



Providing adults who live in or near Ottawa County with an opportunity to improve and transform their lives by strengthening their reading and language fluency.

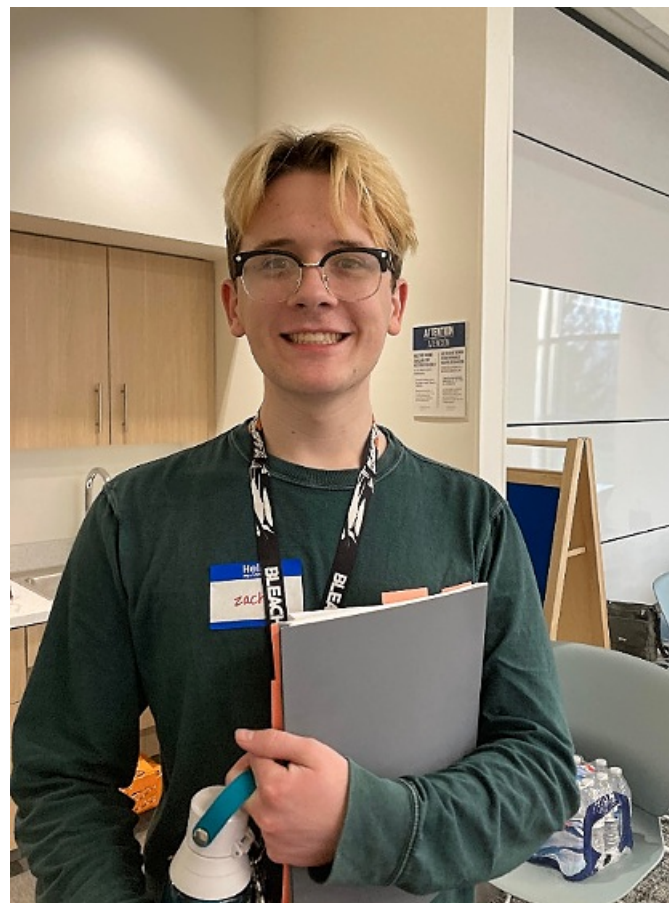
May 2024 Newsletter

Change a Life, Give Today

Tutor Spotlight



Zach Parker



Zach Parker is a student at GVSU studying Speech Pathology. He has a deep love of languages and was drawn to READ Ottawa thinking that he could help improve another's access to language, an important component, he says, to increasing one's quality of life. When asked about his greatest joy in tutoring, Zach speaks of the relationship formed with someone who would likely never cross his path. He enjoyed absorbing the culture and life stories of his learners.

Tutoring is not a perfect science, as Zach will attest. He is challenged by its unpredictability. "You never know which strategies are going to work until you try them," he states. Zach is very thankful for the guidance of Richelle Hoffmann, READ's Holland pair coordinator. Her mentorship was inspirational to him.

Zach has worked with 2 learners, helping them with both reading and pronunciation skills. He has also been an integral part of his learners' transitions to new tutors as he now prepares to leave for the Peace Corps. We wish him the best as he brings his talents abroad!



READ CELEBRATES NEW AND EXPERIENCED TUTORS!

This month READ welcomed 10 new tutors to the team. The typical nighttime training was changed to an afternoon at Herrick's North Branch and once again, the staff at READ was delighted by the warm and generous folks who were trained. All tutors were quickly matched as Holland's program continues to grow.

This month we also want to honor many tutors who have given 5+ and 10+ years of service to READ Ottawa. We look forward to continuing this life-giving work with them and celebrating the goals reached through their mentorship. Below are the lists of names; be sure to thank any you may know!



5 YEARS

Gayle Parmalee
 Andrew Soria
 Tracy Riley
 Ann Antanya
 Julie Fraiser
 Carol Schotthey
 Dick Bullington
 Jean Ryan

10 YEARS

Paul Martin
 Bruce Baker
 Robin Myers
 Kathy DuVall
 Jean Grossnickle
 Cassie Karr
 Renate Watters
 Janet Weissner

Passing The Test



Inspirational Learner Stories

Jill Ryan and her father, Duncan, tutor together. This dynamic duo was instrumental in their learner "I's" passing the US Citizenship Test recently. "I" texted Jill with the good news before she even started home from Detroit.

Peg Helmink has worked side by side with her learner, "M", meeting double time in weeks before the TOEFL test. After not passing by merely 1 point, Peg reports "M's" success. "M" now has a job in health care and the pair is working toward the next test, the HESI.

After 7 tries at the GED, "S" has not only passed but is speaking at graduation. His tutor, **Sue Skeindziel**, has been invited to attend.

Andrea Ensing helped her learner realize her dream of attending college. The roadblock was the GRCC placement test. Now, after passing, her learner, "L", hopes to begin classes this summer.

Being able to drive was the key for learner "F" to gain her independence. Her first tutor, **Dick Bullington**, began the process and her current tutor, **Elaine Garcia**, shared her joy in passing the Driver's Test.

Vicki Mast's learner, "S", took the long way (13-100 page packets to complete) to get her GED. The pair worked so hard and will celebrate together on graduation day.

Sam Hoffman's learner has passed the first CBP test-Customs Boarder Patrol Test. They are now putting their heads together and tackling the next one.

Interested in becoming a tutor? RSVP through one of the following:
 Filling out the form at <https://readottawa.org/volunteer>
 Email Lynn Groothuis at lynn@readottawa.org
 Call Lynn at 616-414-0295

"Life's most urgent question is: What are you doing for others?" Martin Luther King, Jr.



Website: www.readottawa.org
Email: info@readottawa.org

Click to [Unsubscribe](#) from this list.
READ Ottawa
430 E 8th St #140
Holland, MI 49423 - United States
Telephone: (616) 843-1470