

READ WRITES

For You and About You

Advanced Issue April 2011



Celebrating Our Volunteers!



Dear Volunteers,

As we join the country to celebrate National Volunteer Week, April 10-16, I would like to salute you and thank you and your families for the on-going work of service you are providing, through us, to the community.

Currently, READ/OC is honored to have over 370 volunteers giving thousands of hours of service. On a broader level, OC Community Resources (the County Agency to which READ/OC belongs) hosted over 20 thousand volunteers in the first 2 quarters of this fiscal year. These volunteers gave close to 200 thousand hours of service. It is heartening to think of the programs, activities, other tangible materials, and the joy that these service hours have brought to the ones who are in need.

Albert Schweitzer once said *"I don't know what your destiny will be, but one thing I do know: The only ones among you who will be truly happy will be those who have sought and found how to serve."* As you reach out to bring meaning to others' lives, may you and your loved ones be truly happy as you "have sought and found how to serve."

Thank you, Volunteers!

Matthew Le

Dear Friends of the READ Orange County Group,

Six years ago I asked one of my friends to help me find center to teach foreigners. At that time it was difficult for me to talk, read and understood on the phone. She was very kind person and always she is ready to help people. She used the phone to try to find a place. She found this center. At that time they told her they are not doing volunteer teaching. She gave me the phone number of READ/Orange County and told me that they would call me. I waited approximately four weeks. I called and asked what happened, I am still interested in learning. They told me when we find somebody we will call you. After one month, they called and set up an interview for me. At that time I went to El Toro library. I met a kind lady. She asked me many questions and as last she gave me many papers to read, dictation to correct grammar also. At the end she told me when we find a tutor, we will call you back. After three weeks they called and gave me the name and time to visit with my tutor at the El Toro Library. It was very exciting moment. When I was at the library a beautiful lady came towards me and introduced herself. I said I am your student. We started to read, had conversation and studied on these subjects.

Now for five and half years, every week we meet each other at the library and study for one and half hours. I am happy to have such tutor. She is a wonderful tutor. I learned many subjects. Now I can read a book and we discuss together. When I finished the book I write an essay. I am proud of myself because I can go shopping, go to the bank and talk on the phone. I would like to thank READ/Orange County and my lovely tutor.

Thanks a lot,

Iran

Tutoring: For Me or They?

At the most recent Tutor Training Workshop, our newest tutors worked in teams to explore the writing process and the tools of brainstorming and clustering. While exploring these tools, they created some great insights to lifelong learning and the many benefits of volunteering, tutoring and helping another adult to grow and change.

The READ/OC team would like to share their group writing efforts as a way of thanking all READ/OC volunteers whose valuable and selfless efforts help change lives of adult learners, their families and the community for the better. Their words are also a timely reminder of the importance of sharing literacy with another. Reading and writing are powerful tools – use them and share them with others.

Tutoring: For Me or They?

By Norman Blanco, Rett Lemoult, Kirsten Murrietta and Hugh Western

Becoming a tutor with READ/OC has fulfilled many personal goals as well as the desire to help my community. Most of our students are eager learners and are extremely grateful for our time. We have the ability to drastically change the quality of life of our students and help them become successful members of society. Being a READ/OC tutor allows you to make a genuine difference in the lives of many.

All of these benefits have been wonderful however the most amazing thing about being a READ/OC tutor has been the amount I have learned. My brain is being constantly challenged. I am gaining new perspectives and challenging myself in awesome ways. It has become one of my favorite times of the week. I AM THE ONE WHO IS TRULY BENEFITTING FROM THIS EXPERIENCE.

Dear "X"

By Gary Baker, Karen Smith, Ron Smith, Carolina Handojo

I'm looking forward to tutoring a new learner and helping them to improve their English language ability and helping them accomplish some personal goals. I have always loved reading and have learned much from the topics I've read. I want to share this with someone else, so they can have that same enjoyment and use that knowledge to improve their lives. I think this will be a good a good way to give back to the community and will help me learn new skills with teaching and interacting with others. I can't wait to get started.

In the end, we'll make a friend

By Valerie Serrano, Joan Chiles, Susan Allen, Jason Yore, and Clint Wolf

I'm looking forward to helping someone in need
With enough time they'll learn to read.

With LEA, phonics, and such,
I hope they don't think it's too much.

On the path of learning we are never alone.
I am always available on the phone.

I learned it once when I was in school.
I learn it again when I am with you.
In the end, we'll make a friend.

Tutoring for several reasons

By Marianne Galt, Graham Towers, Barbara Coltman, Ja'Nae S. Walker, and Shelley Middleton

I enjoy tutoring for several reasons. Helping people is important, and tutoring is how I give back to the community. It helps me learn about another culture also. Tutoring makes me feel good about myself. I get excited when I see the progress my student is making.

Dear John

By Annie Ratanapinta, Twyla Blanco, Sommer Ranich, Veronica Wade and Ken Dalnes

Dear John,
I have no time for you anymore because I've become a tutor with READ/OC.

I'm looking forward to my tutoring so much because I believe in the cause and love helping others. The work is so fulfilling because I am helping a person achieve his goals, and it's been fantastic to meet a person from another culture.

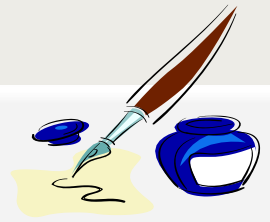
If you also want to become a tutor, I can give you information about the next seminar.

Formerly yours,



Editor's Note to Our Readers: If you or someone you know would like to help change a life through literacy, call or email READ/Orange County. Adult learners are eagerly waiting for your help.

Ms. Paige Turner
(Fun advice for tutors and learners)



Dear Paige,

I really enjoy being a tutor with READ/OC. It is such a rewarding and life-changing experience for both my learner and me.

Does READ/OC need more tutors? I would like to share this volunteer opportunity and the adult literacy need in Orange County with co-workers and others. Please give me ideas of what to do and say.

Wanting to Share

Dear Wanting to Share,

The best place to begin is with your own tutor experience. I encourage you to share your "life-changing" experience with family, friends, neighbors and co-workers. *(Remember to keep your learner's information confidential.)*

You can share the fact that thousands of adults in Orange County need help with basic reading and writing skills so they can get a job, a better job, read their mail, help children with school work, write a letter to a friend, read a recipe, become a citizen, read a story to grandchildren or complete their education. Currently READ/OC has more than 100 adults learners waiting for a tutor.

Ask your company if you can share this unique volunteer opportunity at a staff meeting or in your company's newsletter. Contact READ/OC staff for talking points, bookmarks, pencils, posters, copies of the newsletter, or if you would like a special presentation by READ/OC staff.

Don't forget you can also share your experience when you are out walking with a friend, at the gym, the salon, the grocery store, children's school, clubs, church, or just out for coffee. Spread the word how easy it is to help an adult to read better with only a pencil and piece of paper for just a few hours each week!

Paige Turner

Arrrgh! Matey!

Have You Saved this date for our annual celebration? Well, what are you waiting for!

**Saturday, June 25, 2011
12 - 3:30 p.m.**



Newsletter Editors

**Barbara Neder &
Karen Ruhl**



Staff & Volunteer

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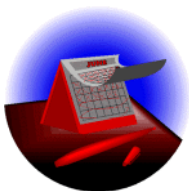
Karen Ruhl

Ms. Paige Turner

If you are interested in contributing an article for READ WRITES, contact us at 714-566-3070.

When you have finished reading this newsletter, please share it with someone so they will know about the

[Click here to go directly to the READ/OC Calendar of Events](#)



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OC Community Resources
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READ/OC is the adult literacy services of OC Public Libraries and OC Community Resources

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April 2011 Calendar

April Celebrations

Saturday, April 2

Monday, April 4

Tuesday, April 5

Thursday, April 7

Saturday, April 9

Sunday, April 10

April 10-16
Tuesday, April 12

Wednesday, April 13

Thursday, April 14

Saturday, April 16

Thursday, April 21

Friday, April 22

Saturday, April 30

April is National Poetry Month – Share a rhyme with a friend.

Tutor Training Workshop, Session 2 @ READ/OC HQ
9:00am-4:00pm

Family Reading Time @ Taft Library/Orange,
6:15-7:45pm

Family Reading Time @ La Palma Library, 6:30-7:45 pm

Family Reading Time @ El Toro Library, 6-8pm

Tutor Training Workshop, Session 3 @ READ/OC HQ
9:00am-4:00pm

Learner Meeting @ READ/OC HQ 10am-12pm

Family Reading Time @ Irvine University Park Library,
10am-12pm

Literary Orange @ UC Irvine

<http://literaryorange.org> for more information

Youth Expo @ OC Fairgrounds, 10am-5pm.

Stop by the OCCR Booth!

National Library Week! Go Check-Out A Book!!

D.E.A.R. Day! Drop Everything and READ Day!

All you need is a book and the library has a lot of them! Reading with or to someone is a bonus!

Family Reading Time @ El Modena Library/Orange,
6:15-7:45pm

Family Reading Time @ Stanton Family Resource Center,
6-8pm

Family Reading Time @ Mesa Verde Library, Costa Mesa,
6:30-8pm

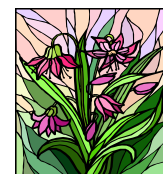
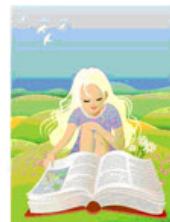
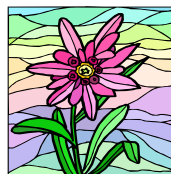
Family Reading Time @ El Toro Library, 10am-12pm

Family Reading Time @ Irvine Heritage Park Library,
10am-12pm

Family Reading Time @ Tustin Library, 6-8pm

Earth Day – Read beneath a tree or to a flower! ♻️

Day of the Children-Day of the Books (El día de los niños/El día de los libros) – Share Your Favorite Children's Book with A Child!



This Spring Bloom With A Book!
READ To Someone You Love.