

## Athena Public Library ALSP 2016-17

**Mission Statement:** The Athena Public Library recognizes the importance of its role in providing prevalent and current educational, recreational, and reference materials within a welcoming environment for the people of the Athena area. We are committed to selecting, organizing, and managing resources to insure that the public has free access to both printed materials and equipment to access the internet and other software for basic computer use to meet their needs.

**Vision Statement:** The Athena Public Library seeks to promote the continuing development of knowledge, independence, education, intellect, and cultural information through printed and electronic resources.

### **Priority #1:** Early Childhood Program:

Focused on early childhood literacy that gets children ready to learn.

Objectives: (R2R grant has been the main funding for books and materials.)

- Continue pre-school story time & ABC Preschool monthly visits (Sept.-May)
- Teach the 6 early literacy skills, use WA Learning materials, and discuss new information and statistics as I learn/hear them.
- Take pictures and submit to the local newspapers, UCSLD and city newsletters
- One sensory workshop for the public
- Involve the fence project. This entails laminating whole storybooks and posting them on the fence that is along the walking path to and from the elementary school. Many adults pushing children in strollers use this same route. Another story book will be posted in the window of a business for walkers to read as well. Minimum of 6 books posted in public places.
- Research non-subscription (free) early childhood apps to add to our website
- Use Take-Off Program services
- Awe and kids' tablet available at the desk

Outcomes:

- Educate the adults about early literacy skills while teaching them to the children
- Get reading/educational materials out of the library and into areas where more people will see, pause, converse, and read to their children
- Encourage use of technology for learning
- Observe/notate growth in skills in pre-school children that attend story time regularly, including ABC Preschool. (Sitting and listening to a whole story is a skill.)
- Stable commitment to early literacy programming

**Priority #3: Adult Programs:**

Focused on continuing education programs, enhancement of economic viability, and lifelong learning. Includes outreach to seniors and the homebound.

Objectives:

- Find leader for adult book club
- Work with Learning Express to help job seekers
- Partnering with LEO ArtPlace and ALFA (Athena Library Friends Assoc.) to provide a minimum of 2 adult programs involving speaker/presenter or an educational activity
- Investigate "Maker-spaces" activities
- Consider homebound services for seniors
- Have a series of genealogy classes
- Work with numerous devices to aid patrons using Library2Go

Outcome: All of the above are accomplished, resulting in citizens participating and recognizing services and educational opportunities available through their library.

**Priority #7: Effective Library Board:**

Focused on a committed and effective board, actively engaged in the governance and planning for the library.

Objectives:

- Update Board binders
- Investigate State Library's new Library Trustees pamphlet
- Write a job description for board members
- Review mission and vision
- More board members attend library programs

Outcome: Successfully completing all four objectives will result in better-trained, working board members.

Athena Public Library

Carrie Bremer, Director

The priorities chosen are the last three of the nine original in this third year of the cycle.

The City of Athena works with the premise that UCSLD funds are always spent first, and the city's contribution is spent last; unspent money is carried over. The district contributes approximately \$41,000. \$66,000 is budgeted for staff for 2016-2017. The district funds are integrated with city general funds into the budget with one goal in mind...receiving cooperation from the city to allow enough funds to continue our mission and vision. The nine priorities are important and we need to consciously include them and can do most with little money; however, utilities, paid staff, electronic equipment, and materials & supplies are what makes our libraries tick. With the aid of the district funding, all of us are still ticking. The district isn't just a funding source; it is a resource that keeps us from stalemating by providing progressive ideas, networking directors, and building our communities with cooperation among the board, the district coordinator, the library directors, and our cities.

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