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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.

February 2024 Newsletter

Change a Life, Give Today

Tutor Spotlight



Mary DeWeerd



Mary DeWeerd's life has always included the love of reading. At a very young age her mother inspired her with books which most certainly propelled her into her career in the library. Mary saw how the programs that the library offered did so much good for the community; she was delighted to be part of it.

Mary found READ Ottawa in 2020 and trained right before the pandemic. Needless to say, at that time there were no new pairings taking place. A year later Mary returned to repeat the training and started to work with her learner, Dahn. While Dahn's goal is US Citizenship, Mary quickly saw that there would need to be much more language acquisition to set the foundation for success.

Communication proved to be a challenge and progress was sometimes slow, but Mary has found ways to help Dahn learn English. They have tackled the farmer's market and the grocery store, bonding over food and recipes - practicing English all the while.

While Mary had some misgivings over what she says is lack of any teaching background, she is a perfect example of forming a relationship where learning grows not only for Dahn but for her as well. She tells of her fascination with Dahn's festivals and the history of her country. "It is very true," claims Mary, "that the teacher learns as much or more than the learner!"

 **The BIG Shop**
SHOP. DONATE. FEEL GOOD.

Downtown Grand Haven-April 20, 2024

Join us to shop and support READ Ottawa! 15% of all purchases benefit READ



READ Ottawa-Midtown Center Connection

In 1913 Holland High School began in what is now called the Midtown Center in Holland, transitioning the building to the Junior High until Jubilee Housing Ministries purchased it in 2005. Now the Midtown Center houses many local non-profit organizations, one of which is Zeeland Adult Education. ZAE has embraced READ Ottawa as they seek to educate adults in the Holland-Zeeland area. READ'S Pair Coordinator, Richelle Hofman, is frequently meeting with learners, ZAE teachers, and READ tutors at the Midtown Center.

When Herrick Library began its renovations, the Midtown Center became an ideal tutoring location for many of our tutors. The space proved to be quite efficient as many pairs meet after the learner's class with ZAE. READ board and staff are grateful for the partnership with both ZAE and the staff at the Midtown Center in our mission to improve literacy in Ottawa County.



FREE CITIZENSHIP CLASS

Intersection Ministries
945 136th Ave.
Holland, 49424
616.399.1872
www.intersectionministries.org

(please enter through the north door of the church building)



**9 WEDNESDAY EVENINGS
FEBRUARY 28 TO MAY 1, 2024
6:30 TO 8 PM (NO CLASS ON APRIL 3)**

WHY CHOOSE OUR CLASS:

STUDENTS WILL:

- Receive study materials
- learn and practice the 100 Civic questions
- receive help with filling out the USCIS N-400 Application for Naturalization
- prepare an attorney packet with copies of required documents
- receive a free prescreening with an immigration attorney and a referral

REGISTER ONLINE

Use the QR code to register
or go to bit.ly/citizenshipclassfree
Last day to register is March 13



➔ Please contact Bev Stephenson at 616-953-2051 or bjstep02@gmail.com;

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

*"All learning begins with the phrase, 'I don't know.'"
Author Unknown*



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

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READ Ottawa
430 E 8th St #140
Holland, MI 49423 - United States
Telephone: (616) 843-1470