

Boomerang! Character Education Program Report

Office:	Manitowoc County UW-Extension
Resource Management Dollars Received:	\$625
When Received:	2004
Budget Expenditures:	Attached

Narrative:

The Manitowoc County UW-Extension 4-H and Youth Development and Family Living Educators cross-programmed and are piloting the Boomerang! Character Education program in two school districts during the 2004-05 school year. Five, fourth grade classrooms (122 children) are involved in the pilot.

A train-the-trainer program was devised and implemented with ten high school students from Washington High School in Two Rivers and from Lincoln High School in Manitowoc. The Team Teacher training was conducted at Camp TaPaWingo in August. An end of day evaluation included this comment, "I wish I had a mentor in 4th grade now that I've been trained. I think many events in my life might have been different." The training session helped to build camaraderie and a better understanding of what the Team Teachers were to embark upon.

We have completed three sessions to date with the fourth occurring in January. A recent visit with the five classroom teachers confirmed the enthusiasm for the program including a request to offer the program in all of the grades. Soon, we will be initiating a citizenship component which will encourage children to become involved in their school and community.

A parent newsletter is authored in our office and sent home on the day the children have the character lesson. Teachers indicated an appreciation for the continuity between what is done at school and what could be done at home to practice being a person of good character.

The Lincoln High School Team Teachers wrote an article on Boomerang! which appeared on the front page of their high school newspaper in December. An accompanying picture showed the team in their Boomerang! polo shirts. The Manitowoc County Board Chair brought the article to our attention.

This program has helped us build strong partnerships with guidance counselors, principals, teachers, teens and, indirectly with youth. We spend time with the teens to review the lesson each month and observe them in the classroom so we can perfect the lessons. The experience has been both challenging and rewarding. Building assets is what this program exemplifies best. We are thrilled to have been awarded the money to initiate Boomerang! and know the program will continue to grow as other schools learn of its impact.

Boomerang! Resource Management Dollars

Deposited: \$ 625.00

Expenses:

7/23/04 - Circle of Courage--Laminated Posters for Classrooms	(\$99.90)
8/6/04 - Scott's Stuff, Inc--Polo Shirts for Team Teachers	(\$196.50)
8/6/04 - Office Depot--Binders & Index Dividers	(\$86.62)
8/20/04 - Cops--Food for 8/17/04 at camp	(\$36.16)
8/20/04 - Boomerang Trng Supplies	(\$77.98)
10/8/04 - Office Depot--Binders & Tabs	(\$25.24)
10/29/04 - Wal-Mart--Storage supplies for Boomerang	(\$59.30)
11/12/04 - Kevin Palmer--Misc. supplies	(\$69.29)
11/12/04 - Braun Bldg. Center--Wood for Boomerangs	(\$25.99)
12/17/04 - Office Depot--Black Tag Board	(\$5.88)
12/17/04 - Kevin Palmer--Miscellaneous Supplies	(\$4.98)

Expenditures: \$687.84