

How much did we do?

LITERACY PROGRAMS

Our literacy programs include Never Too Early, Connections, Humanities Camps, and Voices.

150 events (including 17 in correctional facilities)

1439 individuals took part in these events.

We distributed **8449 free books** through these programs.

PUBLIC PROGRAMS

A total of seven kinds of programs, including: Vermont Reads, First Wednesdays, and Speakers Bureau.

331 events in **115 different towns** across Vermont

19,865 individuals took part in these events.

We distributed **2500 free books** through these programs.

BROADCAST OUTREACH

Vermont Reads broadcasts on Vermont Public Radio featuring Salman Rushdie reached **28,000+ listeners**.

Vermont Public Radio commentaries by Executive Director Peter Gilbert reached **10,000 to 14,000 listeners** every three weeks.

The “Civil War Book of Days” e-newsletter reached **2700 subscribers** every week through April 17, 2015.

OTHER PROGRAMS FOR SPECIFIC AUDIENCES

Literature and Medicine: **45 people** at four hospitals.

Veterans Book Groups: **39 veterans** in four book groups attended 20 total sessions.

GRANTS

We distributed **\$35,000 to twenty Vermont non-profit organizations**.

How well did we do it?

In August, 2015, the Vermont Humanities Council received the report of a three-person National Endowment for the Humanities team that had examined us and our work earlier in the year. Such reviews are conducted every five years. The report concluded:

“Whether one looks at public appeal, the fulfilling of community needs, imaginative leadership, organizational effectiveness, or collaboration with other forces for humanity, the Vermont Humanities Council ranks among the best organizations in the nation, and the National Endowment for the Humanities can proudly point to it as exemplary of its national mission.”

Is anyone better off because of our work?

From a participant in our **Humanities Camps** (week-long summer day camps for at-risk middle school students):

“Humanities Camp made me feel that reading is not hard any more – it’s fun.”

From a participant in our **Reading and Discussion programs**:

“Like Johnny Appleseed, the Council has scattered the seeds of book discussions faithfully, and towns throughout Vermont now host hundreds of active book groups. Thank you for patiently nurturing the culture of books.”

From a participant in our **Adult Literacy programs** in State Correctional Facilities:

“I learned that even people from different backgrounds, cultures, races and ages can connect through a reading.”

From a participant in **Vermont Reads**:

“Since we did an inter-generational group, many participants that had never met before realized that they were neighbors and formed new relationships. It was amazing to see at the end of the group that people were exchanging contact information.”

Programs at a Glance

Program	Audience	Number Served in 2015	Locations
Reading and Discussion			
VERMONT READS			
Brings Vermonters together for activities related to one book (2015: <i>Haroun and the Sea of Stories</i> by Salman Rushdie)	General public and intergenerational audiences, as well as audiences at correctional facilities, literacy centers, and humanities camps	Estimated 6,405 people in 53 towns participated; 28,000+ people listened to broadcasts on VPR; VHC distributed more than 2500 free books	Schools, libraries, community centers, and other nonprofits statewide; author visits to schools and communities
LITERATURE AND MEDICINE: HUMANITIES AT THE HEART OF HEALTH CARE			
A hospital-based reading and discussion program open to all hospital staff	Hospitals/health care staff	45 people at four hospitals	Copley Hospital, Northeastern Vermont Regional Hospital, Rutland Regional Medical Center, White River Junction Veterans Affairs Medical Center
READING AND DISCUSSION			
Led by a VHC-trained scholar, participants make connections by reading and talking about books	General public and intergenerational audiences	1,927 attendees took part in 152 discussions in 32 Vermont towns	Statewide, hosted by libraries or other nonprofits
VETERANS BOOK GROUPS			
A reading and discussion program open to veterans	Former service members, including one group of female veterans	39 veterans participated in four book groups, meeting for a total of 20 sessions	White River Junction VA Medical Center, South Burlington Vet Center, Norwich University
ANNUAL FALL CONFERENCE			
Explores a topic in depth (2015: <i>Why Do Stories Matter?</i>)	General public	313 attendees	Held at University of Vermont's Dudley Davis Center
CIVIL WAR BOOK OF DAYS			
E-newsletter marking events of each week in the Civil War	General public, schools, teachers	2,600 weekly through April 17, 2015	Weekly via e-mail and at CivilWarBookofDays.org
VERMONT PUBLIC RADIO COMMENTARIES			
Commentaries about humanities-related subjects by Peter Gilbert	General public	10,000–14,000 listeners about every three weeks	On VPR, at vpr.net , and on vermonthumanities.org
Grants			
GRANTS TO COMMUNITIES			
Grants to nonprofits for humanities programming	General public	20 grants totaling \$35,000 and serving tens of thousands of Vermonters	Museums, libraries, and performing and community venues statewide

Program	Audience	Number Served in 2015	Locations
Talks and Living History			
FIRST WEDNESDAYS			
Once-a-month public lectures featuring nationally renowned speakers, October through May	General public within reach of nine regional centers	7,086 people attended 71 talks at nine locations	Brattleboro, Essex Junction, Manchester, Middlebury, Montpelier, Newport, Norwich, Rutland, and St. Johnsbury
IDEAS ON TAP			
A series exploring engaging topics in a casual setting	General public, including younger adult audiences	82 people attended three pilot events	ArtsRiot, a Burlington restaurant/bar and performance space
READING FREDERICK DOUGLASS			
Annual community participatory readings of Frederick Douglass's 1852 Fourth of July address.	General public	14 events with 696 attendees of all ages	14 towns around Vermont
SPEAKERS BUREAU			
Speakers and living history presenters are made available for public lectures	General public	3,356 attendees at 90 programs in 63 towns	Hosted at libraries and other community centers statewide
Humanities-Based Literacy			
NEVER TOO EARLY			
Early literacy professional development for childcare providers, and family literacy training for parents	Childcare providers and parents, especially low-income households and teen parents	357 different providers and 296 different parents at 117 events, plus 37 other early childhood professionals at a special training (6,113 free books distributed)	Childcare centers and home care settings, parent-child centers, Head Start, correctional facilities, and low-income family programs statewide
CONNECTIONS			
A reading and discussion program, with the Community High School of VT, the VT Dept. of Corrections, and community organizations	Corrections inmates and probationers, teen and adult literacy students, social service organization clients	186 individuals were served, and 33 group events were held, including 17 in correctional facilities (379 free books distributed)	Correctional facilities and probation and parole sites, social service organizations, and adult education centers statewide
HUMANITIES CAMPS			
Week-long summer day camps for at-risk middle-school students. The camps strengthen literacy skills, build positive peer groups, and nurture a love of reading.	At-risk middle-schoolers ages 11 to 14	178 students in 10 Vermont public schools (868 free books distributed)	At 10 schools statewide*
VOICES			
Professional development program for Adult Education and Literacy and other educators to facilitate book discussions; gift books for their students	Adult educators and students, including refugees and immigrants	27 adult educators received training; 395 teachers and students received books (1,089 free books)	At 16 adult education centers statewide

* Barre Town Middle School, Bellows Falls Middle School, Brattleboro Area Middle School, Edmunds Middle School (Burlington), Irasburg Village School, Milton Elementary/Middle School, Northfield Junior/Senior Middle/High School, Richford Junior/Senior High School with Berkshire Elementary School, St. Albans City School, Stowe Middle School

Our Literacy Programs



Never Too Early

Early literacy professional development for childcare providers, and family literacy training for parents.



Humanities Camps

Week-long summer day camps for at-risk middle school students.



Voices

Professional development program for Adult Education and Literacy and other educators to facilitate book discussions; gift books for their students.



Connections

A reading and discussion program for Corrections inmates, probationers, teen and adult literacy students, and social service clients.