution to the Underground Railroad, and the artwork and quilt were displayed for students and parents. A community event was held the evening of April

19, 2011 with approximately 100 community members participating. A panel discussion regarding the book and the social issues the community faces relative to those in the book were discussed. On April 21, 2011, approximately 200 students and 20 adult chaperones went to Cincinnati for a tour of the Underground Railroad Freedom Center. Federal funds were used for library materials, audio books, music, and admission to the Freedom Center.

**Project Outputs:** Approximately 925 persons read the book and/or took part in one or more of the activities associated with the book.

**Project Outcomes:** A brief survey was completed by the 200 students who attended the trip to Cincinnati and the Freedom Center. Of the 200 students, 195 said they enjoyed the museum experience and were made more aware of what freedom means to each of us. Of the 200 students, 150 indicated that they learned something new about trafficking and other forms of slavery today. Of the 200 students, 180 said the trip was life changing. Many in the community indicated they would like to see the library continue bringing the community and school together through these kinds of activities.

**Other Results:**

**Anecdotal Info:** Some comments from community members, faculty, and students are listed below. "The Lost Quilter" was a great choice for a community-wide read in our area of the country for several reasons. The book was very interesting and easy to read for high school students and adults. Our region of Ohio was a significant site for the Underground Railroad. The emphasis on this aspect of the book in the peripheral studies was important for the students and our community. We learned about houses that were on the route north and where runaway slaves would have crossed into Ohio from the neighboring state of West Virginia. Some community members were involved in creating a quilt with the high school students and the students surprised themselves with their skills and were proud to display their creation at Ohio University Proctorville Center for the forum/panel discussion. During the discussion, the moderator asked the panel for suggestions on how to reduce prejudice and racism in our area. The panel's response was "continue have more events such as this". --Sarah The field trip was a once-in-a-lifetime learning experience for me. I thought the tour guides were extremely nice and informative. They also knew exactly what they were talking about. I would love to do this trip again. I had never been to Cincinnati before the field trip to the Freedom Center. --Maddison I really enjoyed our trip to the museum. It was very interesting to learn about all the different slave stories and all the visuals were amazing. I was very interested in the modern day slavery exhibit of human trafficking. It helped me realize that slavery didn't end with the Civil War. That was a trip I think I will remember forever. --Halie I thought the book was really good. I think we should continue to do school wide reads because everyone is reading together and that's pretty awesome. The books so far have been interesting. --Olivia The Lost Quilter was an amazing book. It had a lot of history and was interesting. It was written well and taught

me many things. The activities that went along with it were great! --Claire At first, I didn't really like the book, but once we got into it, I really liked it. Now that we have read the book, I understand a little bit more about slavery and the Underground Railroad. I also learned about how slaves would be punished for little things. Another thing I liked was the program at school. The choir sang and we watched a video. I thought that the video was excellent. It showed a lot of history about the Underground Railroad in this area. The only thing I didn't like about this year was that the author didn't show up. I think she should have been here since she said she was going to come. --Evan I thought the school wide read was fantastic! At some points the book became a little confusing, but I caught on soon enough. The book kept me interested and gave me a small look into the everyday life of the slaves. The activities created with the reading of the book involved me. The Women's Choir sang at the assembly we had and that was so much fun preparing for the performance. Then, in math class, we made quilt patterns by using our math skills. Also, in art we incorporated the idea of quilts into our projects and made a quilt representing a fun time in our lives. School wide reads are fun and open the eyes to those who don't read and let them know how much fun reading can be. --Jessica Reading The Lost Quilter gave me a sense to respect the rights of those whose ancestors were enslaved. It affected me on a psychological level in that more clarity is shown about the past. The past is real and this book specially shows the truth. This book made me more respectful toward African Americans. They have been through many trials just to get the normal rights of whites. --Logan

### **Guernsey County Public Library**

Project Coordinator: Donna King

Federal Award: \$1,537

**Project Purpose:** The Guernsey County District Public Library used LSTA funds to implement a Choose to Read Ohio program that targeted homeschoolers. Library staff felt that area homeschooling families were being underserved by the library. This project helped address the library's intent to serve this population while also assessing the types of programming this population would most benefit from. Programming was based on the book "B is for Buckeye: an Ohio Alphabet." Staff felt that this visually rich book about people, places, and things in Ohio lent itself to almost any kind of programming about Ohio's culture, natural world and history.

**Project Activities/Methods:** Library staff, in collaboration with representatives from the local homeschooling organization, developed programming based on the selected Choose to Read Ohio title. The programming consisted of four scheduled events for homeschooling families (children of all ages and their parents) all revolving around the book "B is for Buckeye: an Ohio Alphabet" and one event not originally included in the grant request. The first program, held

on April 14, 2011, was a two-hour preview and discussion of "B is for Buckeye: an Ohio Alphabet." Each family that participated received a copy of the book. The library divided the families into younger and older children and held several age-appropriate art, history and science activities revolving around the book. The second program, held on April 28th, featured a representative from a local educational center, Deerasic Park, and was entitled "The Whitetails Journey: Ohio's State Mammal." The 90 minute program educated families about whitetail deer habitat, the role of the buckeye tree in Ohio history, and Native Americans in Ohio. Marcia Schonberg, the author of "B is for Buckeye: an Ohio Alphabet," presented the third program, held on May 6th. It consisted of an interactive PowerPoint presentation and activities designed to enhance art and science skills. The fourth program, held May 19th, consisted of a visit to the John and Annie Glenn Historic Site with a living history tour of John Glenn's home. Staff had anticipated 50 children attending the John Glenn program, so their were sufficient funds remaining to hold an additional program. This program was held on August 23rd and revolved around the word "Karamu." Karamu House is a multicultural arts center located in Cleveland and is featured in "B is for Buckeye: an Ohio Alphabet." The program included poetry, dance and readers' theater activities along with crafts. This was the least attended of all programs in the series, with only seven children and three adults. Programs were promoted and marketed in several ways. All of the local home school groups were contacted via email and phone, and individual families who were not affiliated with a homeschool group were contacted. Various posters and flyers were designed and distributed. Advertising also appeared in the local newspaper and on the radio. Federal and local funds were used for speaker honorariums, books and admission fees for the John and Annie Glenn Historic Site.

**Project Outputs:** Five programs were held with the following attendance: Program one -- 60 children and 30 adults; Program 2 -- 40 children and 20 adults; Program 3 -- approximately 25 families (many people just wandered in, so it was impossible to get an accurate count); Program 4 -- 24 children and 14 adults; Program 5 -- 7 children and 3 adults. The library estimates that 90 unique individuals attended one or more of the programs. The program with the most positive response, both by survey and word of mouth, was the first program. This response could have had one of two causes. Either families liked receiving a free book, or, ironically, they like information imparted to them in a class-like manner. Probably it is a little of both.

**Project Outcomes:** The Library achieved its purpose-that of serving underserved home schooling families. Many positive relationships with both the parents and children in home schooling families were developed. Families indicated both on surveys and verbally to staff that they were delighted with the programming. Families also indicated that this type of programming is not only welcomed but necessary. The evaluation surveys indicated that in almost all instances, programming met families' expectations.

**Other Results:** The Library interlibrary-loaned several books about Ohio and most of them were checked out, along with most of the Library's collection on Ohio. The Library plans to continue programming aimed at homeschooling families. Some programs that are now in the planning stage include a first aid demonstration and a black history month program. Staff is considering turning the Karamu program into a series. Even though there was a smaller attendance for this program, it was a fun learning experience for the children and their parents.

### **Ida Rupp Public Library**

Project Coordinator: Jennifer Burch

Federal Ward: \$2,155

**Project Purpose:** The Ida Rupp Public Library enjoys strong partnerships with the local school systems in their service area. In 2009, over 17,000 children participated in library programs, in either the public library or their schools. Bataan Elementary classrooms are visited individually for a half hour story time monthly by the public library children's librarian. Jefferson Elementary, Port Clinton Middle School and Immaculate Conception School classes come to the public library on a monthly/bi-monthly basis. Danbury Local School District is visited by the library monthly. The Erie Islands branch of the public library is located in the Put-In-Bay School. This project allowed the Ida Rupp Public Library to provide the opportunity for area students to meet a local author. Denise Fleming visited the public library in March 2011.

**Project Activities/Methods:** Prior to the Denise Fleming visit, the children's librarian focused the school visits on Denise Fleming's books. The preschools listened to "The First Day of Winter," "Buster," "Beetle Bop," "Mamma Cat has Three Kittens," and "The Cow who Clucked." Denise Fleming visited the Ida Rupp Public Library and spent her first hour speaking to six classes of first graders from Bataan Elementary. Using a PowerPoint, she shared what inspires her writing such as nature and animals, how she produces her artwork using pulp painting along with art projects to do at home, and she shared tidbits from her stories. Using her book, "In the Tall, Tall Grass," students participated in body movement making the story come to life. With the remaining minutes, she demonstrated different ways of drawing faces by adjusting the eyes, nose and mouth to change the age of the face. Ms. Fleming did the same presentation to the kindergarten through fourth grade classes at Danbury Elementary (ten classes) and then at the Ida Rupp Public Library in the evening. The evening presentation was videotaped for the Erie Islands Branch. Following the evening program, Ms. Fleming signed books. Each of the schools was presented with a signed copy of the Choose to Read Ohio book, "The First Day of Winter." Federal and local funds were used for the speaker honorarium.

**Project Outputs:** A total of 316 children participated in one of the sessions conducted by Denise Fleming. Copies of two of Denise Fleming's books were given to each of the participating schools. The public library purchased new copies of six Denise

Fleming titles for the main library and for the branch. These were purchased outside of the grant.

**Project Outcomes:** Several teachers responded to follow-up questions and indicated that many of their students now desired to be authors and/or illustrators. Students learned a new art technique, pulp painting, with the art teacher at Danbury Elementary. This visit broadened the horizons of students who would otherwise not have been able to listen to and learn from a renowned author and illustrator.

### **Mansfield-Richland County Public Library**

Project Coordinator: Diane Tobias

Federal Award: \$1,612

**Project Purpose:** A small festival centered around the book "B is for Buckeye: an Ohio Alphabet" was created for families in the Mansfield area to encourage reading, highlight Ohio history and recreation, and give an opportunity for creative expression through art and crafts. "B is for Buckeye: an Ohio Alphabet," written by local author Marcia Schonberg, was chosen because it incorporates literacy (particularly letter knowledge), social studies (Ohio History) and art, all of which make the book attractive not only to the schools, but to people of all ages. All of these qualities allowed the Mansfield/ Richland County community to come together in an intergenerational reading experience.

**Project Activities/Methods:** Marcia Schonberg, Ellen Ford, Gorman Nature Center and Tim McKee were contacted and asked to present at the festival. Books were purchased from BWI and book discussion guides were copied from the Choose to Read Ohio website and Sleeping Bear Press. Letters were sent to school principals describing the program and letting them know that their school would be receiving a book. Every elementary and intermediate school library in the Mansfield/Richland County Public Library service area received a copy of the book "B is for Buckeye" and book discussion guidelines for use in the classroom and school library. Staff also included a link to Marcia Schonberg's website for use with the book. They were also given information about the contest for children in which they would take a letter of the alphabet and create something representing Ohio. Area organizations were sent letters inviting them to exhibit at the festival. Ten exhibitors agreed, including museums, parks, the Carrousel, an alpaca ranch, The Renaissance, and stores. Posters, fliers, bookmarks, a web site, contest entry forms, and schedules for the festival were created and distributed through the schools and local organizations. A press release was sent to local media. A display of books about Ohio and by Ohio authors was set up in the Children's Department for a month before the festival. A Choose to Read Ohio poster and other Choose to Read Ohio books were highlighted as well. A storytime bag was assembled and several storytimes were presented in local preschools, Head Start, and a special needs class in one elementary school using "B is for Buckeye" and other

books related to Ohio. Contest entries were accepted at all library locations and judged by library staff who were not involved in planning the festival. The winners in each category were notified and the entries were put on display. The B is for Buckeye Festival was held on May 7, 2011 from 10:00 AM - 2:30 PM. Activities during the festival were: 10 – 10:30 AM Registration and Browsing of Exhibits; 10:30 - 11:30 AM Keynote Address; 11:30 AM – 12:15 PM; Breakout Sessions (Gorman Nature Center brought and talked about several animals that are native to Ohio; Tim McKee, local historian, discussed and showed several of the short films that he wrote and produced about the Mansfield/Richland County area; Marcia Schonberg, local author, facilitated a discussion of her book "B is for Buckeye," in a smaller setting, which allowed for more audience participation); 12:15 – 1:15 PM Lunch on your own; 1:15 – 2:00 PM Ellen Ford "Folk Life Artist" Performance. Ellen told stories, sang and played the dulcimer and guitar; 2:00 – 2:30 PM Book Signing by Marcia Schonberg. "B is for Buckeye" and other books by Marcia Schonberg and other local authors were available for sale through a display provided by Main Street Books of Mansfield. Exhibits for browsing were available throughout the day for both festival participants and other library customers. A craft station was available in the Children's Department where children could make a lady bug and other crafts and get their faces painted with Ohio symbols. Books were on display, including the other 2011 CTRO titles, along with books featuring Ohio authors. Overall, the B is for Buckeye Festival was a success. It was a good day for families who were able to have fun together, learn about Ohio, and get some ideas for recreation later in the year. Federal and local funds were used for speaker honorariums, art and craft supplies and 50 copies of "B is for Buckeye."

**Project Outputs:** 50 books were purchased, 31 of which were distributed to local schools and the rest were distributed among the 9 library locations to be available to all. 127 people attended the festival on May 7. 25 children entered the contest. 12 storytimes were held, attended by 335 children. Craft materials were purchased to create 50 of each of 3 crafts (ladybug, cardinal, and carnation). Ten organizations exhibited at the festival. Two displays were set up in the library highlighting Choose to Read Ohio books and other Ohio books.

**Project Outcomes:** Children and parents who attended the festival had a place to gather and enjoy a variety of programs, displays and activities that were fun and creative. They learned about Ohio history, animals and places they could go for recreation. Exhibitors had the opportunity to showcase their organizations and reach other parts of the local population. One new museum was able to recruit volunteers and get information to make later contacts. There was good collaboration between the library and local schools. The whole community came together to celebrate Mansfield, Richland County, and Ohio. Richland Academy School for Excellence is a new charter school within walking distance of the main library. Library staff was able to establish a nice rapport with the students and staff. The festival

provided an opportunity for the children's staff of the library's nine locations to come together and work on a project in a fun atmosphere that had benefits throughout the county.

**Other Results:** Area schools that received the books and activity guides used them to tie in with Ohio History curriculum. One school used the contest idea and had students create projects using letters of the alphabet for their Ohio study in May. Letter projects were displayed all over their school, although they did not enter the Library's contest. For some schools this was their only new book in the school library this year. The art teacher from Richland Academy for Excellence worked with her students to create papier-mâché letters representing one letter from the book and entered the contest. Entries were very elaborate and creative. Foundation Academy said that "B is for Buckeye" was used for the fourth grade classrooms as it fits the content standards. It was also used as a K-3 read-aloud, and the art teacher used it as a reference for several projects.

**Anecdotal Info:** Several parents and children asked if we were doing this again next year. One asked if we were doing "C" next year and so on. Both Marcia Schonberg and Ellen Ford enjoyed being at the Festival. Marcia said she was honored that we were doing a festival around her book. From Ellen: "I want to thank you for inviting me to be a part of a very creative program. I so enjoyed meeting a fellow author and hearing her presentation. You and the staff went to a lot of effort to create such an interesting atmosphere in the library. It was bright, colorful and fit the theme so well." One exhibitor wrote: "We were excited because we felt like we reached a new demographic that isn't normally aware of our programs, and were able to give them info on our educational offerings and how they can become involved."

### **Mary L. Cook Public Library**

Project Coordinator: Linda Swartzel

Federal Award: \$5,325

**Project Purpose:** The Mary L. Cook Public Library implemented the Choose to Read Ohio programming to promote Ohio authors, provide insight into Ohio's involvement in the Civil War, and to highlight the library and local history resources. To coincide with the sesquicentennial of the American Civil War, the library chose the titles "The Lost Quilter," "Coal Black Horse," and "The Brothers' War: Civil War Voices in Verse." The use of these titles allowed the library to focus programming on all age groups, with subjects appealing to both male and female patrons.

**Project Activities/Methods:** Programming began in January with a Community Read of Jennifer Chiaverini's "The Lost Quilter." The adult book club read and discussed the selection. The library featured a large display of quilts from the Waynesville area. The Waynesville Quilters began to craft lap quilts for patients in the Dayton VA hospital,

linking the significance of quilts and the origination of national veterans care with the Civil War period. For children grades 1 through 5, after-school craft programs focused on designing and constructing quilt squares and an American Girl Tea Party was held. At the party, girls made sachets, jumped rope and played a "feather game," and saw an old ice cream churn. The library celebrated National Poetry month in April, using J. Patrick Lewis' "The Brothers' War: Civil War Voices in Verse." A poetry workshop met weekly in April, followed by a poetry contest. Prizes were awarded for Adult, High School, Middle School, and Elementary entries. An entire high school English class participated as a culmination of their poetry unit. All entries were bound and displayed, with two copies entered into the library collection. Robert Olmstead, author of "Coal Black Horse," visited in April to explore the themes in his work. The Warren County Historical Society provided a display of weapons, photos, pins, etc. from the Civil War era. In May, the library revisited "The Brothers' War" for National Photography Month. An Ohio Humanities Council speaker portrayed Matthew Brady. A local photographer shared tips and techniques in taking photographs and announced the photography contest. The Museum at the Friends' Home provided a display of vintage cameras. Staff delivered the completed lap quilts to the VA Medical Center in Dayton in honor of Memorial Day. In August, winners of the photography contest were announced. All photos were displayed at the library and a reception was held to announce the winners. The culminating event was "Civil War Day" which focused on medicine, music, provisions, and the end of the war. Stations were set up for: Warren County Master Gardeners "Herbs of the Era" display; children's crafts designing personal flags and building drums; and artist Lou Knapp's "Gettysburg Series" (pencil sketches of historical monuments). A Library board member created and donated a "Secondhand Clothes" quilt (made with Civil War period reproduction fabrics) for the library to raffle. An Ohio Humanities Speaker discussed "Medical Advancements of the Civil War." Dr. Bernard Berks of Germantown, Ohio provided a wonderfully macabre display of bone saws, scarificators, fleams, extracted bullets, leech bowls, and other medical supplies of the Civil War period. Music on instruments from the era was performed in the gazebo at the library park; the Readers Theatre again performed "We've Come So Far;" followed by a President Lincoln impersonator sharing stories and ending his performance with the Gettysburg Address. A local youth, enthused by performing in the Readers Theatre, purchased his own Union soldier uniform and played Taps on his trumpet to close out the day and the grant programming season. All titles are now available individually or as book club collections to other Ohio libraries. Federal funds were used for speaker honorariums and to purchase books. Staff salaries represent the in-kind contribution.

**Project Outputs:** The program season boasted 887 program attendees; 695 circulations of CTRO and related titles; 28 programs; 8 displays; 9 quilts for VA residents created and delivered; 50 entries in the poetry contest; 81 entries in the photography contest; 4 performances of a new play; a raffle of a beautiful quilt pieced

from reproduction fabric; and 2 presentations about the CTRO Grant experience at the 2011 Ohio Historical Alliance annual meeting and the 2011 Ohio Library Council Convention & Expo. The library purchased 20 copies of "The Lost Quilter" (and one audio recording), 20 copies of "Coal Black Horse," and 10 copies of "The Brothers' War," as well as numerous complementary books, DVDs and recorded books. Staff was pleased to display the handiwork of the Waynesville Middle School's Social Studies class documenting the events leading to the Civil War. The persons-served number does not include the many visitors who attended the various displays since the library does not have a method for recording those visitors. Bookmarks and posters promoted the featured titles and authors, activities, and speakers for the grant period and were available across the region in local business and organization establishments.

**Project Outcomes:** Staff feels the diverse, quality programming was effective in promoting Ohio authors, providing insight into Ohio's involvement in the Civil War, and in highlighting the library and local history resources. The CTRO grant allowed the library to link nationally-known authors to patrons and visitors from all over Ohio. The author visit with Jennifer Chiaverini was one of the largest events the library has ever hosted, with 140 attendees from all across Ohio. The programming helped educate and entertain attendees, stimulated ideas and creativity, and generated excitement in the community. In addition to participating in book discussion groups, various members of the community jumped on the bandwagon and wrote a play, joined in performing the play at the library and local nursing home, shared their entries in the poetry contest, contributed to an overwhelmingly well-received photography contest, and created a Civil War reproduction quilt. With such great response, the library plans for the poetry and photography contests to become annual events. The many partners helped to highlight the wealth and diversity of resources available in our area.

**Other Results:** The library was very pleased with the number of advertisements about library events that appeared in local newspapers. Although the library purchased advertisements in the Dayton Daily newspaper and on Cincinnati Public Radio and WYSO in the beginning of the year, they found that the project was receiving a lot of free press also. There were multiple announcements in the Dayton Daily News local section, the Western Star, and the Dayton City Paper, as well as through cross-promotion with the Waynesville Heritage Council's Civil War Trail flyer. While staff gathered data on attendance and participation for the grant programming, they did not provide and gather surveys. Staff found that patrons were not receptive to the process and therefore did not force the issue. Many patrons did share their appreciation of the programs presented and staff feels the reflection in attendance provides a valuable measure of our success. In the future, the library would like to explore other means of obtaining suggestions and comments from the patrons – perhaps by recording verbal impressions or utilizing a discussion session at the end of each program.

**Anecdotal Info:** In recognition and thanks to veterans, the library initiated a project to make and deliver lap quilts to the local VA hospital. The Waynesville Quilters, along with members of the community, completed nine lap quilts. One member of the Quilt group has a daughter who is the activity coordinator in the nursing home portion of the Hospital. She selected nine patients to receive the quilts. Each of these men calls the facility their home. The Library Director and a staff member spent an afternoon visiting with the veterans and presenting the quilts. It was an inspiring afternoon. Staff later found out that one of the men who received a quilt passed away two days later. In the week prior to the presentation about "Medical Advancements during the Civil War," the library displayed authentic medical instruments that had been carried by Civil War surgeons. Dr. Bernard Burks of Germantown, Ohio has an extensive collection of instruments that he loaned to the library. Items included glass leech jars that the surgeon would have used on the battlefield and a large ceramic jar that would have been used to transport the leeches; several surgical sets that contained saws of different sizes to be used in amputations; cupping glasses to draw up skin for easier bloodletting; and a scarificator, an instrument that could make a dozen incisions to bleed patients. Dr. Berks also loaned the library a variety of items that would be used for the convalescent soldier: broth feeders, soft food feeders, and even a half teaspoon, that was literally a spoon that had been cut in half vertically. All of these items served as a visual reminder of how much medicine has advanced in the last 150 years.

**Exemplary Reason:** Choose to Read Ohio is a hallmark project of the State Library of Ohio and this project exemplifies the breadth of programming and community involvement that a library can use with CTRO. It also supports the statewide project Civil War 150 <http://www.ohiocivilwar150.org/>. This CTRO project served as the Mary L. Cook Public Library's programming inspiration for 2011 with Civil War programming (both CTRO and non-CTRO programming) running from January through September. The Library Director commented, "The Civil War is one of the most important times in American history." The Library used the various CTRO Civil War titles to explore this period of history. The three titles selected ("The Lost Quilter," "Coal Black Horse," and "The Brothers' Civil War: Civil War Voices in Verse") tied strongly to Waynesville/Warren County's historical significance as a Quaker community and participation in the anti-slavery movement. The Youth Services Coordinator emphasized that, "We are hoping to encourage people to read together and read authors with connections to the community and the state." In large part because of the community reads and author visits, and the displays at the library, the library was designated a site on the Warren County Civil War Trail. The project included a wide range of partners, including the Heritage Advisory Council of Warren County, Waynesville Quilters, the Warren County Historical Society, Ohio Valley Quilters Guild, the Museum at the Friends' Home, The Glendower Museum, the Ohio Historical Society, the Ohio Humanities Council, and the Wayne Local Schools. These partnerships and the programming served as a vehicle for

community-building, while paving the way for future collaborations with those who contributed to the success of the project. These partnerships also illustrate how libraries and museums can and should partner on programs and projects of mutual interest. A local resident, inspired by the grant programming, wrote a play called "We've Come So Far." Interspersed with the poetry of John Greenleaf Whittier, Thomas Hardy, and Paul Laurence Dunbar, this Readers Theatre presentation by the Mary L. Cook Library Not Ready for Prime Time Players tells the story of the country's history that inevitably led to the Civil War. Performances were held at the library, Quaker Heights Nursing Home, and again prior to the author visit with Jennifer Chiaverini. The Jennifer Chiaverini visit was probably the most successful the library has ever had, with attendees from all over the state. The library rented the community room at the local nursing home to host the event. Many of the attendees also continued on to visit the Museum at the Friends' Home to lend their hands to the quilt they had set up and then went on to the library to see the quilt show. Displays at the library supplied by various museums, quilting groups and the Warren County Historical Society have been popular and brought non-users into the library. Additionally, the quilt project shows how libraries can reach out and be a hub in the community

### **Westerville Public Library**

Project Coordinator: Marisa Glaviano

Federal Amount: \$2,490

**Project Purpose:** The Westerville Public Library chose four titles for children ages 0-8 to coincide with their seasonal programming and to spotlight the month of April as a community celebration of Ohio authors for children. The library selected: "The Giant of Seville: A 'Tall' Tale Based on a True Story," "B is for Buckeye," "Sleep, Big Bear, Sleep," and "Otis." The purpose of this project was to engage pre-readers in activities to introduce vocabulary and encourage early literacy skills, narrative skills, and phonological awareness, to foster a love of reading and introduce children pre-readers through upper elementary age to new books and local Ohio authors. To support local preschool and elementary curricula, books by Choose to Read Ohio authors were purchased for circulation.

**Project Activities/Methods:** The Bookworms: Choose to Read Ohio Education program was carried out as envisioned by the library staff. Each Monday in April a group of 20 children ages 4-6 met to discuss the week's book and participate in extension/exploration activities. Examples of extension activities incorporated during the four week program included: "Otis" inspired tractor math in which the children counted/calculated the number of wheels, steps, and steering wheels in one, two, three and four tractors; brainstorming ideas for new inventions after being inspired by the numerous Ohio inventors and inventions mentioned in "B is for Buckeye;" and comparing the height of the students to a

life-sized cut out of Captain Martin van Luren Bates, otherwise known as "The Giant of Seville." The Library also purchased a large laminated wall map and marked locations significant to the programs. For example, the hometowns of each of the authors and/or illustrators as well as many of the locations mentioned in "B is for Buckeye" were marked. At the end of the session the children reviewed the map and relived the virtual trip of Ohio. Will Hillenbrand visited the library on April 18th and was at the library the entire day. He participated in two school visits in the morning, hosted the Bookworms in the afternoon, and provided a family author meet and greet at the Library in the evening. The Library created "little illustrator" kits to hand out at the evening author event, which included materials provided by Mr. Hillenbrand, coloring sheets, and a box of crayons for each attendee. The Library created circulating book kits for use by teachers and pre-school centers. Each kit consists of 10 copies of the book in a special book kit bag, with supporting materials for book discussions and for curriculum support. Federal funds were used for the speaker honorarium and for copies of the CTRO titles for use in book kits. The in-kind contribution of \$12 was due to increased costs of books.

**Project Outputs:** Twenty copies of each of the books used for the Bookworm Bookclub were purchased for the library's circulating collection and for four book kits. Twenty children attended each of three Bookworms Bookclub sessions for four consecutive weeks. Thirty-eight children and their families attended the author event at the Library. Two author sessions were held at the Handy Elementary School with 150 children attending each session.

**Project Outcomes:** Mr. Hillenbrand's visits were entertaining and inspiring. He was engaging, inspiring, and fun. Everyone, regardless of age, walked away from the program happy and motivated. The Mayor of Westerville issued a proclamation proclaiming April 18, 2011 as Ohio Authors for Children's Day and encouraged families to go to the Westerville Public Library to "meet one of the many talented authors from the Buckeye state and discover ways that children, too, can write and illustrate their own creations."

### **Wood County District Public Library**

Project Coordinator: Maria Simon

Federal Award: \$1,711

**Project Purpose:** The Wood County District Public Library selected the title "Sleep, Big Bear, Sleep," illustrated by Will Hillenbrand, for its Choose to Read Ohio (CTRO) title. Staff felt this was an ideal book to share with preschoolers, their teachers and their families for its playful appeal to all ages. This book is valuable because it exemplifies all six early literacy skills.

**Project Activities/Methods:** The primary event of the project was a visit by Will Hillenbrand. During the morning, Mr. Hillenbrand presented a lecture at Bowling Green State University for pre-service teachers at the Child Development Center. In the afternoon, he talked at an

elementary school assembly for K-3rd graders. In the evening, Mr. Hillenbrand held a program at the library open to the public, with an emphasis on pre-school children and their parents. Prior to the visit, a complimentary copy of "Sleep, Big Bear, Sleep" was provided to classrooms and the library media center at Conneaut Elementary School and to 12 area preschools. These preschools partner with the library and receive outreach storytime provided by the Wood County District Public Library children's librarian. The children's librarian featured "Sleep, Big Bear, Sleep" and other Will Hillenbrand titles in her storytimes prior to the author's visit. Each preschool also created artwork inspired by the book. An art show was created at the library with works from over a dozen daycares and preschools. This encouraged the centers to be creative and to look closely and uniquely at art. Additionally, an expanded CTRO toolkit was created for use by preschool teachers and parents. Federal funds were used toward the honorarium of Will Hillenbrand.

**Project Outputs:** Twenty-seven copies of "Sleep, Big Bear, Sleep" were purchased and distributed: three for the public library, twelve for local preschools, eleven for Conneaut Elementary, and one for BGSU Curriculum Resources Center. A total of 875 unique individuals participated in one or more of Will Hillenbrand's talks or attended the librarian's storytime at a preschool.

**Project Outcomes:** Through this project, the library developed more meaningful and enthusiastic relationships with the centers, teachers, students and parents. Staff also developed a more meaningful and appreciative relationship with the local elementary school and its teachers and families. The project also touched and influenced over 75 college students and encouraged them to consider creative approaches to teaching. The project highlighted library relationships and outreach with all of the daycares and preschools, demonstrating the reach of the public library in the community. This project promoted literacy and the sharing of books and also demonstrated numerous ways to expand and develop activities and conversations about picture book art.

**Other Results:** The library has continued friendly contact and sharing with Will Hillenbrand. He has been incredibly generous with the library. One outcome not at all anticipated was that he shared his artwork and a great deal of additional information with staff as they were putting together the first promotional magazine advertising the library – the Connect Family Magazine. His bear was featured on the cover in February one month following his visit. This image and the quality of his work and contributions really made the magazine and set up its reputation! This magazine now continues to sell the library and its services. The magazine is going into its fourth issue and staff have had Denise Fleming as well as Nick Bruel grace the covers and offer interviews. Staff believes the magazine's success is due to Mr. Hillenbrand. The project coordinator was asked to speak at the Ohio Library Council convention about the project.

**Anecdotal Info:** One evening, the project coordinator was stopped by a mom with her young daughter. She just had to say how much the library meant to her. She said that she and her daughter come

at least twice a week now and that it means the world to them. They had never been there before, but her daughter said an illustrator had come to her school and said that they had to go to the library that night. The mom told me she had no idea the fun they could have at the library and all that they could do! Will Hillenbrand was also incredibly encouraging to library staff, especially one colleague who is an artist herself. Mr. Hillenbrand still talks about her jeep constructed from green plastic storage containers that promoted his book and visit. In looking at photos from the evening event, the project coordinator commented, "My favorite photo is actually one of my entire staff, myself and Will. I appreciate our smiles and how this experience really pulled us together as a group. We were all so proud of our work and the efforts each of us made to share Will and his work with our patrons."