Greater Northeast Keizer Neighborhood Association

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Story walks report;

We hosted 19 story walks with our communities.

 Keizer Community Library we had **26 families** attend these walks and gave away a back pack with school supplies at each event. Resource kits with the following information. For this story Walk we had a staff who can speak both Languages read each book with families as well.

We gave 26 to 35 in every resource’s bags out. We are also looking to add more event with this partner and keep it ongoing.

Kits or bags; resources

Distracted driving English and Spanish flyer (KPD), Center for hope and safety flyer, Early Learning Hub flyer, 988 (Marion Co), Mental health Awareness information (Marion Co. and GNEKNA), Slap bracelets for kids (GNEKNA), Fidgets; Bracelets ( GNEKNA), Stickers ; Chalk  ( GNEKNA), Book; Activity book ( GNEKNA), Back to school items ( GNEKNA), Liberty house flyer, Safe routes to school flyer, GNEKNA flyer Information  ( GNEKNA), Pop its ( GNEKNA), Valor mentoring flyer, Be SMART, Keizer Cert resources for emergencies a special thank you goes out to all these partners this was truly a partnership from love and concern to help share resources to all the community. Keizer Community Library book marks and Dolly Parton book marks for families to receive a free book each month and more.

Fun Friday July 25th 2025

This event was held at ST. Edward church on River Road

650 Participants -47 community Partners attended this event and we had 150+ families.

We heard from around **35 families** how they enjoyed see us do this and they would attend other walks in the park or community. The Story for these events was Everything goes with Plantanos.

National Night out Aug 5th 2025

National night out group uses Let’s eat for their story walk had **45 families** for this walk and was amazing. While another group used 10 ways to hear snow for them. NNO and they had **22 families** this was done on the parkway path leading them on a family’s walk and bike ride for families who will be attending Kennedy Elementary this coming year.

Each group shared the success of using this as a way to help families interreact and get out of the homes and join in some community fun. All reports came back with we need to continue this and grow into long standing with adding this to our Parks master plan for permanent places to host books in each park and were ever we can.

NNO out with the ELKS lodge on Cherry we host an event with Greater Northeast Keizer NA and Southeast Keizer NA we had around **557 families** who had a chance to walk the Story Ten ways to hear Snow and Everything goes with Plantanos We has story boards on both Sides.

GNEKNA story walk **67 responses** to our story walk on Everything goes with Platanos. They vary from we love it and would like to see more story walks. (47)

20 people shared this was the first walk and they would attend more for another language other than English and Spanish.

What we can do different? 12 would like better placement of the story boards to allow more space between them.

15 said no changes needed other than more books and it was great.

22 Said they would like to see activities around the story topic or a craft.

All 67 said they would attend more story walks.

We placed 8 new little Libraries on our community and have 1 for West Keizer Neighborhood Association to place in their community.

These were all built with James Jones, Tammy Kunz, Jacqueline Green, Lexiann age 12, Gabe age 7, as well as others who joined in from our Board. We spent about 5 hours on each one and was a labor of love for our community and those we serve. We host a Pizza party for those who worked and help build these to say thank you for giving back and it was a great time of fellowship.

In total we host 19 story walks with using the second part of the funding for placements of the little Libraries. Our total community ROI for this was **2,695** families in this community we impacted from May to August from attending our Story walks and events. On top if the families we have not heard back from.

We also have story Boards made with wood bases for over nights at the parks and some with the wire racks for short term. Our Long-term goal is to have this added to our Parks paster plan it takes about 2 years and have Story Walk platform placed in each park that allow them to stay. We would replace stories bi-monthly for this.

Total community ROI is about **2,695** families have been touched by this project.

Number of early Literacy resources offer at each event we had a flyer framed both sides. We had a limited number of sheets around 1500 were given out and 650 given out at events in our resource kits.

Number of teachers is unknown We spoke to 9 and they asked if we could do this when school starts.

With all the Story walks in our community reached about **1395 families.** Add in our events it adds about **1300 more families** impacted by this project. Brings our community total way above our goals at 550 families to touching **2695 families.** I think this is hand of God at work using this group for families.

Audience;

Were all ages we spoke with Grandma and Grandpas in their 80’s and early 90’s who said this was great. One Grandpa said he wished they did this in the fields while he was working, but said he would not get any work done. Loved the way we used more than one language and shared stories of hope with kids who struggle.

Ages from birth to the oldest we heard from was 97 years old and her Caregiver pushed her in a wheel chair. This was Keizer Rapids Park.

Share the success;

In this case the success was awesome we never thought we could touch so many families with being a small group. We are 5 people who touched about 2,695 families with literacy and resources. Ages 6 years to 67 years old who worked on this project.

We placed 8 Little Libraries made by my family and some of our community and their teens work hard on this project.

Some shared they want to build homes for people, while other want to work with kids and share this story to empower kids at every age no matter how old you are it matters.

One father thanked me maybe 10 times for these walks and ways to engage with his kids who have learning challenges as he calls it. This gave him 19 different walks in the community and gave him a chance to learn about the library and all the ways he can get help with his kids. This dad also won a Back pack of school supplies at one event, and with that they got a book basket filled with 3 different level of books for reading From Early Learning Level 1 to chapter books. Total # of books in this basket 7.

One Grandpa won a Backpack of school Supplies the Keizer Library Staff helped with outreach for language barriers. It was amazing to partner with folks that care.

One family asked can I help you with these stories, when we said yes, she cried. She did not know how to read, and hearing the stories and working with her she is now learning how to do that with the literacy program in Salem.

This impact and stories go on and it touches my heart to know we have been able to make this kind of impact. I could not have done this with out My team. Nancy Grace, James Jones, Lisa Little, Beverly D, Jacqueline Green, and Myself did the most work. I had 6 other people give time freely for our families and assist with all this work. Without your trust and faith, we could not have done this and We truly are blessed by you and your team.

I look back at being nervous and scared we would have a hard time being small team to touch so many. We agreed failure was not an option and would reach our goals 550 families. Seeing how much people enjoyed getting out going for walk our gathering at Claggett Creek park, Keizer Rapids Park, using this to help walk to school for Cummings Parkway access, Kennedy Elementary students walk this for school. We have 35 new families that will be attending Kennedy this year who used this story walk for NNO to help make their families comfortable with the Parkway Walk path.

Joining in other community Events made a difference for us as well. These open opportunities to offer this story walks for events adds to the outreach, education for families and brings families together for stronger community and family connections. Each setting brought families looking to connect and gather. It was truly a gift to be part of this and it will be great to carry this forward in all we do.

Thank you,

Tammy Kunz

Greater Northeast Keizer Neighborhood Association President (GNEKNA)