AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM PROPOSAL FOR GREEN TREE PARK AREA CHILDREN AT GLEN SPRING MANORS

The African proverb suggesting, "it takes a village to raise a child" is the impetus for this proposal. Partnerships between the university, public and private schools, community centers, the medical community, and the private business sector allow us to reach more children in a wider variety of settings under the UF *Gainesville Reads* umbrella. The purpose of this proposal is to combine the resources of the City of Gainesville Department of Parks and Recreation, the UF College of Education, the UF College of Health and Human Performance, and the UF Office of Collegiate Volunteerism to provide a quality after school recreation and tutoring program for children living in the Green Tree Park neighborhood.

Program Objectives

The goal of *Gainesville Reads* is to enhance literacy, mathematics, and leisure/recreation skills among children ages pre-school through high school and their families. Four specific objectives have been designed to achieve this goal:

→ **Provide one-on-one tutoring to increase reading and mathematics achievement among students identified as at risk for reading failure.**

→ **Improve the ability of children to interact with others in a responsible and sensitive manner and to enjoy constructive recreational and leisure time**

→ **Develop college students as effective community resources.**

→ **Develop sustainable partnerships between the University of Florida and community entities.**

Program Activities

I. Program Coordination

Funding in the amount of approximately **$6900 (UF student, $12 per hour, 15 hours per week, 35-38 weeks)** provided by the **City of Gainesville** would pay for a Gainesville Reads site coordinator to assist with supervision of tutors and children attending the Green Tree Park after school program. Children would receive assistance in reading and mathematics from the *Gainesville Reads* program, as well as participate in recreational activities with volunteers from the College of Human Health and Performance.

The program would be offered Monday through Thursday between the hours of 2:30-5:30 for 10-13 weeks during the Spring, 2002 semester and the Fall, 2002 semester. The program would also be offered during the 13 week summer semester. Hours of operation for the summer program have not yet been determined.

II. Tutor Training

UF tutors who receive federal work-study dollars or who earn course credit work as *Gainesville Reads* tutors. Tutors receive approximately ten hours of initial training and additional follow-up training and supervision by Gainesville Reads staff throughout each semester. **UF faculty** provides training in several effective tutoring methods.

III. Tutoring

Tutors and recreation mentors are recruited throughout the UF campus with an emphasis placed on selecting tutors majoring in Education or Human Health and Performance. Tutors are asked to commit to one semester of tutoring (10-13 weeks) and work 2-15 hours per week. Each tutor works with several children each day. The Gainesville Reads site coordinators schedule and supervise tutors as well as monitor time cards and course requirements of tutors. **The University of Florida Office of Financial Services pays tutors.**

IV. Technical Assistance and Materials

In addition to recruiting, training, and supervising UF students in their tutoring efforts, the *Gainesville Reads* program offers training and materials to community groups who support volunteer tutoring programs or literacy. *Gainesville Reads* technical resources are customized to best meet the needs of community groups striving to develop individualized literacy programs for children and families.

Members of the **Assembly of God** church have requested assistance from the City of Gainesville and other area agencies frequently throughout the years in their efforts to serve the children living in the Green Tree Park area neighborhood. Critical to the success of this proposed after-school partnership is the participation of the Assembly of God church members. Gainesville Reads staff can provide a literacy-based "train-the-trainer" model of training for church volunteers, as well as materials necessary to implement an effective tutoring program. This model would teach church members to become tutors and at the same time train these members to teach others in the community ensuring the success and continuity of the program for future years. As part of this partnership, the church would commit to provide evening dinners, door prizes, and assistance with recruitment of volunteers from the church willing to act as tutors and/or future trainers.

V. Recruitment of Children and Families

Individuals representing area church and community groups will assist with assuring attendance by children and families in program activities.

In summary, **Gainesville Reads** will provide the materials, tutors, and training needed for implementation of an effective tutoring program. The **City of Gainesville** will provide additional dollars allocated for program coordination and recreational materials. These materials would be returned to the City of Gainesville should the program be terminated. The **UF Office of Collegiate Volunteerism** will contribute up to 5 computers for use at Glen Spring Manor. These computers would be returned to UF should the program be terminated. **Glen Springs Manor** would provide tables, chairs, and a locked storage cabinet for storage of tutoring and recreational materials, and a heated/air conditioned room that will accommodate up to 10 children. The **Assembly of God** would provide assistance with parent and volunteer trainings in the form of evening dinners, recruitment of neighborhood parents and volunteers, and motivational prizes for training participants.