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January 30, 2014

AGENDA

- ▶ Background
- ▶ What is the Read Free program?
- ▶ Step-by-step implementation
- ▶ Community Partnership benefits and opportunities
- ▶ Katty's story
- ▶ Impact
- ▶ Q & A

BACKGROUND STORY

It began with **one person** inspired by **one story**

Integrative Thinking - Roger Martin

“the ability to constructively face tensions of opposing models, instead of choosing one at the expense of the other, generating a creative resolution of the tension in the form of a new model that contains elements of the individual models, but is superior to each”

“Turning challenges into opportunity”

What is **Read Free** Program?

- The first program of its kind in Ontario
- A weekly discussion group for developmentally-challenged adults. Participants meet for an hour to read aloud, participate in activities, and take part in discussions.
- This unique program engages participants to promote adult literacy, inclusivity, and community partnerships.
- Burlington Public Library and Community Living Burlington jointly offer Read Free, assisted by social science students from area colleges and a university
- Runs on Mondays & Thursdays from 1 – 2pm at Brant Hills Branch in Burlington

STEP-BY-STEP IMPLEMENTATION

- ▶ March 17, 2012
 - ▶ 'Books for Dessert' session from PWPL at PLA in Philadelphia, PA
- ▶ June 1, 2012
 - ▶ OPLA listserv query about what programs or services other libraries provide to adults with special needs
- ▶ July to October 2012
 - ▶ Research grant and other funding possibilities
 - ▶ Research resources for print materials –ESL and adult literacy materials

▶ November 2012

- ▶ Spoke to Community Living Burlington about ideas to move program forward
- ▶ A new partnership was born!
 - ▶ *Program Coordinator*=BPL staff member
 - ▶ *Program Liaison*=CLB Manager
 - ▶ *Group Discussion Leaders*=Post-secondary social science co-op students from local colleges and one university

▶ January 2013

- ▶ Submitted proposal for program setup and budget needs
- ▶ Proposal approved!

▶ March 2013

- ▶ CLB staff came to Brant Hills Branch to comb through poetry books and short stories to suggest materials appropriate for Read Free
- ▶ Photocopied portions used in sessions
 - ▶ Copyright Act (RSC, 1985) c. 24, s. 29.3 and 29.4 allow libraries to reproduce published materials for education or training purposes, provided they do “not have a motive of gain”

▶ May to June 2013

- ▶ Eight week pilot project at Brant Hills Branch
- ▶ Submitted for consideration for Angus Mowat Award of Excellence

▶ October 2013

- ▶ Officially launched Read Free to the public!
- ▶ Two groups meet each week for discussion
- ▶ Short-listed for Angus Mowat Award
- ▶ Presentation to Community Living Burlington Board of Directors on October 22, 2013

▶ January 30, 2014

- ▶ OLA SuperConference session on Read Free

▶ Fall 2014

- ▶ Launch Read Free at Aldershot Branch

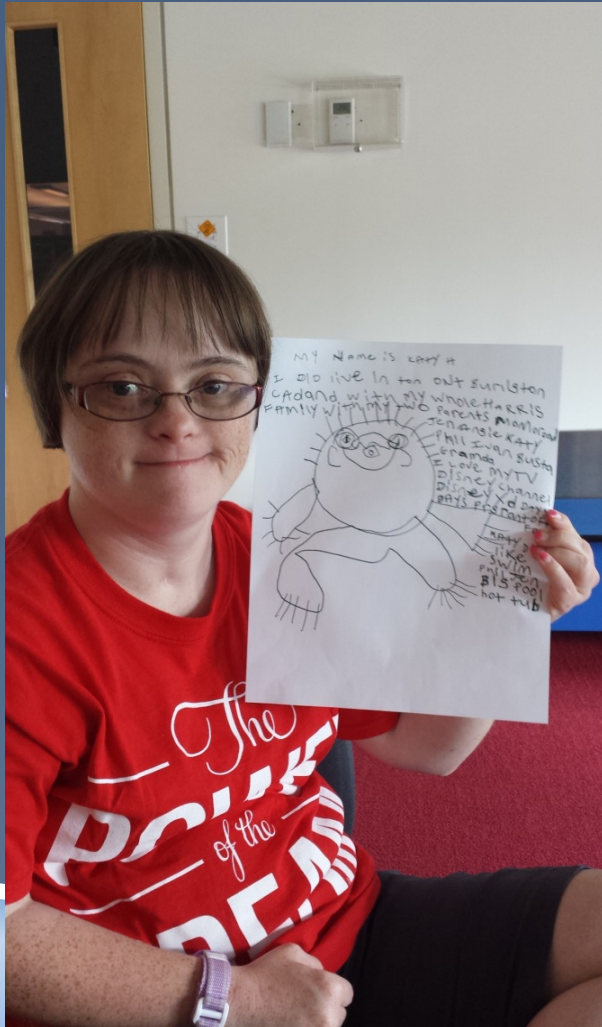
WIN-WIN FOR ALL!!

- ▶ Burlington Public Library (Brant Hills)
- ▶ Community Living Burlington
- ▶ Co-op students from colleges & university
- ▶ Adults with developmental disabilities

BENEFITS FOR PARTICIPANTS

- ▶ Creating meaningful literacy opportunities for adults with developmental disabilities
- ▶ Building confidence and self esteem
- ▶ Enhancing de-coding skills
- ▶ Fostering a passion for reading
- ▶ Enriching the quality of life
- ▶ Increasing community involvement

KATTY'S STORY



THURSDAY SESSION



Building Relationships



Friendships



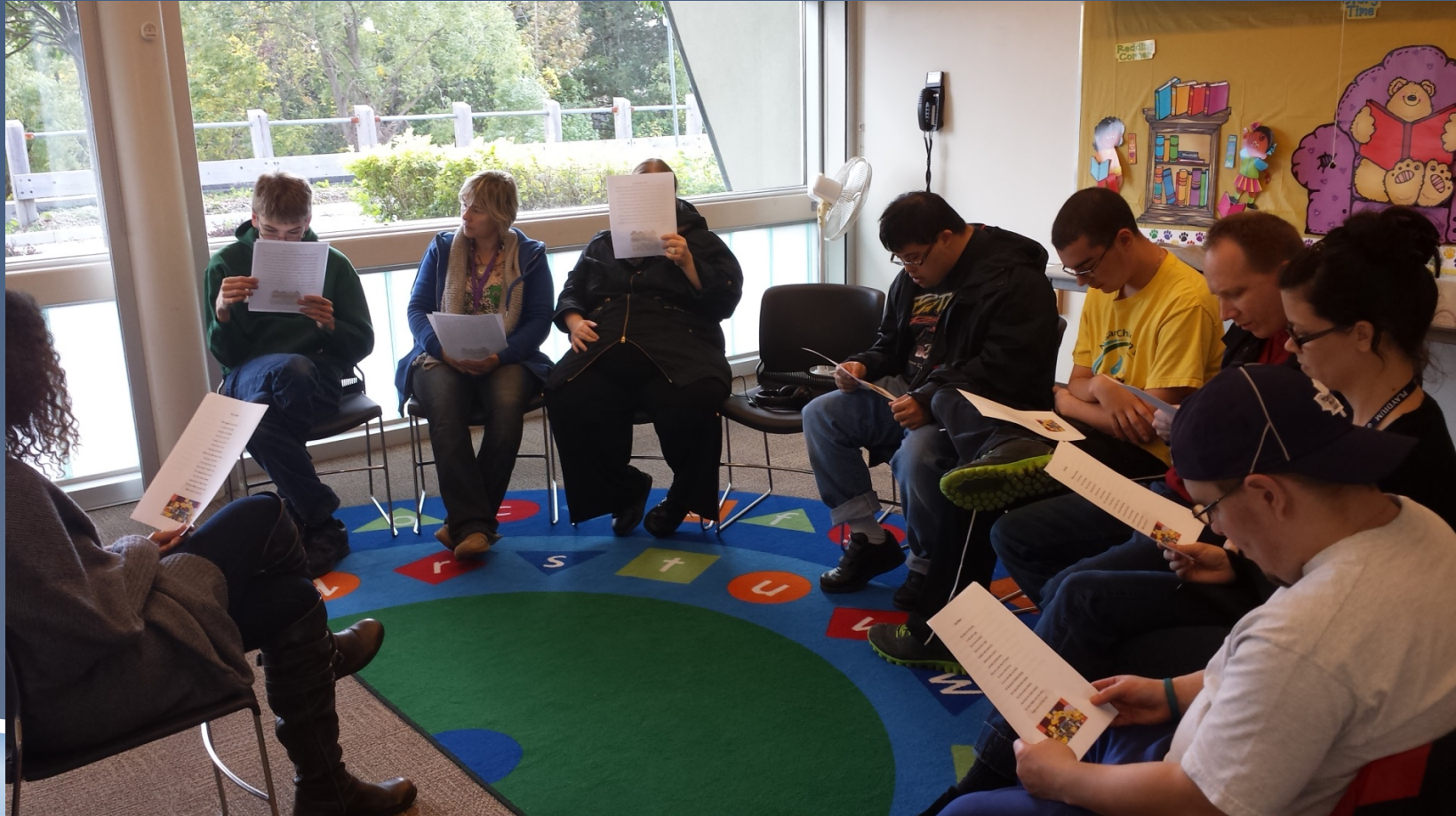
Enjoying reading!



MATTHEW (FACILITATOR)



MONDAY SESSION



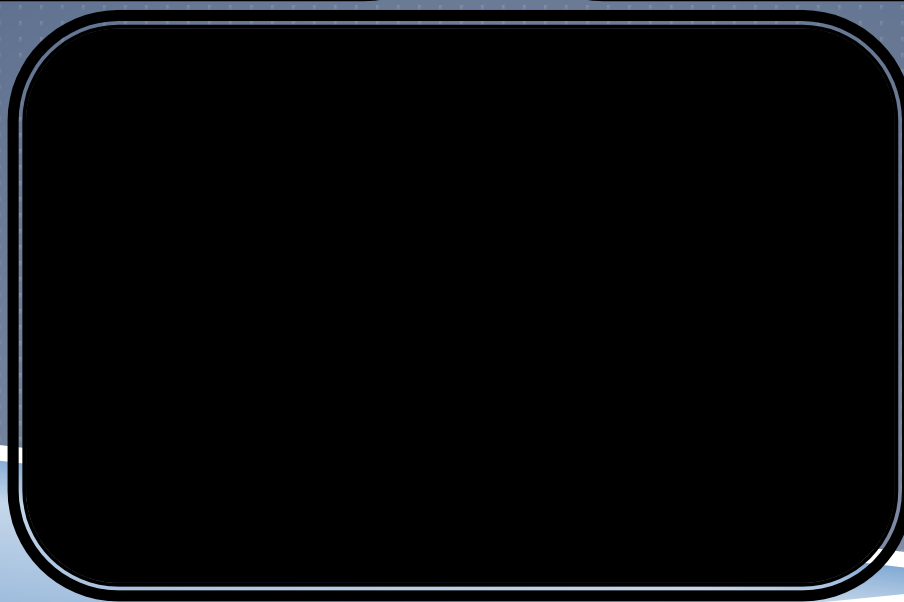
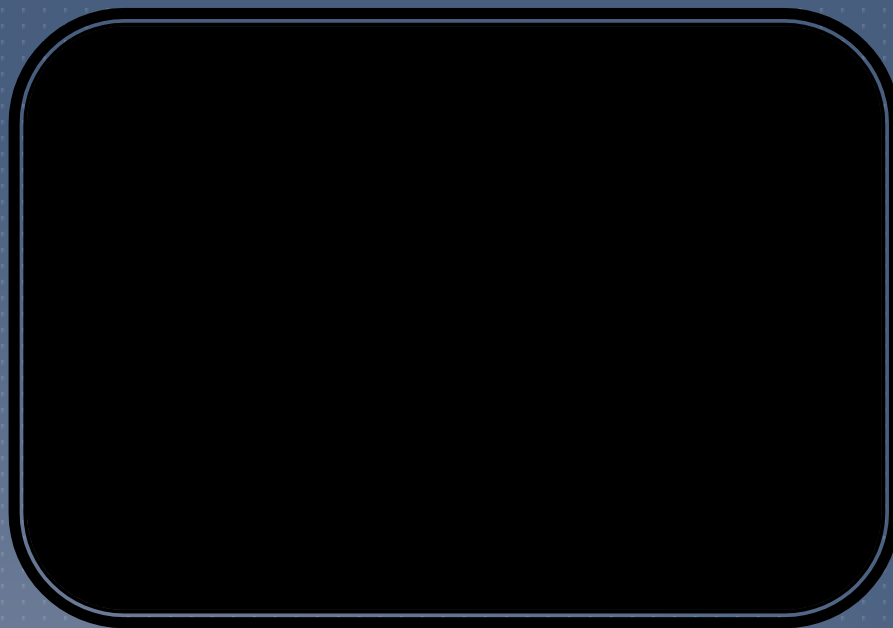
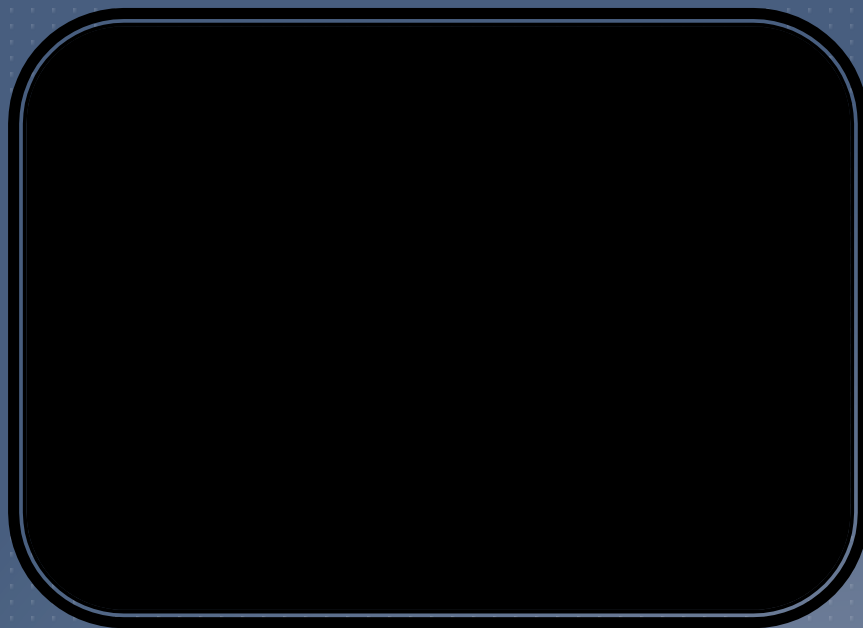
Building Confidence!



Having Fun!

JAMILA (FACILITATOR)





IMPACT

- ▶ Read Free directly addresses two Directions of BPL's current Strategic Plan:

Vibrancy:

Be champions of literacy in all its various forms

- ▶ Promotes literacy skills to underserved demographic

Engaging the community in literacy through existing and expanded partnerships

- ▶ Promotes community partnerships

Inclusivity:

Provide the 'tools' to help people reach their potential

- ▶ Promotes life-long learning and a love of reading (BPL Values)
- ▶ Provides opportunity for co-op students to enhance leadership potential, communication and organizational skills, time management abilities, creativity in planning engaging activities, team-building practice, and real-world experience to help people overcome personal challenges

QUESTIONS?

- ▶ Read Free

- ▶ <http://www.bpl.on.ca/read-free>