

December 2013



R.E.A.D. is a volunteer based adult literacy program that provides one-on-one tutoring for individuals with minimal literacy proficiency. Our service helps adults improve their basic life skills such as filling out forms correctly and reading medical prescriptions accurately. Our tutors help their students achieve personal goals such as reading to their children and attaining reliable employment. Over 6500 adults in Northwest Ottawa County (equivalent to over half of the population in the City of Grand Haven) read at a third grade level or below. R.E.A.D. currently supports 32 tutor and student pairs but there are so many more adults we want to help.

Please help us with our mission. R.E.A.D. operates with a small budget, a dedicated group of volunteers, and a goal to end illiteracy in our community. In order to provide more outreach and support all our tutors and learners, we need your help!

EVERYONE NEEDS TO READ IN ORDER
TO REACH THEIR FULL POTENTIAL

YOU CAN HELP

- Volunteer as a tutor
- Spread the word that there are services available for those who need help
- Make a donation

YOUR DONATION PROVIDES

- Tutor and learner marketing materials and outreach
- Orientations and background checks
- Assessments and testing
- Tracking in order to reach goals
- Training and ongoing professional development services
- Workbooks and materials
- Volunteer recognition

We are asking for your support of a tax-deductible gift to R.E.A.D. in the envelope provided to help us make an impact for those who struggle to read, write, speak, compute and solve problems at the level needed to function on the job, in the family and in the community. Thanks for your support.



Mission Statement:

“... to provide Northwest Ottawa County adults with an opportunity to improve and transform their lives by strengthening their reading and language skills.”

R.E.A.D. is federally tax exempt under Section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Service.

“The more you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you will go.”
Dr. Seuss

R.E.A.D. would like to thank all of our partners for their generous support:

Loutit District Library

Spring Lake District Library

Grand Haven Area Community Foundation

100 or More Women Who Care Tri-Cities

Zeeland/Holland Adult Education

Imagine If You Could Not Read

"To learn to read is to light a fire; every syllable that is spelled out is a spark."

Victor Hugo

Volunteer Tutors

Bruce Baker
 Shirley Batchelder
 Nancy Bauer
 Cassie Karr
 Ann Carrier
 Cindy Clark
 Tom Craig
 Katherine DuVall
 Jean Grossnickle
 Richard Hoffstedt
 Jennifer Jacobs
 Rhonda Johnson
 Karen Johnston
 Ron Lindquist
 Susan Lowe
 Mary Marthey
 Paul Martin
 Laurie Mason
 Alice Mohr
 Robin Meyers
 Eunice Peterson
 Art Pruiksmas
 Fern Emma Pruiksmas
 Laurie Randall
 Bill Smits
 Penny Smits
 Mary Springer
 Susan Strobel
 Mary Sweet
 Lorelle Sybsema
 Sue Thompson
 Richard Vissar
 Renate Watters
 Janet Wiegner
 Carol Wilhelm
 Mary Willink

Debora (not her real name), is 66 years old, lives in Northwest Ottawa County, is retired after a 35 year career in the paper industry, lives in a lovely home and as a single parent provides her four children with a comfortable middle class life. She is illiterate. In November of 2012 Debora began working with R.E.A.D. tutor, Jean Grossnickle. She read at a 2nd grade level, one year later she reads at a 5th grade level.

was given to my problem. I was embarrassed, still am. I struggled through school and dropped out in the 9th grade. What saved me was a good job and wanting to provide my children with a good life. I was promoted and learned how to handle responsibilities without people knowing I could not read. I did not dwell on things, there was no time and my children's needs were more important than mine.

my children got older I relied on them. The older children helped the younger ones. I made sure they all asked their teacher for help if they did not understand something.

Growing up were there others in your family who could not read?

No, I was the only one out of 6 siblings who had a problem. Most of my brothers and sisters went on to college.

How did you manage with out being able to read?

I knew the basics and had common sense. If my children needed help I sent them to their father who was educated. I relied on my parents, they were good parents, my siblings knew my secret and when I ran into something I could not understand they would always help me. As

What made you ask for help?

After I retired I knew it was time for me to focus on myself. I decided to get my GED and the instructor put me in touch with R.E.A.D. My tutor, Jean Grossnickle, is the first person that has helped me and I am so happy. That was just about one year ago and I love it

What happens next?

I am not going to quit. I am going to help others, and when I am sure I will not embarrass myself or Jean, I will tell my story and not remain anonymous.

Training & Tutor Schedule for 2014

Jan 4	10-11am	Loutit Library Room B	Informational Meeting
Jan 6	7-8pm	Loutit Library Room B	Informational Meeting
Jan 7	6:30-8:30pm	Loutit Library Room A	Roundtable/Workshop
Jan 13	5:30-8:30pm	GH First Presbyterian Church	Tutor Training
Jan 15	5:30-8:30pm	GH First Presbyterian Church	Tutor Training
Jan 27	5:30-8:30pm	GH First Presbyterian Church	Tutor Training
Mar 4	6:30-8:30pm	Loutit Library Room A	Roundtable/Workshop
May 6	6:30-8:30pm	Loutit Library Room A	Roundtable/Workshop
July 20	12-3pm	Pottawatomie Bayou Park	Tutor & Student Appreciation Picnic
Sept 6	10-11am	Loutit Library Room B	Informational Meeting
Sept 10	6:30-8:30pm	Loutit Library Room A	Roundtable/Workshop
Sept 11	7-8pm	Loutit Library Room B	Informational Meeting
Sept 16	5:30-8:30pm	Loutit Library Room A	Tutor Training
Sept 22	5:30-8:30pm	Loutit Library Room A	Tutor Training
Sept 29	5:30-8:30pm	Loutit Library Room A	Tutor Training
Nov 12	6:30-8:30pm	Loutit Library Room A	Roundtable/Workshop

Smiles Are The Same In All Languages

Lila and Shanti Bhattarai smile often, are quick to say thank you and are grateful that everyone has been so nice to them since arriving in Grand Haven fifteen months ago. Only able to speak a few words of English, they work with their tutor, Rhonda Johnson, on pronunciations and definitions, money exchange, penmanship and most importantly building a friendship. This experience has changed Rhonda's life. "They are beautiful, wonderful and hard working people. If I am having a bad day or a challenge, I think of them, they are my inspiration and I love them."

Both Lila, 51, and Shanti, 61, were natives of Bhutan; they owned and worked a family farm while raising their three children. In the late

1980's, in what has often been described as an "ethnic cleansing", with only days notice an estimated 80,000 Bhutanese of Nepali ancestry were pushed across the Bhutanese border and ultimately forced to settle in refugee camps in Nepal. They were not welcomed or issued work permits. They lived in temporary structures without electricity, heat or water. By 2007, due to natural population growth, the camps were overpopulated; approximately 108,000 refugees lived in the seven camps. In that year an agreement was brokered to settle them in several Western Countries. Through Bethany Christian Services and area churches that sponsored them, many of the Nepalese refugee families were welcomed to the Tri-Cities.

Shanti and Lila's daughter, Talusha, was the first family member to arrive. Her two brothers, younger sister and parents followed. All are determined to master the English language and become U.S. citizens. That is their goal.

Rhonda has no doubt Lila and Shanti will meet their goal, "They work so hard and are always enthusiastic. I am so amazed at what they accomplish every time we meet. I cannot say it enough, Lila and Shanti are extraordinary people, working with them has been the most fulfilling experience I have ever had."



"ONCE YOU LEARN TO READ, YOU WILL BE FOREVER FREE."

FREDERICK DOUGLASS

"I feel so fortunate to be a part of the R.E.A.D. program!! Many years ago I taught in secondary schools and later in day-care. However about 30 years ago I lost a great deal of my hearing ability, which limited my interaction among groups of people. I have no problem conversing one-on-one. Therefore, this tutoring opportunity is just perfect for me. I finally feel I can be of help! Of course my student is very special and a real joy to work with. I look forward to meeting with her each week and seeing her improvement and growing confidence!!!!"

Jean Grossnickle

R.E.A.D. Appreciation Picnic

The first annual R.E.A.D. appreciation picnic was held on July 21, 2013 at Pottawatomie Park in Grand Haven. It was a great gathering of students, tutors, volunteers and board members who celebrated learning and literacy. Everyone enjoyed the food, book exchange and prize drawings. The second annual picnic will take place on Sunday, July 20, 2014!



Mary Willink & Lorelle Sybsema



Marilyn Reichardt & Linda Ruiter

R.E.A.D.
READING ENABLES ADULT DEVELOPMENT
P.O. Box 429 Grand Haven, MI 49417
616-843-1470
www.readadultliteracy.org

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R.E.A.D. Upcoming Events

Come support Literacy in our community by mentioning R.E.A.D. when ordering a pizza at **Mancino's** on

Thursday, January 16th, 2014

Mancino's will donate a percentage of the proceeds of all the food purchased on January 16th to help support literacy. R.E.A.D. will use all the proceeds to support the tutors and help the learners improve their literacy skills.



Mancino's Pizza and Grinders
13040 US 31 Grand Haven
616-844-5566

Calling all Book Lovers!

Come celebrate your love of literature and the 100-year anniversary of the public library in Grand Haven on

Thursday, February 20th 2014 (7-9 pm)

An entertaining evening of book trivia, chocolate and drinks (cash bar) will take place at the Rosebud hosted by R.E.A.D. and sponsored by the Loutit District Library, Spring Lake District Library, Rosebud, the Bookman and Chocolates by Grimaldi. Bring your own team (i.e. book club) or teams will be formed. We'll test your knowledge and love of literature and the winning team will win prizes from the Bookman. Space is limited. Reserve your spot at loutitlibrary.org.

