



# READ OTTAWA

2023 June Newsletter

## OUR MISSION

"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."

## IN THE LAST 6 MONTHS...

 **70**  
Learners Served

 **84**  
Volunteers

 **1,216**  
Hours of Planning & Tutoring

 **558**  
Tutoring Sessions



TUTOR JULIE AND LEARNER NASSIMA, 2023

## Nassima's Story

Nassima has been in Michigan since 2014 when she moved here to be with her husband. She has two children, ages 8 and 7. Regarding READ Ottawa, she said: "I feel more confident talking to my children's teachers. Now I can understand more words. It's helpful for me because now I know grammar more than before. I want to talk clearly. And when I find a job I want to find a job that's not in a factory." She also likes the program because it's flexible, and the pair can tailor their meetings to their schedules.

Her tutor, Julie is a retired federal law clerk. Nassima is her second READ Ottawa learner. Julie said: "My two learners could not be more different. My first learner was a native English speaker who could not read but had figured out ways to live successfully by using her wits and the audio features on her smartphone. Nassima, by contrast, has a college degree in law and administration from a university in Algeria. I have enjoyed both of these women and have learned so much from them."



APRIL 2023 TRAINED TUTORS

## April Tutor Training

The North Branch of Herrick District Library on Riley Street in Holland provided the perfect backdrop for our recent READ Ottawa tutor training. Over the course of two days, April 11th and 13th, we had the pleasure of hosting **11 trainees** in this small, welcoming library. This group of trainees represented a beautiful tapestry of diversity in life stages. Among them were an enthusiastic high school senior, two dedicated college students, an ESL adult who was inspired to give back after receiving help herself, and a handful of recent retirees embarking on a new chapter of service. We are excited to witness the transformative power of tutoring in their lives and the lives of those they will support.

2023 SCRABBLE PARTICIPANTS



## Scrabble - Grand Haven

The READ Ottawa Annual Scrabble Tournament at the Grand Haven Eagles continues to exceed our expectations year after year! With the participation of 12 teams and an army of dedicated volunteers, we came together to make a profound impact. Through everyone's combined efforts, **we raised over \$5,000**, which will be instrumental in advancing literacy initiatives within our community. The tournament itself was an unforgettable evening filled with delicious food, refreshing drinks, contagious laughter, and intense competition. Allow us to highlight some of the memorable moments:

**1st place winners:** Scrappy Scrabblers

**2nd place winners:** Go Spell It On The Mountain

**Highest scoring word:** Go Spell It On The Mountain for the word "Exorcise," for 158 points!

**Best team name:** We couldn't resist giving a special shout-out to Scrabadabbadoo for their creative and catchy team name!

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to every single person who participated, volunteered, and supported this exceptional event. Your unwavering commitment and contributions are making a tangible difference in promoting literacy across Ottawa County. Together, we are actively transforming our community's literacy rates and empowering individuals through the gift of literacy.

## Upcoming Events

### **Tutor Training - Fall**

Are you passionate about making a difference in someone's life? If so, we invite you to join us at READ Ottawa as a volunteer tutor for adults in Ottawa County. Our upcoming READ Ottawa **Fall Tutor Training in Grand Haven** will offer a fantastic opportunity to learn and grow while positively impacting the lives of adult learners. Here are the key details:

**Training Sessions:** The training will span two days, with each session lasting approximately 2.5 hours. Dinner will be provided to keep trainees energized throughout the training.

**Tutoring Experience:** Tutors will have the rewarding experience of working one-on-one with adult learners aged 18 and above. Sessions typically last 1-2 hours per week, to allow the establishment of a meaningful connection and guide for each learner's literacy progress. We'll provide ongoing support and guidance to ensure the success of every READ Ottawa tutor.

**No Experience Required:** What truly matters is an individual's passion and drive to empower adult learners in reaching their literacy goals. All tutors receive comprehensive training materials and resources to support their journey as a tutor.

To learn more about becoming a volunteer tutor with READ Ottawa and to stay updated on the latest details regarding the upcoming Tutor Training in Grand Haven, please visit [readottawa.org/volunteer](http://readottawa.org/volunteer). We can't wait to welcome more of our community into our dedicated team of tutors!

### **Holland Scrabble Fundraiser - November 9th**

Join us for a night of fun and support a great cause at the READ Ottawa Scrabble Fundraiser! Mark your calendars for **Thursday, November 9th, from 6:00pm to 9:00pm at Brew Merchant in Holland.**

Whether you're a seasoned Scrabble player or a complete novice, this event is for everyone! The evening kicks off at 6:00pm with registration, followed by a delightful dinner and a cash bar. Teams of 2-4 players will compete in two exciting rounds of Scrabble. Prizes await the victorious teams and the team with the highest scoring word. It's a battle of wits as participants collaborate with their team to create words and outscore their opponents! To gain an edge over your competitors, you can purchase letter tiles or indulge in the option to sneak a peek in the dictionary. But that's not all! Get ready for the excitement of raffle baskets! Your participation and contributions at the READ Ottawa Scrabble Fundraiser will help us make a real difference in the lives of individuals striving to improve their literacy skills. Mark your calendars, gather your team, and get ready to have an unforgettable night for a great cause!



2023 SCRABBLE PARTICIPANTS