

## **Volunteer Action Plan: How Can I Address Local Literacy Needs?**

Directions: Use this organizer to research literacy needs and organizations and to develop an action plan for volunteering to address local literacy needs.

### **1. Determine the Need**

What is the estimated literacy rate in your community? (Please include the source of your data.)

### **2. Create a Literacy Organization Profile**

Many national and local organizations have programs that focus on improving literacy. Here are some examples:

- Your local library and PBS station
- The Big Read (<http://www.neabigread.org/>)
- Dolly Parton's Imagination Library (<http://www.imaginationlibrary.com/>)
- First Book (<http://www.firstbook.org/>)
- Books From the Heart ([http://www.heartofamerica.org/bfth\\_submenu.htm](http://www.heartofamerica.org/bfth_submenu.htm))
- Reading Is Fundamental (<http://www.rif.org/>)
- Local agencies, which can be identified using ProLiteracy's Find a Program tool (<http://proliteracy.org/page.aspx?pid=298>)

Visit the website of one of these organizations or one that you identify in your research and respond to the following prompts:

Name of the literacy organization:

What does it do to improve literacy?

How can volunteers get involved?

### **3. Develop a Plan**

Outline a specific plan for volunteering to work on a project that would address literacy needs in your community. Your plan should involve either 1) partnering with the organization you profiled above or 2) creating your own initiative (examples: organizing a book drive, book club or read-a-thon; creating and distributing posters or video profiles that feature community leaders who make reading a part of their successful lives). Use additional sheets of paper as needed.