

**YALSA Board of Directors Meeting**

**ALA Midwinter Meeting, Dallas**

**January 20 – 24, 2012**

**Topic: Mission Moment: Teen Read Week™ Mini-Grant Impact**

**Background:** A 2011 Teen Read Week grantee report is provided below to give the Board an idea of how TRW and the mini grants worked to support YALSA’s mission to “expand and strengthen library services for teens, aged 12-18. Through its member-driven advocacy, research, and professional development initiatives, YALSA builds the capacity of libraries and librarians to engage, serve and empower teens.” The report illustrates one specific example of capacity building at the local level that would not have been possible without YALSA.

**Action Required: Discussion**

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**Background:** The 2011 Teen Read Week (TRW) was celebrated Oct. 16 - 22 with the theme “Picture It @ your library.” YALSA obtained a grant from the Dollar General Literacy Foundation to distribute 10 mini grants of \$1,000 to YALSA members who submitted the best ideas for TRW programs. Program ideas were vetted by YALSA’s TRW Committee. Each grant recipient was asked to submit a follow up report.

**Title & Description of Project:** “Read My Lips: Stories of My Life.” In six weekly workshops

This program allowed my co-worker, Katie Walton, and me to start working on that relationship with the teens. Having the gala and inviting the teen's parents and friends was also a very good experience. The friends were able to see the work and fun the participants had and it allowed Katie and me to build a relationship with the parents. I expressed to them how much we enjoyed their children and thanked them for allowing them to participate.

My favorite part of the program was building a relationship with the teens and getting to share my own personal stories with the teens. They all seemed to really enjoy hearing about my crazy antics as a teen. Getting to know the teens better will also help to me better prepare for future programs. I now know that I have teens who really enjoy creative activities, like writing and acting, as well as ones who enjoy working with the latest technology- they couldn't keep their hands off the iPad.

I would really like to say thank you to YALSA and Dollar General for giving us this opportunity to enhance our teen programming. Without this grant, we would never have been able to afford an iPad for our library. The iPad has so much potential to be used in so many different ways in library programs and I am looking forward to the challenge of making our teen program even better. Thank you!