



**READ**  
OTTAWA

## Reading Enables Adult Development

*Our mission is to provide adults who live in or near Ottawa County with an opportunity to improve and transform their lives by strengthening their reading and language fluency.*

### 2021 Newsletter



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Jill Roof

Pair Coordinator

Holland/Zeeland

Lynn Groothuis

Volunteer Coordinator

Ottawa County

## Success in Stories

Minnie moved here from South Korea with her husband for his work. Ineligible to work herself without a work visa of own, Minnie reached out to READ Ottawa to find a tutor to help her improve her English, so she could have something to do each week. She has benefited from conversational English skills with her tutor, which has helped her feel less isolated here.



## Expansion to Holland/Zeeland

READ Ottawa's expansion into Holland/Zeeland is underway! In February, 2020, we received a grant from the Community Foundation of Holland/Zeeland to expand our services into the area. Due to the pandemic, we could not expand our services. We are working hard on creating relationships with organizations that serve adults that may have difficulties with literacy, creating marketing new materials, and spreading the word in the community. We can't wait to help more adult learners with literacy!

## READ Ottawa Rebranding

In January, R.E.A.D. legally changed its name to READ Ottawa. We are excited to be able to expand our services from Northwest Ottawa County to all of Ottawa County. Over 40,000 adults in Ottawa County cannot read proficiently above a third-grade reading level. READ Ottawa is looking forward to serving more adults in need to improve their lives and the lives of their families through literacy. Additionally, READ Ottawa has a new logo that reflects our name and expansion. Katie Martin, a long-time volunteer and supporter of READ Ottawa created our beautiful new image. Kate Tobin, of Loutit District Library came up with our color scheme. Check out our website! Our website received a makeover with our logo colors and has a vibrant appearance. Several new pages have been added and we expanded the literacy services offered to adult learners and extended more opportunities for volunteers to get involved with READ Ottawa to carry out our mission.

## Fall 2021 Tutor Training

This Fall we held our first Tutor Training since March, 2020. We opened our training to volunteers who wish to serve learners in both Grand Haven and Holland/Zeeland. We are hopeful that we can offer four training sessions annually and our next training session will be located in the Holland/Zeeland area.

## New Staff Member Changes

READ Ottawa said goodbye to former Executive Director, Hannah Everett, in August. Hannah served READ Ottawa for 3 years before her departure. Hannah was an integral part of developing READ Ottawa and our expansion. We will miss her and wish her the best of luck in her new endeavor!

In the summer, we welcomed our new Executive Director, Stormie Drake! Stormie has been working within the education and nonprofit sectors for over a decade. She holds a Bachelor's degree of Education and English from Eastern Michigan University and she is currently attending Central Michigan University to receive her Master's degree of Philanthropy & Nonprofit Organizations in Administration. Stormie enjoys cooking, reading, writing, and cares for five special needs pets.

Using the funding we received from the Community Foundation of the Holland/Zeeland Area, we were able to add a new staff member to our team to serve the area. Jill Roof, our Volunteer Coordinator, transitioned to become our new Pair Coordinator for Holland/Zeeland.

In October, we welcomed Lynn Groothuis, our new Volunteer Coordinator to the READ Ottawa team! Lynn is a graduate of Calvin College with a Bachelor's degree in Education. She has taught at Zeeland Christian School since 1988 in the regular classroom and currently as the visual arts instructor. In her free time, Lynn enjoys golfing and hiking with her husband as well as collecting interesting driftwood on the beaches of west Michigan.

