

Guys Read, Gals Read
Attachment To “Lend A Hand” Application
For 2023

Question #1:

Our mission is to stimulate a genuine interest in reading in children by making reading fun. In fact, most boys and many girls stop reading for fun around the 4th grade. One of the greatest indicators of future success in school, work, and life is if students read for pleasure. Our core goal is that every child should be helped to be successful in school and in life through improved literary skills.

Our program is built on having adult role models go into the elementary schools of the Borough School District and read exciting books to 4th graders during lunch time. Part of our program includes purchasing books that are fun to read and then donating three copies of each book to each school library. This program accomplishes two things: First the kids have fun being read to, and second, we show that “it’s cool” to read, as the men and women role models themselves are having fun reading the books.

Because of the Covid-19 pandemic during the past two school years, we were reading these fun books to the 4th graders on-line. We developed an exciting platform with our website, in coordination with the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District, to reach the children in a really fun way. However, this school year we are back in the schools reading fun books to 4th graders just as we had done for 14 years. And the kids are thrilled.

Question #2:

An overarching goal of our program is that every child should be helped to be successful in school and in life through improved literary skills. This overarching goal aligns with the Coop’s mission of working for health and sustainability and its values of service, sustainability and social responsibility. By helping children invest in reading and gain better reading skills, we are helping them to better learn, access information, be more open and knowledgeable, and make more informed decisions, thus helping them to be better caretakers of our community, society and planet.

Question #3:

Donations will be used to purchase books, advertise for volunteer readers, thank our sponsors, and enlist a gals read coordinator. Donations will be used wisely as nearly all of the work for the program is done by volunteers. All of our readers are volunteers. The Board of Directors, as volunteers, does all of the administrative, fundraising, and community partnering activities. We are a Non-Profit Organization, section 501 (C) (3). [EIN 47-2634465].

Question #4:

We received funding during calendar year 2021 through the Lend A Hand program. Because our program shifted to an online presentation to the 4th graders in 2021 due to the Covid19 epidemic, we were required to make several improvements for our online presence. We incurred expenses totaling \$5,454. These expenses included purchasing new software and updating our website, especially as our website was continually being hacked. These issues were resolved thanks in part to the funding we received from the Lend A Hand Program. Thank you!

Now we are back in the schools reading to the children in person. Funding from the program will help us defray our number 1 expense, which is the purchase of books.

Question #5

“We inspire kids to read for fun.”