

COMMUNITY IMPACT

Collaboration & Action

Beloit's Literacy for Life Initiative Partners

WINTER 2021



Welty Environmental Center

Fostering enjoyment, preservation and sustainable use of our natural resources



Welty Environmental Center has long provided field trips for preschoolers who participate in the School District of Beloit's Even Start Family Literacy Program. Students, parents, teachers came to Beckman Mill County Park and Big Hill Park for a monthly field trip, which included a short hike, a story reading, and a craft of other hands-on activity. Historically, these trips were supported by grants from various nonprofits, including the Stateline Community Foundation.

At an early meeting of the **BLFLI**, I introduced myself to the Executive Director of our local Head Start and Early Head Start programs. I hoped that we would be able to offer similar programming to her students and staff. For the 2020-21 school year, we received a Hendricks Family Foundation grant to serve 3 classrooms. Despite COVID-19, Welty and Head Start teaching staff members developed a curriculum similar to the Even Start visits that include appropriate childhood development goals and emphasizes the importance of family engagement to support children's learning and strengthening the role of parents as their primary educators.

Welty staff have also benefited from their work with the young kids. By planning with teachers, we've developed age-appropriate nature lessons that incorporate many of the socio-emotional skills the preschoolers need to develop before starting kindergarten. These field trips are a favorite because of the infectious wonder and excitement the children bring on their visits. It is a collaboration we are happy to strengthen and grow, and we appreciate BLFLI's role in cultivating these kinds of partnerships.



RWCFS
Head Start / Early Head Start
Serving Rock County & Walworth County, Wisconsin



Brenda Plakans,
Executive Director &
BLFLI Partner

To learn more about the history and upcoming efforts of the literacy initiative, contact our office at (608) 362-4228 or visit the Literacy for Life program page on our website: <https://statelinecf.org/literacy-for-life/>