

Health & Welfare

Grant Performance Report

Due by the last day of June of the Granting Year

Date: June 29, 2015

Legal Name of Agency/Organization: United Way of Blair County for Family Resource Center

Executive's Director's Name: Melanie Shildt

Name of Individual completing Form and Title: Denise Adams, Family Resource Center Director

Telephone: 944-0884 or 941-7711 Email Address: dadams@unitedwayofblaircounty.org

Title of Project/Event: Parents as Teachers, Family Group Connections

Describe the Project/Event and include any media releases/photos (if available)

The Parents as Teachers program at the Family Resource Center enriched its Family Group Connections by purchasing consumable supplies used for connections, renting a costume for the Spring Fling connection and paying the cost of ride bracelets at DelGrosso Amusement Park. This information was noted on the face book pages of the FRC and United Way. Please see the following pictures of Family Group Connections that were enhanced through the items and services purchased with the grant.



What was the impact of the Health and Welfare grant on your program?

The grant from Health and Welfare allowed us to enrich the family group connections for all parents and children in our Parents as Teachers program. Each parent received the opportunity to socialize with

other parents, observe their child in learning and social events, and eat a shared meal. Each child socialized with others, ate a shared meal and received giveaways.

How many participants were involved?

47 families attended the group connections served by this grant. Three paid staff members attended both events while eight volunteers helped with one or both events, including a volunteer from Baltimore Life to provide child identification kits at the DelGrosso Picnic and a high school student.

What were your collaborative efforts on the project/event?

Baltimore Life provided child identification kits at the DelGrosso Picnic while a high school student received community service hours to help at the Spring Fling.

List any additional funds received/needed to complete the project (in-kind)

Other expenses including personnel, mileage, and facility cost were covered using our Family Center Grant from the state.

How did you promote/acknowledge the grant donation from Blair County Health and Welfare?

We announced it on the Family Resource Center and United Way's Face book pages and mentioned it during our Family Resource Center Advisory Committee Meeting and the United Way Board Meeting as well as our peer review.

Please share one or more anecdotes and/or comments about your project.

We saw many examples of parents interacting with one another at Family Group Connections this year, particularly between the Spring Fling and DelGrosso Picnic.

One such example was when two families who met at the Spring Fling then partnered up for rides and fun at DelGrosso Picnic. These two families developed a friendship and built a support network based on the age of their children and the common experiences they were sharing. In addition, families were asked to bring a side dish to both Family Group Connections as a way to share their heritage and favorite dishes. The question, "who made this?" came up very often and some recipes were shared. Families were also given a way to keep their children safe and find out about child safety through Baltimore Life's participation at DelGrosso Amusement Park. In these two ways, families received parenting and cultural information in a positive manner. Another example, which occurred at the Spring Fling, involved two mothers discussing their one year old's sleeping habits and found new ways to address the day-to-day challenges of parenting while two other mothers discussed the benefits of a certain elementary school their older children are attending.

From the survey that parents completed in June, most parents gave high scores in areas of learning new information, using the information, confidence in parenting, being respected, feeling more connected to other parents, and recommending the group connections to other friends.

Responses related to the open ended comments:

The thing I liked best:

"Meeting other parents who have children like mine and seeing the kids play together."

"Eating and sharing food. There's something (to eat) for everyone."

"Trying new things to do with my family."

"There is not a lot of cost involved."

The thing I'd like to change is:

"Having more group connections."

"Finding a way to get to group connections."

From these comments, we have learned that our families value opportunities to interact with other families and need transportation. Both are things we will explore in the future.

Attach a description of your Expense Report for the Project and the expenses utilizing the Grant:

All funds awarded were spent during the course of the grant. Please see the attachment:

FRC@ UW Health and Welfare PAT Family Group Connections Expense Report.