

# ABC Watonwan County - 2011

## Evaluation outcomes from the grant application.- Results:

THE FIRST TWO EVALUATION QUESTION RESULTS COME FROM THE PHOTOGRAPHERS AND WRITERS

1. Did you enjoy creating this book? Why?

OUTCOME: Local photographers and writers will experience the joys of creating a children's book.

- It was an involvement that I would never been involved with - felt like I learned a bit of the process of producing a book. Much more work than I figured, my part was probably the easiest.
- I definitely enjoyed helping create this book. It was a neat experience to get to really observe Watonwan County in a different view, than you normally do on a day to day basis. You see things that you never noticed before, even after living in the area for 25 years. As a photographer, you try to find the beauty in normal things, so with this book not only did I get to exercise this, but I liked seeing that the other photographers got to do this as well .....maybe something they don't normally do.
- Yes because I enjoy photography and the end result was great
- Yes, I really enjoyed writing this book. I enjoyed it because I got the chance to remember how much I enjoyed ABC books as a kid. So, I was excited to be able to write a book kids would love just like I had.
- yes I did enjoy creating the book. I learned a lot about observing our county for pictures to fit the book and to look at the county at what school children would be interested in. I enjoyed the reactions of the people who received the book and how they enjoyed the readings at each library. It expanded both the adult and children's awareness of how many things are in our own county. It was good people interaction and meeting more people in the area.
- I did enjoy being a part of creating this book. I have been interested in early childhood education for several years. Most often, my interest involved me with my own children. Being a part on this project gave me the opportunity to be involved with many children and parents, not only in the learning of the alphabet but also the communities, the ecology, the importance of agriculture and the fascinating history of our county. Also, this project allowed me to meet and work with other people in Watonwan County, many of which I had never met before. I was especially pleased in seeing the very positive response of the residents of each community as we visited them in their own public libraries, answering questions and making comments about how the book was made. They were excited to receive a book and for all of us, it was a rewarding experience.
- Yes, I appreciated the opportunity to collaborate with other photographers and writers to create something for the people in Watonwan County, and to have been part of creating a little county history ourselves! It has been great fun to see the completed project and to hear comments about the book in general and about my work in particular.
- Participating in the crafting of "ABC Watonwan" was a very enjoyable process. Collaborating with local writers, and photographers was an amazing networking opportunity, and helped me learn much about my new community that I may have missed if not for this experience.

OUTCOME: Local photographers and writers will learn more about how to photograph, write, and create a book.

2. Did you learn more about the process of photographing for a book, writing a book, or creating a book? If so, what was the most interesting thing to you about the process?

- I enjoyed the hunt---looking for special items and sometimes finding them in unusual places... i've said before, letters pop up all over my life and i see sometimes what others don't. Thanks for the chance to do and feel like i "did something" that will be around many years
- Being a small part of creating this book, considering Wilma and Stacy did a LOT more work than most, it helped me understand the small little pieces it takes to make the book come together. It a neat experience knowing that the writers creativity helped us go out and use our own photographer creativity to find items that related to their words. Once we had taken our photos, it was even more fun to see what the writers had written about our photo. As a photographer, I have usually thought

that the quality of my works is based off of my own creativity, but with this book it was a group process and helped me see creativity in a different way.

- Doug Ohman gave us a good seminar on photography showing that there are things all around us that we can include in our pictures.
- Yes, I did learn more about the process of writing a book. It was so interesting how long it took to get everything just right. I love it how everyone brought something different and we ended up making something amazing. It was a lot of fun.
- I did learn more about photography and having Doug Ohman take us around and show different ideas and aspects for the book. The whole process of making the book was interesting. I liked taking the pictures to try to fit the subject. I really enjoyed the group of people who worked on the book it was a good cross section of the people of the county and I made some new acquaintances. I was really happy to be involved thank you and I would like to be included in future projects if possible.
- We photographers had the good fortune of spending time with Doug Ohman, a professional photographer and author of several books. He came to St. James and gave an informative presentation on methods of photography and being creative in photographing our assigned letters and objects. He gave us confidence and made us feel like we would be successful with this project and that we might even think seriously about doing a book of our own some day. This project gave me the opportunity to do something that I never would have considered doing on my own or in a group, especially at this time in my life. I am glad I responded to the "ad" and was accepted as a participant. I grew from this experience. My thanks to Stacy Lienemann and Wilma Wolner for their role in making this project happen.
- The most interesting thing to me was the process of "intentional" photography...most of my photographic experience has not involved "staging" photos or looking for specific subjects.
- Most of my writing is for adults, so writing in this project has made me see my community through the eyes of a younger person, and in turn, this new perspective gave me a greater appreciation and excitement towards membership in my community.

THE BELOW ARE FROM THE STORY TIMES AND BOOK PARTIES

OUTCOME: Participants will celebrate, learn more about, and be able to identify the uniqueness of Watonwan County.

1. Did you enjoy reflecting on the uniqueness of Watonwan county?

106 yes

2. What is your favorite part of the book?

- different letters
- all of it is good
- all of it: 5
- all: 3
- pictures: 7
- whole thing
- the letters—where they were found
- picture of McDonald's
- seeing familiar sites
- Learning about what the letters stand for
- B is for Barns: Big bold bedrooms for our animals.
- All of it!: photos, verses, collaboration, pride in our county
- letter A: 2
- using letters for the pictures
- my son is the baby featured for letter H
- B for Barn
- The soldier with his daughter, telling where each picture came from
- How to decide?, all the photos, ownership of readers, age appropriate sentences, all of it

- collaboration of so many people/seeing different perspectives
- My grandson is on the H page. I'm partial though
- The Q
- All pictures—could have been even more per page/letter
- familiar scenes framed uniquely
- the ice skaters
- trying to figure out where the pictures were taken without looking!
- Seeing letters in odd places
- Finding out where the pics were taken
- Tractors: 4
- Uniqueness of the various letters
- Nature pictures
- R for railroad
- McDonald's sign, D for Donuts, jars with cookies
- Letters of alphabet—along with questions to get kids to think
- old barns and buildings
- McDonald's M
- A is for Animals
- The whole book is great
- Everything!: 2
- The artistic way of looking at our ordinary `stuff around town
- Quilts as a Quilter
- The amazing photos
- The alphabet and pictures
- all local—recognized
- the photos are great
- I can't choose . . . I love all of the photography!
- Seeing the variety of all the letters and their objects
- That it's people and places my kids can/have seen or find
- My grandpa in the tractor
- Wonderful photography
- Trying to figure out where the pictures are from (before checking in back)
- Everything! Great book!
- The pictures taken in relationship to our county
- water tower
- C because the courthouse is cool
- The A part with the kitties
- I like the letters A,F,T and the pictures of people
- Beautiful pictures
- The J
- Children' photos
- Photos
- The whole book—doing the photography
- The L
- How unique it is!
- Photos—letters
- Whole book
- Unique pictures
- To see the photographers
- finding a "letter" from a business I own

- the part that it's an ABC book
- recognition of pictures and authors who have contributed to this Watonwan book
- letters
- L—library
- Pictures of the quilts
- All of them
- Museum part

OUTCOME: Children will identify letters after reading the book, which is a critical early literacy skill.

During the story time, I asked children to identify letters as we went through the book. Children were able to identify the letters each time I asked.

3. Did you enjoy the story time today? OR Did you enjoy finding out about the process of creating this book?

Why or why not?

103 yes

1 no

#### --yes explanation--

- I like it because it's interesting
- Interesting: 4
- Because the library is fun
- I learned about Watonwan County
- Background from contributors was a neat addition
- my 8-year-old is interested in writing a book so she got to hear about it
- it took some time and required a lot of creativity- didn't just come together quickly!
- Because I like to write, so I liked learning about how books are put together
- Fun. It's been a while.
- It was really fun
- It was fun to hear the kids' excitement.
- could take my great grand kids with me to the library
- because I love baby kittens
- because it was interactive for my son
- because it was cool and fun
- interactive
- heard authors speak
- because of the little boy
- I love books
- Very nicely done. Stacy and the photographers did a great job.
- Love learning about our county
- Awesome book
- Interaction with people
- Very interesting to realize all the letters that stand alone or get together for words.
- It was enjoyable to hear where the photographers took the photos
- Participate
- Because of the alphabets and participate
- good to hear back info on each picture
- very well presented. All ages were there
- Interesting finding out how the whole process unfolded. Great to hear the contributors' stories
- Because the kids took part and Stacy did a great job of involving them!
- Everyone got a new book

- because I helped take the pictures and my grandpa, sister, and I are in the book
- loved it . . . nice job!
- very interesting and informative
- Liked that they involved the kids
- It was fun for all ages
- Reading to kids is very important. Also, the book in relationship to our county is neat.
- because I wasn't at home
- Yes because it was cool
- I liked it a lot: 2
- Librarian encouraged audience participation
- pictures came alive
- Fun to hear comments and questions—and to hear the "story" read
- brings back memories of years gone by
- Stacy involved the children by asking questions
- Illustrations
- Because it was fun
- For the pic.
- It was kindy fun
- everyone gets a new book
- Got a little long for kids

**--no explanation--**

- I don't like being read to

4. Did you receive a free copy of the book today?

108 yes

- Thank you
- This is a wonderful keepsake! Thank you!

5. Suggestions for future programs?

- teddy bears
- birds we have in Watonwan
- counting book (2)
- john deere book
- books from each town
- short stories about famous people for Watonwan county
- magic show
- a sequel to this book

6. Where did you hear about this program?

- library 41
- friend/relative 39
- newspaper article 22
- newspaper ad 12
- summer library brochure 12
- library e-newsletter 9
- library mailing 4
- sign at local business/school 4
- facebook 3
- library website 3
- e-mail 1

- historical society mailing 1
- word of mouth 1
- library board meeting 1
- Radio KRRW 1

OUTCOME: People will check out the published books.

We are currently in the process of adding the books to our collection. Based on the reaction to the book, we anticipate that these books will be checked out.