

The Elementary School District 159
&
Timber Ridge Community
Story

“A Partnership Built On The Commitment To Our Community”

Dr. Mable Alfred,
Superintendent of Schools



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Morgan Murphy
Scott Christensen

Elementary School District 159 Team Members

Mrs. Shelia Friday
Mr. Eddie Short
Mrs. Miriam McCoy
Mrs. Cherryl Mitchell
Mrs. Ina Jones

CHAPTER I

The Timber Ridge Community Resource Center



The Timber Ridge Community Resource Center Story

I always say that my job is to tell Elementary School District 159's story - to share the good news and try to avoid the not-so-good news. This is a good news, feel good, and do good story and I am so pleased to share it with the community.

Towards the end of 2017, Dr. Alfred spoke to me about a project she had learned of at the National School Board Association Conference. A school district had won the nationally recognized Magna Grant for their community outreach by establishing a traveling learning center on a bus in the neediest parts of their rural community. She mentioned the Timber Ridge Community and said that she wanted to establish a similar project for them since they were an unincorporated area in our school district and did not share in the amenities of other areas of Matteson such as the use of the library. Most importantly, a significant number of the students at Sieden Prairie Elementary School lived in the community.

At the beginning of 2018, I met with Mr. Scott Christensen of Timber Ridge to discuss partnering with the community. After researching and identifying their needs, we outlined what the partnership would look like which included establishing a resource center for the children.

In early spring, Dr. Alfred met with me and Mrs. Miriam McCoy, our ELL Coordinator, to discuss the Timber Ridge project and assigned me as the project manager. Subsequently, our team which also included our Director of Technology, Mr. Eddie Short met with Mr. Christensen to again discuss the community needs and reaffirmed that we would work to establish a community resource center. We also established each of our roles as well as Timber Ridge's responsibility.

Timber Ridge had a big responsibility and a lot work to do by transforming an old dingy unused room removing wall panels, and adding new flooring, ceilings, and shelving. They also were to provide a white board, tables and copying machine.

Our school district was responsible for donating and installing computers, working closely with families to recruit them to utilize the resource center, ensuring book donations and wall art.

Shortly afterwards, Scott Christensen and his team started the construction of the resource center and in early September, he forward pictures of a completed room, which was an absolute transformation from the once old dingy room. They did an awesome job!

I had been working on donations for books by visiting book stores, calling on friends for support, and relied on my family to pick up books on a weekly basis from donors. Many of the books were donated by Half Price Books in Orland Park. At that point Mrs. Cheryl Mitchell our Family & Community Engagement Coordinator and Mrs. Ina Jones had become members of our team.

The ribbon cutting ceremony was scheduled for October 29th and we worked to ensure that everything was in place with the installation of the computers and the donation of the books. While we purchased posters for the walls, art was also provided by our students, donated by Sieden Prairie Principal McCaskill, Ms. Crystal Herrera and other teachers from Sieden Prairie and hung throughout the facility. The big hit was the huge mural done by Ms. Herrera's students. It is still hanging in the facility today!

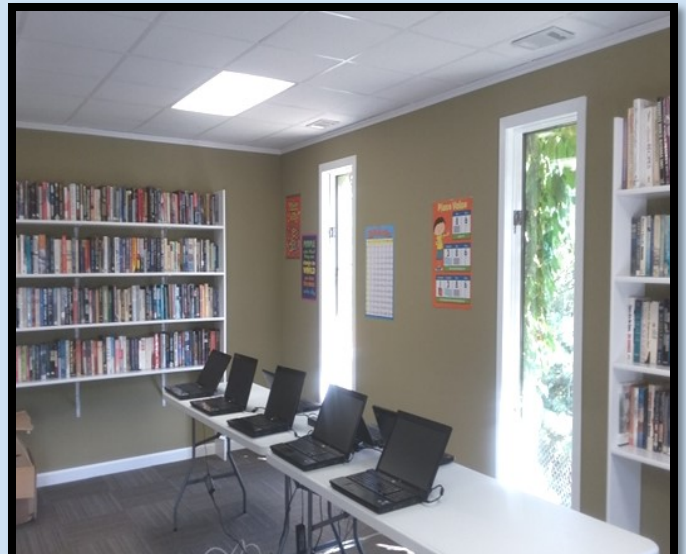
As shown in the following pages of pictures, the ribbon cutting ceremony was a big success! It was well attended and we heard many positive comments throughout the night. When the ribbon was cut by Sieden Prairie student, Aileen Morales, the children were ecstatic as they entered their brand new community resource center. They said things like "Oh my God!", "Wow!", "look at the computers!" "Yes!" One mom was overheard telling her child "now you have no reason not to complete your homework. We have computers." The community resource center is being well used and is serving its purpose. In fact, children often request to stay there after closing hours to finish their homework or to enjoy being on the computers. The children borrow books and return them so that other children can enjoy them as well. It is their place. Their extended learning place and they love it!

As stated earlier, the following pages of pictures are an indication of the success of our partnership. To that end, we are all grateful and honored to be a part of the Timber Ridge Community Resource Center Story: A Partnership Built On The Commitment To Our Community.

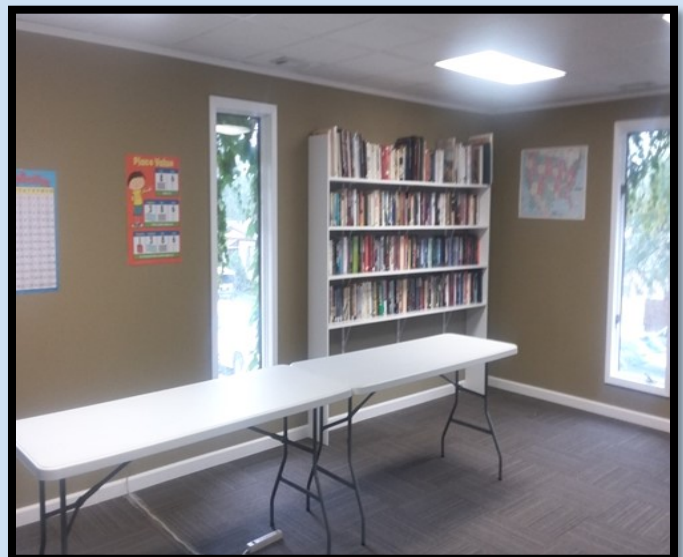
“Transformation Is Key To Growth.....

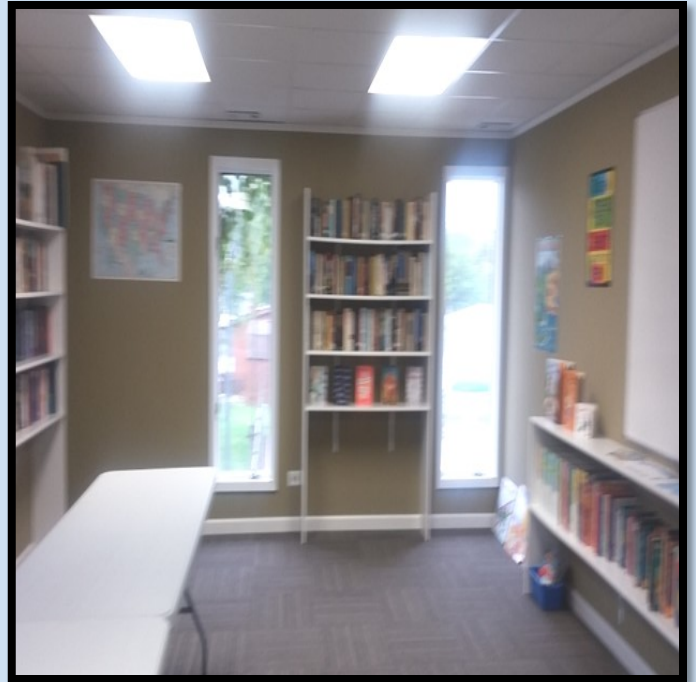


Growth Is Key To Success.....

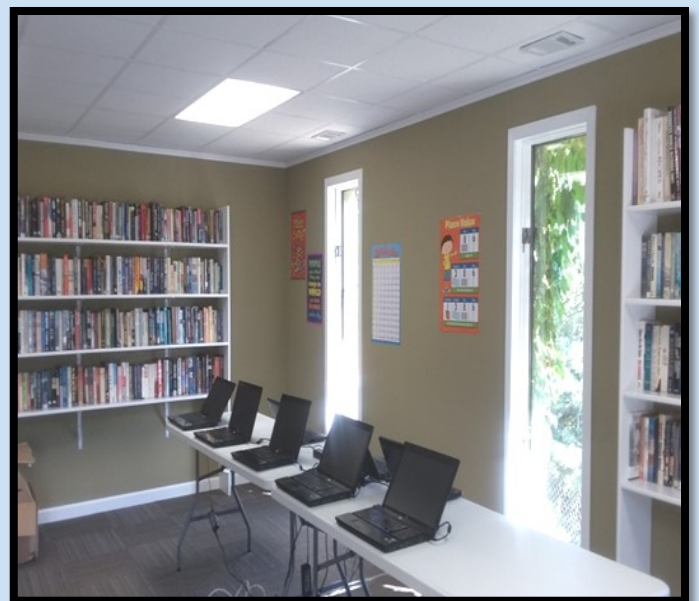


**Success Is The Key To The Future”
-Dr. Mable Alfred**





**“Our Visions Become Our Realities When We Put Them Into Action”
-Dr. Mable Alfred**



Our School District.....

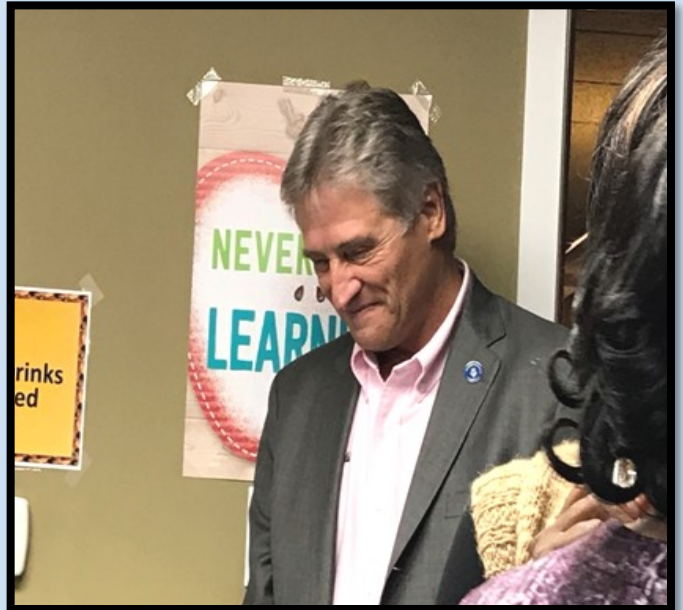


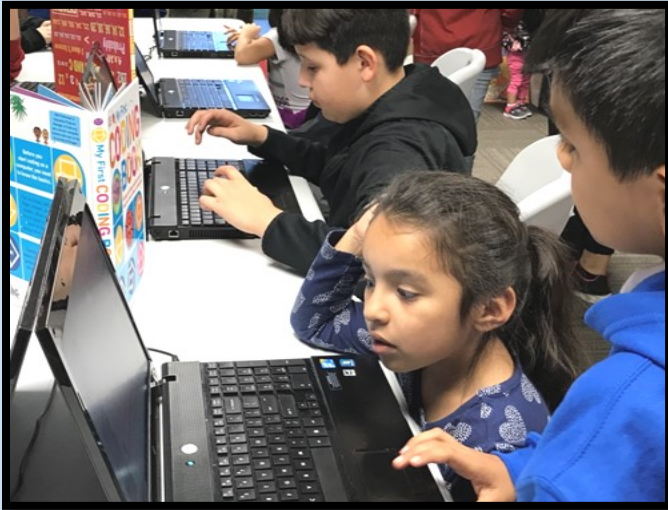
Our Community!

“Together We Can Make A Difference.....



**“If We Try To Make A Difference”
-Shelia Friday**





**"If We Truly Believe
That Our children Are
Our Future...."**



**We Must Invest In
Them Because....They
Are Our Future"**
-Shelia Friday





“Education is not an option. It is a necessity” - Ina Jones



“Education comes from the heart” - Cherryl Mitchell



Because.....

“Every child deserves a champion: an adult who will never give up on them, who understands the power of connection and insists they become the best they can possibly be”

– Rita Pierson

Chapter II
The Timber Ridge Adult Learning Center



And so the Timber Ridge Story continues.....

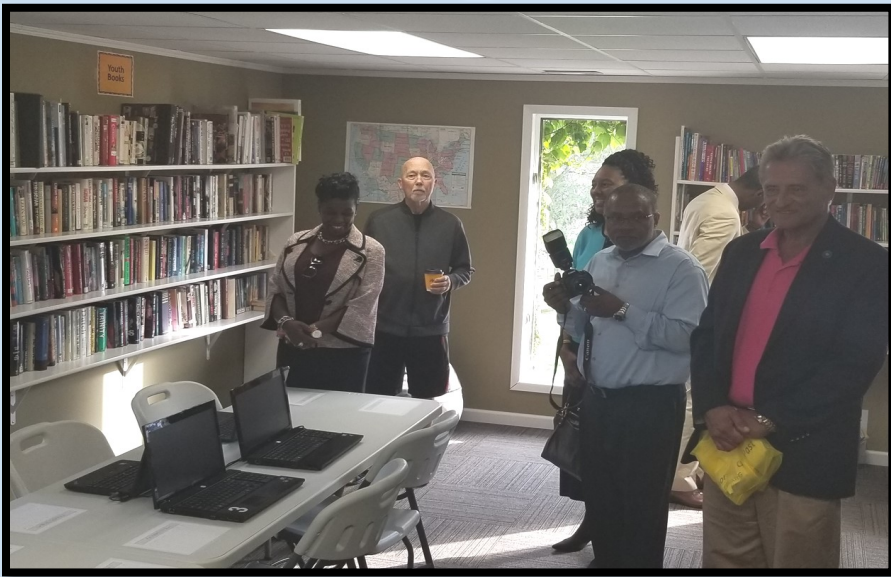
Our Timber Ridge Community Resource Center was a huge success! However, Dr. Alfred wanted to also address the needs of their adult residents. Mr. Christensen shared with us that during the day while students were at school, several of the adults residents would visit the community center. We then agreed to partner once more to create a learning center specifically designed for residents over the age of 18.

Just as before, Timber Ridge renovated a barely used room into a fully functional area equipped with shelving, carpeting, and internet capability. We provided approximately 400 books, Chrome-books and wall art.

The reception and grand opening of the Adult Learning Center was held in early September and attended by District 159 administrators, Timber Ridge management, elected officials, community members, and representatives from the Village of Matteson.

In the words of Dr. Alfred, "We will continue our partnership with the Timber Ridge Community because they are a part of us. Meeting the needs of our students and their families are of utmost importance."





Thank You!

I would like to thank everyone who played a role in the development of the Timber Ridge Community Resource Center. Morgan Murphy and Scott Christensen from Timber Ridge, our vision became your vision. Thank you for the partnership!

To my team members, Mr. Eddie Short, Mrs. Miriam McCoy, Mrs. Cherryl Mitchell, Mrs. Ina Jones, Sieden Prairie Principal LaTonya McCaskill, Ms. Cristal Herrera and the staff of Sieden Prairie, thank you!

To our book donors Maya Hardy, Half-Price Books, KinderCare, and Mr. Jackie Friday, thank you!

To Elementary School District 159 Board of Education, thanks so much for your support and for attending our receptions!

To State Representative Debbie-Meyers-Martin, Richton Park Village President Rick Reinbold, Trustees from the Village of Richton Park, Board Members from Rich Township School District 227, representatives from the Village of Matteson and Rich Township Highway Commissioner Calvin Jordan, thank you for attending and for your continued support of our school district!

Most of all, to our Superintendent of Schools Dr. Mable Alfred, thank you for your vision, generosity, commitment to our community, and entrusting us all to make the Timber Ridge Community Resource Center and the Adult Learning Center the realities that they are! Because of your vision, our partnership will have lasting benefits for the Timber Ridge Community. Your vision has become their reality!

Shelia M. Friday, MPA, GPC
Public Relations Coordinator

