

Montana Talking Book Library (MTBL)

March 01, 2007 through April 30, 2007

Prepared for June 11, 2007 Commission meeting by Christie Briggs; report represents work of Briggs, Gunderson, Madison, Meier, Miles, Stanton, as well as numerous volunteers, including VISTA* Volunteer Brian McCutcheon.

Goal One – Content - *MSL acquires and manages relevant quality content that meets the needs of Montana library partners and patrons.*

- In March and April, four book titles and one issue each of "The Montana Magazine of Western History" and the "Montana Outdoors Magazine" were completed at both MTBL recording studios: "Brown Dog of the Yaak, Essays on Art and Activism" by Rick Bass; "The Jealous Mistress" by Robert Traver; "Thorsen of Thunder Gulch" by Norman A. Fox and "Piece of Cake Scotty, Piece of Cake" by Scotty Zion.
- Helena author Karyn F. Cheatham recorded her book "Spotted Flower and the Ponokomita."
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Goal Two—Access – *MSL provides libraries, agencies, and its partners and patrons with convenient, high quality, and cost-effective access to library content and services.*

- WebOpac and NFB-Newsline, along with digital projections for the future of talking books were promoted to patrons for ease of access to cassette & Braille books, downloadable ebooks, magazines and newspapers in March and April.

This included:

- Eighty-five Billings Kiwanis members on March 19th.
- Fifty-two Deaconess and St. Vincent Hospital's Low Vision Support Groups on March 19th.
- Eight Helena Y-Club members.

Goal Three—Consultation and Leadership - *MSL provides consultation and leadership to enable its patrons and partners to reach their goals.*

- The Blind and Low Vision Staff (eighteen) of the Department of Public Health & Human Services (DPHHS) received an extensive tour and packets of information about talking book services on April 19th as part of their quarterly outreach goals.
- Five members of the Montana State Prison Recording Program received instruction and direction in proper recording techniques on April 24th, including additional recording materials to record.

Goal Four—Collaboration - *MSL promotes partnerships and encourages collaboration among its partners and patrons so that their information needs can be met.*

- The Great Falls Health Fair was an opportunity to collaborate with the Cascade County Extension Service to bring talking book information to over 156 individuals on March 31st.
- Collaboration with the DPHHS Prevention Resource Center (PRC) and the Montana School for the Deaf and Blind (MSDB) culminated in a discussion of Low Vision Montana goals in the state, MSDB student goals for talking books and ended with a tour of the Talking Book Library and its services.
- Working with Montana Association for the Blind brought Talking Book Library information and applications to sixteen individuals at the Helena Waterford Independent Living Facility.
- In cooperation with the Natural Resource Information Service, a tour of the Talking Book Library was given to eight individuals of the Fort Belknap Rangeland project in conjunction with Fish Wildlife and Parks national program.

Goal Five— Sustainable Success - *MSL is a well-run organization and a sought-after employer; it is efficient and effective (measured against partner and patron outcomes), and successfully engaged in its ongoing mission.*

- In light of a decrease in available volunteer assistance in February and March, an April volunteer recruitment effort was started by the VISTA* volunteer. This resulted in interviewing six new volunteers and assigning them to assist staff within the Talking Book Library.
- Training continues with new Reader Advisor, Linda Miles.