

September 15, 2008
Grant Report

Project Name: Brightest Horizons Literacy Project
Project grant \$5,900
Report submitted by Tina, Executive Director

1. In February 2008, 12 teachers at Brightest Horizons were assessed for their English language ability by Literacy Volunteers of Lee County (LVLC). Ten Zontians attended a day long literacy training provided by LVLC. From late February until mid June the Brightest Horizons teachers were tutored by Zontians. Each teacher received approximately 16 hours of instruction in reading, writing, listening, and speaking English.

This was a pilot program. We realized there were scheduling issues for the tutoring sessions and hope to have more Zonta tutors trained when we begin again in November, so that each teacher will interact more consistently with her tutor.

We also plan to have a six week program for parents to improve their English which will begin in late October. Classes will be taught by a trained teacher through LVLC and Zontians will assist with small groups. Three students from Florida Gulf Coast University have agreed to assist as volunteers with the evening program for parents. English language assessment, dinner, child care and supplies will be provided for the families. This is how we plan to spend the remaining portion of the grant. (\$5,324.75)

2. To date \$567.25 has been spent on assessment and supplies for tutoring teachers. \$110.00 was spent on assessing students by Literacy Volunteers of Lee County (LVLC); \$457.25 was spent on dictionaries, folders for each student, and other writing supplies.
3. It is difficult to put an accurate number of women and girls whose lives have been directly affected by the Zonta tutoring. Each teacher works in a classroom of approximately 20 to 25 students and each woman has a family of her own. All of the teachers reported that they learned more about pronunciation, grammar, and reading and feel more comfortable speaking English as a result of their tutoring. They are all excited that the program will resume in November.