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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.

## January 2024 Newsletter

Change a Life, Give Today



### **A New Beginning for Ana**

Cynthia Davis is a READ Ottawa tutor who had the privilege of guiding her learner, Ana Nunez (pictured above), in studying for the US Citizenship test. The Citizenship test requires an enormous amount of understanding United States history and government, memorization and writing. Indeed, this was no easy task; Ana worked hard despite her circumstances.

In addition to her tutoring sessions, Ana works third shift. Her husband Raul works second shift in order to best care for their 3 children. This arrangement allows them to be involved with school and special events, a high priority for the couple. The citizenship test was scheduled for November 28 and in just weeks before, Ana faced 2 difficult life events. Her mother-in-law, who was of great help to her, sadly passed away. Then, tragically, her husband had a heart attack. Even so, Ana was determined to stay the course--and she passed!

Ana points to Cynthia as "without a doubt a great help in the process." Ana is so grateful for this country of opportunity and is committed to continue to improve her English literacy skills. Cynthia beams with pride in Ana's accomplishments. She marvels at her grit and disciplined study habits. "The smile on Ana's face when she realizes she can use her English is a great joy," says Cynthia. And now this tutor has a new challenge: designing lessons to continue to build confidence in using the language.



### **Welcome to our New Accountant**

Kathy Sarchett decided to make doing some volunteer work a resolution for 2024. Recently she transitioned to part time work in accounting after a 21 year career as a CPA. Luckily for READ she saw our ad for a volunteer accountant. We are blessed to have her on board!

Kathy and her husband Tim moved to Hudsonville only 5 years ago. After living in Delaware for many years, the couple returned to Tim's childhood state and are enjoying bicycling on "wonderfully flat, nearby trails", camping in the U.P., and caring for at least one dog and a cat. Kathy and Tim are also avid bird watchers.

"I am thrilled to be of service to an organization with such an important mission," Kathy states. And with all pieces of the puzzle that nicely fit, READ Ottawa sees that as a win-win!

### **We need Tutors!**

Usually we have a few tutors waiting for a match but lately, as soon as they are trained, our tutors have been put to work. Please spread the word about this fulfilling volunteer opportunity and the upcoming trainings!

# Volunteer Tutors Needed



READ Ottawa is looking for volunteers who want to tutor an adult in literacy and language skills. NO experience necessary! Training provided for FREE.



## **Tutoring Details:**

- Tutors work one-on-one with adult learners ages 18 and above
- Sessions are 1 - 2 hours weekly
- Tutor training and ongoing support is provided
- Learning materials for adult learners and tutors are supplied

More information on tutoring is on our website! Please reach out to us today if you're interested in changing a life through literacy.

[www.readottawa.org](http://www.readottawa.org)

## **Upcoming Tutor Trainings:**

**Feb 6 & 8: @ 5:30pm-8pm**  
Community Reformed Church  
Holland

**Feb 13 & 15 @ 5:30pm-8pm**  
UM Church of the Dunes  
Grand Haven

## **RSVP for Training:**

[www.readottawa.org](http://www.readottawa.org)  
[lynn@readottawa.org](mailto:lynn@readottawa.org)  
(616) 414-0295



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](mailto:lynn@readottawa.org)  
Call Lynn at 616-414-0295

50 new learners enrolled  
25+ different languages

*"For last year's words belong to last year's language  
and next year's words await another voice-to make  
an end is to make a beginning." T.S. Elliot*

  

Website: [www.readottawa.org](http://www.readottawa.org)  
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