

## Alpine Public Library Program Summary

Children and Youth Programs funding request: \$10,000

The children's program at the Alpine Public Library designed for children from grade-school age through high school and are presented throughout the year, on site at the library and through outreach at public school facilities. Several programs are geared to home-schooled children. Over the last year Alpine Public Library presented over 300 programs that were attended by over 3,000 children. Our Children's Librarian organizes programs at the library and also visits area public schools and local daycare facilities. The program goals are to help improve and enhance writing and reading skills, and improve vocabulary. Moreover, it is important to help improve children's social skills. Programs at the library give children a safe and positive environment in situations that require them to interact with children from other schools, not just their current classmates. Another primary goal is to promote use of the library starting at early ages. Our vision is a future in which individuals and families are engaged lifelong learners.

Programs follow STEM guidelines where applicable and offer children opportunities to conduct science experiments, design science projects, share reading experiences and improve reading comprehension, increase vocabulary and practice writing. Occasionally there are contests either for individuals or in groups.

The library purchases supplies used in the programs and we add books to our children's and young adult collection to compliment the various programs being offered. Last year we spent over \$10,000 on program supplies and collection purchases for our youth. Whenever possible supplies are reused but many are activities are interactive and materials can be used only once. These costs do not include the \$20,000 salary costs of our Children's Librarian.

## Texas Rural Communities, Inc. Grant Application

### Section I.

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Organization: Alpine Public Library

### Section II.

The Alpine Public Library was established in 1949 as a project of the El Progreso Club of Alpine, Texas. The library was started in a donated house and operated there for many years. In 2012, after several years of planning and fundraising and building, we moved into a newly constructed facility with over 8,000 square feet and 25,000 volumes on the shelves. In 2013 Alpine Public Library was named a finalist for Best Small Library in America by the Library Journal and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. We offer programs for children from toddlers to high school, programs for families and adult programming that includes ESL tutoring, Computer Classes, and Citizenship Classes. In addition, we maintain 15 computers connected to the internet for patron use. Four of the computers are filtered for use by children. Wi-fi is also available for patrons using their own wireless devices.

The Alpine Public Library is an independent 501(c)(3) organization. The City of Alpine and Brewster County provide about 20% of our income. Another 25% comes from grants. The remainder comes from fundraising, bookstore sales, and contributions from individual patrons.

The Alpine Public Library mission is to connect our diverse and geographically remote communities with information resources to encourage literacy and promote lifelong learning. We envision a future in which individuals and families are engaged, lifelong learners.

### Section III:

- a. The programs target school age children, pre-school through elementary school, primarily, and their families. The programs supplement regular school activities and include classroom visits as well and activities at the library. Program activities vary depending on age and interest. However, the primary goals are similar across programs. We want to: 1) give children a safe and positive learning environment in the library, 2) improve and enhance reading skills, 3) help improve social skills, and 4) promote the library as a place to get free and unbiased information. Program needs are assessed by communication with local school teachers, caregivers, and parents.
- b. An example of programs offered include: Library Lizards for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> graders. During this past summer 93 children participated in 7 programs. Each program has a structure of story circle, discussion, vocabulary practice, projects, and games. Writing Wranglers for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders promotes increased vocabulary, practice writing and sharing of personal reading interests among participants. A nutrition program for children in pre-K

through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade uses the MyPlate nutrition plan. The kids learn about food groups and nutrition through reading, flannel board learning, and singing. Other popular programs include Pajama Story Time, Read-to-Swim summer program, Read Across America, and Girls Rock. We have activities during Children's Book Week, Teen Read Week, Family Science Night, Día de los Niños and Dr. Suess' Birthday. This past summer we brought to the library the Chimpanzee Challenge Maze. This is an interactive science exhibit. During a six week period almost 560 kids and adults performed feats of ape-like strength, agility, and communication to discover surprising similarities between humans and chimps. The emphasis of the exhibit was to make viewers aware of the plight of chimpanzees in the wild.

- c. Program participants are primarily children ranging in age from pre-K through middle school. High school age young adults participate in occasional programs and volunteer to help prepare and present programs to younger children. The children served are of mixed ethnicity and income levels. During the last year Alpine Public Library offered over 300 programs to over 3,000 children. We plan to continue in the coming year.
- d. The unique aspects of the program are the scope of the information presented and the support of the school teachers and parents. Other community libraries in the area have children's programs but not the variety and outreach of APL programs. Successful outcomes of the programs are released to local media and made public at city council meetings and county commissioners meetings and at regional library meetings.
- e. If TRC is unable to fund the total amount requested, we would accept a smaller grant. We believe these programs are important to the future development of our community and we depend on the generosity of grantors and local patrons for support.
- f. Outcomes of the programs are to provide a safe and positive learning environment for the children. Each program has elements to improve students reading and writing skills. Programs support STEM education. The library purchases books relevant to the different programs and projects. Children are encouraged use library resources for projects and personal enjoyment. Additionally, programs bring children from different schools together. Our hope is encourage children to learn and wonder and ask questions so they develop into productive members of our community.
- g. The programs will be ongoing throughout FY 2016.
- h. The Alpine Public Library has not received funds from TRC, Inc.