

MD 40 Council Meeting

New Mexico Lions Crane Reading Foundation

Report

September 6, 2008

The NM Lions Crane Reading Program is an integrated program that combines both the latest computer technology and other proven activities. It includes seven key components.

- Adjustment of desk height
- Use of templates
- Eye examinations and prescription lenses
- Development of gross motor skills
- Reading practice using computer programs
- Writing composition
- Allergies

Summary of Activities

1. The NMLCRF operates a successful Reading Laboratory at the Dream Center in Las Cruces. The Dream Center is a 501c3 facility which distributes USDA commodities to needy residents and offers recreational and entertainment opportunities for children from a disadvantaged neighborhood. NMLCRF operates a successful Reading Lab at the Dream Center. The activities at the Reading Lab include vision screening, template training, gross motor skill development and computer reading practice. The Dream Center will have a fully equipped optometric office and be able to provide eye exams for students and parents. Lion Allen Crane and Lion Eldon Steelman are conducting an eye screening/eye examination session for approximately 10 Las Cruces students at the Dream Center on Saturday September 6, 2008. The eye examinations will be conducted by Dr. Mike English
2. For information on how to set up a Lions Crane Reading Program in your community, please contact either Lion Allen Crane (575-373-0561; areadingpro@aol.com), Lion Eldon Steelman (575-373-2912; esteelman@zianet.com), Lion John Miller (575-521-4836; pvi2@comcast.net), or Lion George Mulholland (575-526-3708; georgemulholland@comcast.net). The criteria for starting LCRP in a community are
 - Contact any of the above mentioned officers
 - Group must have at least 5 computers.

- Arrange to attend training in Las Cruces
 - Arrange to have software installed by McComas and Associates
3. Starting in Fall 2008, The Dream Center Reading Lab will become a demonstration center where educators, parents, and other interested persons can see the program in action Monday through Thursday during the school year and for special programs during the summer months. On Fridays and Saturdays, the reading center will be used as a Training Center and Certification Center for educators, parents, Lions, and others to become certified in the NMLCRF approach to literacy. The goal of these efforts is to demonstrate the value of the Reading Program and lead schools to adopt the program.
 4. During this past summer, Allen and Virginia Crane mentored over 160 students in our first annual Summer Reading Camp. The Camp was very successful with most students achieving significant improvement in their reading skills. Three students who were going to be retained in grade made enough progress during our summer sessions that they will advance to the next grade! Lion Allen Crane has compiled most of the data on the following spreadsheet and is shown in the Appendix.
 5. NMLCRF provided computers, software and training to the High Rolls-Mt. Park Lions Club for a reading lab at their community center. Kevin Poindexter, son of the club president, was one who benefited significantly from this reading lab. An article describing the program appeared in the September 2008 Lions Roar.
 6. The Los Leones de Mesilla Lions Club and the NMLCRF have received permission from the Mesilla Board of Trustees to organize an eye screening, eye examination facility and Reading Laboratory at the Mesilla Community Center.
 7. Lion Eldon Steelman prepared and submitted proposals to the Healthcare Foundation of Southern NM and to El Paso Electric. The proposal to the Healthcare Foundation was not funded. However, we received \$4500 from El Paso Electric to conduct eye screenings and eye examinations for 6 days at Gadsden High School.
 8. The NMLCRF has conducted eye screenings in Dr. Joan Kalkwarf's Reading Laboratory at Gadsden High School during the past two school years. Dr. M. English, a Las Cruces optometrist, conducts eye examinations for students needing glasses. The eye glasses and Dr. English's fee are provided by NMLCRF through grants received from the N.M. Community Foundation and El Paso Electric. Dr. Kalkwarf has assembled the following information for our use. During the 2006-7 school year, 105 pairs of glasses and 125 eye exams were provided to GHS students; for the 2007-08 school year, as of April 30, 2008, over 150 pairs of glasses have been dispensed and over 130 eye exams provided. However, over 180 GHS students remain who exhibit symptoms of vision deficiencies and need to see an optometrist. The Fall program started on

September 4, 2008. Approximately 15 students were examined – all of whom needed glasses. Several of the students had 20/16 vision in both eyes but still needed glasses for reading.

9. Lion Allen Crane distributed results for three students using Lexia and seven students using Mindplay's new Fluent Reading Trainer to the Operations Group. One fifth grade girl spent 16 hours on Lexia and progressed from 2.5 grade level efficiency to 10.6. Her comprehension improved from 70% to 100% while her regressions per 100 words dropped from 25 to 8. A fifth grader who spent 6 hours and 6 minutes on Fluent Reading Trainer went from 212 words per minute with 60% comprehension to 1,000+ words per minute with 100% comprehension. A fourth grade student had gone from 3rd grade (145 WPM) to 7th grade after 2 weeks and a total of 8 hours in the Reading Lab. These results are a tribute to the Cranes dedication and to their skill with reading education
10. Lion Allen Crane purchased four 40 gig hard drives and Marcos Torres installed both the hardware and software so that 12 Pentium 4 computers are now ready to go to Gadsden Middle School
11. Michael Swickard from McComas and Associates has installed Lexia and Reading Plus at Carlsbad, Eunice, Lovington, Artesia, Silver City, and some limited software at Roswell. Thus, all the locations have some aspects of the LCRP. However, none of these schools have the vision care phase of the program.
12. The NMLCRF Operations Group continues to meet every Tuesday at 1:30PM in the Character Kids Dream Center.