Quarterly Report – August 1, 2009

Name and address of reporting institution:  
Spanish Peaks Library District  
415 Walsen Ave.  
Walsenburg, CO  81089

Project Title:  Spanish Peaks Library Health & Wellness Initiative

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Reporting Period start date:  May 1, 2009  
Reporting Period end date:  August 1, 2009

Publicity:  
The Library received a great deal of publicity during the end of this quarter because we  
opened a beautiful new facility in an historic school building; grand opening activities  
took place June 26-28.  The Librarian’s regular column written at the end of July  
included an invitation to view the anatomical models now on display at the “health  
information station” however, it was not published until August 6, 2009.

Outreach:  
We have continued to mention the health information station at community meetings.  
The hospital outreach clinic staff have come a couple of times and left material and  
offered health screenings.

Other accomplishments:  
The Library District total population is less than 6500 people and with many volunteers  
and 8 staff members we moved our entire library out of a small 1500 sq. ft. house to a  
9700 sq. ft. rehabilitated building.  The entire quarter was spent repainting and  
assembling shelving, packing boxes, planning layouts, etc., all without professional  
assistance.  On June 24, two days before opening, the IT director drove to the next largest  
town and purchased a 40” LCD HDTV for the health station.  It took us the rest of the  
quarter to purchase additional equipment for the project.  
Although not a part of this grant, the Library received a donation of twenty ‘gently used’  
computers to set up a computer training lab during this quarter as well.  At some point in  
the future we would like to offer free classes specifically to teach people how to find  
reliable health information on-line.

Target audience:  
Our target audience is the entire population of the area; this includes communities outside  
of the library district where residents read local newspapers, shop or work in Walsenburg,  
and watch the local cable TV station.
**Goals, Outcomes, Objectives:**
Our major difficulty this quarter was finding the time to purchase all of the equipment and materials necessary to get the health station up and running. Staffing in the library and the bi-county health department fluctuates and adds to the job duties of remaining staff. We were able to order the equipment and the anatomical models before the end of the quarter.

**Evaluation:**
With the professional assistance of Betsy Kelly, Washington University School of Medicine, our survey was rewritten. Because the activities have not begun, the surveys have not yet been used.

**Impacts and Observations:**
Other health professionals in the community are excited about what we are proposing to do for the public with the health station. We are all so busy with our individual agencies and numerous tasks we do not coordinate our activities as much as we would like.

**Planned Activities:**
Our plan is to have health videos playing during the day on the large screen TV in the center of the new library. The anatomical models will be available as will various health materials, books, pamphlets, etc. As staff are asked questions, or see patrons using the health station, they will encourage participants to complete the survey and be counted.
Tech For All @ your local Library!

By Jaye Sudar

I spent last Thursday at the Rose Keating, director of Tech For All, the organization from Denver which as provided 25 computers for the Spanish Peaks Library. Tech For All is a nonprofit that collects computers, upgrades them and then donates them to individuals or groups in the community. Their goal is to give computers to those who need them so that they can learn the skills vital in tech oriented world. As of last Thursday, over 2,034 computers had been given away.

Entering the conference room was a shock. Computers were on every table, cords crisscrossed the floor and Rose Keating was moving from computer to computer, setting them all up. On the wall was a sign that read:

"WE ARE PROUD TO ANNOUNCE... We have a one year agreement to loan 25 computers to the Spanish Peaks Public Library in Walsenburg, CO a project close to the hearts of our benefactors, Steve & Reba Savageau. The Library did not have the funds to acquire these computers this year. At the end of the year, the computers will go to qualifying recipients in Walsenburg."

Rose had arrived with the computers on Wednesday, navigating the horrendous hailstorm that pelted 1-25. She and a handful of volunteers brought them in and did an initial set up that evening. A few had gotten wet, and were left to dry.

Thursday, Dan Harper of Lobo Savvy Technologies was on hand to help with system updates, software loading and general inspection of the computers. My original mission was to get the story on the computers. However, Rose’s infectious enthusiasm for technology and helping people soon had me cleaning computers and working to set up the network needed to begin the hours of updates necessary for the computers.

The challenge of connecting 25 computers to the library’s network was accomplished by scrounging routers and a spiderwire like black, blue, gray and pink cable. After plugging in the computers in, and making sure they worked, the task of updates and installation began.

By 10 pm, we were nearly done. Rose and Monica stayed to finish up the last few computers. Twelve hours of effort provided 23 computers fit for service at the library. The benefit for the community will be a computer lab capable of teaching computer classes. Lobo Savvy is partnering with the Spanish Peaks Library to provide a series of basic computer classes starting in mid-August. However, none of this would have been possible without the computers from Tech For All.

This computer lab was the culmination of 24 volunteers, over 170 hours, $2,694.48, and 328 miles on O’Blue, Rose’s truck. For more information on Tech For All, check out their website: www.denvertechforall.org/index.htm.