

READ..The News

Sharing the joy of reading for over 40 years

Vol. 8, Issue 4/December 2008

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READ ... *The News* is published
by the READ Association of
Saginaw County for volunteers,
donors and friends of READ.

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From the Desk of the Director



A special welcome to all of our new READ volunteers listed in this newsletter. It is so exciting to welcome you and share with others our list of eighty new volunteers this school year. Together

with our dedicated returning volunteers, there are over 500 READ volunteers working with over a thousand students in our community who benefit from our program. Many thanks to all those who helped with our summer and fall marketing campaign to recruit new individuals to share in supporting our mission.

I also want to extend our continued thanks to our donors for your continued generosity and contributions. Please know that your dollars stay right here in our community and fund a very worthwhile children's literacy program. Your contributions allow our organization to spend more time in program services and volunteer recruitment and less time fundraising.

Each of you have been blessed with the gift of reading and desire to read for pleasure, entertainment, and lifelong learning opportunities. Spending time reading things we enjoy are gifts we give ourselves. Helping children improve their reading skills and enjoy reading is a gift we give to others. We can all serve as reading role models and inspire children to read on their own. This holiday season please be sure to take time to read together with your children, grandchildren, friends or neighbors. A love of reading and time spent together is one of the greatest gifts we can give one another. And of course, books are presents we can open again and again and again.

May the New Year bring peace, hope and good health to you and yours,

Carol Lechel
Director

MY BOOK!

I did it!
 I did it!
 Come and look
 At what I've done!
 I read a book!
 When someone wrote it
 Long ago
 For me to read,
 How did he know
 That this was the book
 I'd take from the shelf
 And lie on the floor
 And read by myself?
 I really read it!
 Just like that!
 Word by word,
 From first to last!
 I'm sleeping with
 This book in bed,
 This first FIRST book
 I've ever read!

By David L. Harrison
 (from *Somebody
 Catch My
 Homework*)
 shared by Kathy
 Couillard at Fall
 Orientation



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Mentoring Moments

Monday Mentoring is one of the highlights of my week. This year brought a new challenge—reading with a child who never talked with anyone at school. If you have ever talked to someone and they looked at you like you just dropped out of a tree, then you know what I experienced. But those big brown eyes spoke volumes. Keeping his interest would be the key to our time together. After finding informational books of interest to him, he mouthed the words for two weeks. I did all the talking, acting as though he was answering me. The third week brought whisper reading and one quiet spoken word out loud, when he forgot and was excited about what he read. Talk about a break-through! I was so excited—it made my week! The fourth week he was absent. I expected to start back at the beginning the following week. What a surprise when I met my student in the parking lot following a field trip. He greeted me with a smile, open arms and a soft-spoken “Hello.” Each week has brought more reading in a quiet voice and more importantly—conversation about the reading. The last time we read together my student read aloud to his classroom teacher. He was so proud and so were we. My next goal is to introduce another student into our group to build his confidence. This interesting experience leads me to wonder: who is getting more out of the mentoring, the mentor or the student? Try it. You’ll be glad you did!

*-Jan Merriam,
Community Volunteer—Retired Saginaw Public School District Educator*

I heard about the READ program from a new volunteer and was interested in volunteering myself. I approached the rest of our Credit Union staff to see if we could recruit a few more volunteers, we ended up with five other readers! Part of the Credit Union philosophy is to give back to the community and the READ program seemed like a perfect opportunity for us to help out!

It has been a great experience so far; I really enjoy working with my students and look forward to seeing them improve over the year!

*-Jessica Gwizdala,
Director of Marketing & Training—United Financial Credit Union*

Welcome New Mentors

Kelsie Albrecht	Michelle
Cynthia Banda	McManaway
Marlene Bethume	Dasha Moore
Patricia Beyer	Laura Morris
Tom Bingham	Heather Nevarez
Meagan Blasch	Gail Nicholas
Nancy Bow	Lois Nicol
Jaden Clobes	Pamela Pawlick
Shari Crandell	Cheri Pena
Sandra Dankert	Dereon Pruitt
Barbara Day	Kathy Reiss
Heidi DellaSantina	Linda Rivera
Joanne Deneen	Lori Robinson
Loren Dietrich	Brianne Rogers
Joel Dollhopf	Joanne Rosenbaum
Marcy Drielick	Gina Ruhlig
Brian Eggers	Janet Rupprecht
Joann Farrand	Brenda Rutkowski
Minerva Gonzalez	Deborah Sanchez
Dorothy Gosko	Sandy Schaffer
Dennis Guzy	Maria Schell
Jessica Gwizdala	Kristi Schmitt
Lisa Hall	Miranda Schneider
Kerry Hardy	Virginia Schuler
Derrick Harge	Veronica Sheldon
Gus Hendrickson	Leann Smith
Mary Hill	Jennifer Snyder
Timothy Johnson	Charla Soehnlén
Beverly	Herb Spence IV
Kackmeister	Chelsea Stolz
Bill Koepke	Janet Szafrrowski
Aileen Kushon	Leonore Taylor
Bob Larsen	Karla Tessin
Luvinda Lee	Judith Thompson
Brad Lorencz	Kara Troge
Kristine Lorencz	Chuck Tubbs
Ralph Martin	Jennie Tuttle
Colleen Maskill	Gina Walker
Bakari McClendon	Sara Wardin
Jeff McCulloch	Ellen Windy

School Coordinators:

Kari James
Carrie Jezak
Jennifer Stoney



Saturday, March 7, 2009

**SAVE
the
DATE!**



9am—11:30am

At the Hunger Solution Center

Bring your family and friends for a pancake breakfast, costume character visits, literacy activities and a FREE BOOK for every child! Don't miss out on the fun!

Join us for the



7th Annual READ Book Fair

To benefit the READ Association
of Saginaw County

Hosted by:

The Children's Book Company



Thursday, December 4th, 2008

10:00 am - 3:30 pm

at Citizens Bank—Downtown Location, 1st Floor Lobby

101 N. Washington (Street parking available or the Washington Avenue parking ramp)

The Children's Book Company will be bringing some of the latest titles of some of your favorites such as *Magic Tree House*, *Fancy Nancy*, *Skippy John Jones*, and authors Jamie Lee Curtis, Carl Sams and Johnathan Rand.

And NEW this Season:

- *Born to Read!* by Judy Sierra
- *Christmas Cookies: Bite-Size Holiday Lessons* by Amy Krouse Rosenthal
- *A Very Marley Christmas* by John Grogan

Plus Games, Gifts & Toys:

- Floor Puzzles
- Tea Sets
- Grand-O-Grams-for keeping in touch with those special grandkids
- Ruckus—"The card game of takes and double takes" (ages 7 to adult)
- Bananagrams— a fast, fun word game for all ages!

*** DOOR PRIZE RAFFLE ***— Enter your name just for stopping by!

Prizes include: 2 gift certificates for Memory Lane Café (in the Antique Warehouse), READ T-shirt, books, and more!

Books & Gifts for All Ages!

For "grown-ups," the book fair selection will include:

- The Longest Trip Home: a Memior* by John Grogan
- Loving Frank* by Nancy Horan
- Dewey: The Small-Town Library Cat Who Touched the World* by Vicki Myron

AUTHOR SIGNINGS

10am-11:30am * David Hall—Community leader and author of *The ABC's of Leadership*

11am-2pm * Jeffery Schatzer—Author of the "Santa" books, *The Runaway Garden* and the new chapter book *Fires in the Wilderness: A Story of the Civilian Conservation Boys*

*** Roselynn Ederer—Local Saginaw historical author offers her extensive selection of books!**

Enjoy POPCORN—25¢

Kidsville News is a fun family newspaper designed especially for children and families in the Saginaw community. The newspaper is filled with lots of fun stories, articles, activities, and bright, colorful pictures and artwork for all ages to enjoy. Stop by the READ Office each month to get a copy for the students you mentor or any child who enjoys reading. The December edition will be available at the Book Fair on December 4.



Pictures Tell a Story

Recently READ Board Member Elinor Saunders surprised our organization with a donation of a beautiful custom matted and framed print for the conference room. The print depicts two small boys reading a book entitled "I Can." In addition, Elinor, with the help of family members visiting on vacation, created a photo collage of pictures spelling out the word READ (pictured above). The collage shows many of our volunteers in action, mentoring and having fun at our special events: Books for Breakfast and DEAR at the Zoo—Drop Everything and Read. We do hope you will stop by to see our new wall decorations that certainly tell a story. Thank YOU Elinor, for this unique and creative gift.

GoodSearch & GoodShop



Join READ in "Searching" for a Cause!

READ can earn a donation every time you search the internet or shop online! GoodSearch.com, an online internet search engine donates a penny for every search done through its Yahoo!-powered search engine. Pennies can really add up when many people take part. The more people who use GoodSearch.com on behalf of READ to search for information on the internet, the larger a donation READ will receive. What an easy way to help support READ!

To use GoodSearch instead of google or other search engines, you can follow these steps:

- Type **www.GoodSearch.com** in your internet address bar.
- In the "Who do you GoodSearch for?" box, type "READ Association of Saginaw County", then click "verify." Your computer should automatically choose READ the next time you GoodSearch.
- To make it more convenient, you can add a GoodSearch toolbar to your browser or make GoodSearch.com your homepage. Directions are on the GoodSearch webpage; you'll just need to follow the instructions for your internet program.

READ's earnings can be even greater if you shop online through **GoodShop.com**. Over 600 merchants including Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Toys 'R Us, iTunes and Macy's participate, and a percentage of your purchase is donated to READ! Just access the merchant's website through GoodShop, then shop online as you normally would.

Try GoodSearch and GoodShop—and tell your family and friends to join us, too, in "searching" and shopping for a good cause!

FEATURED IN

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FORTUNE
SMALL BUSINESS

Fall Orientation Highlight

On September 24 and 25, over 75 volunteers gathered at the Fall Orientation Sessions to hear an educational program by guest speaker, Ms. Kathy Couillard, Saginaw Public Schools International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program Coordinator. Kathy's informative presentation included simple reading comprehension and decoding strategies that are especially helpful when working with elementary children. Below are two of the handouts that were discussed which may be useful to you when a child is reading and comes to a word they are not able to read.

Although most of you have attended a one hour training session when you first began volunteering, the annual Fall Orientation Sessions offer new reading tips and strategies used by many educators and reading specialists. If you have never attended a session, please consider attending next year. Look for dates and times in the September 2009 newsletter. Meetings are also a great way to kick off the new school year and network with volunteers from other center locations.



Phonics/Decoding Strategies You can share with a child

When you come to a word you don't know -

1. Look at the letters from left to right.



2. Think about the sounds for the letters and look for word parts you know.



3. Blend the sounds to read the word.



4. Ask yourself: Is it a word I know? Does it make sense in what I am reading?



5. If not, ask yourself: What else can I try?




Phonics/Decoding Strategies Poster for 1st - 2nd



'Tis the season of Giving...

There are many ways to support the **READ** mission, the volunteers, and the children we serve through your generous time and financial resources. This holiday season, please consider giving the gift of READING by making a donation on behalf of yourself or in honor or memory of someone special in your life. Donations will be acknowledged with a special holiday greeting to any person(s) to whom you would like to extend a holiday tribute.

This Gift is made:  as a Holiday Greeting In Memory of In Honor of In Celebration of General Contribution

_____ Person(s) _____ Occasion

From: Donor Name(s): _____
(Please list name(s) as you would like to be acknowledged)

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Send Holiday Greeting/Acknowledgement **To:** _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Make general contributions/gifts payable to READ Association.
Mail all contributions to: READ Association, 100 S. Jefferson Ave., Suite 401, Saginaw, MI 48607.

This contribution is made to support the READ Endowment Fund administered by the Saginaw Community Foundation. Please make check payable to READ/SCF.

Support the Saginaw Community with your State Tax Credit

A gift to the Saginaw Community Foundation READ Endowment is a wonderful way to support the READ Association of Saginaw County, not just for today, but for many years to come. Every year READ can receive 5% of our Endowment principal, after investment, to use for operating and programming expenses. These dollars also benefit our organization by spending less administrative time on fundraising and more time on program services and volunteer recruitment. There are also many donation benefits for you individually, as a couple, or a business. Thanks to the Michigan Community Foundation Tax Credit you can reduce your state income tax liability by up to one-half of your donation, up to certain limits. For example, the tax credit provides: \$100 credit for a \$200 gift contribution from a single taxpayer, \$200 credit for a \$400 gift from a couple filing a joint return OR \$5000 credit (or 5% of SBT liability, whichever is less) for a \$10,000 corporate gift.

You do not need to file an itemized federal return to receive the Michigan Tax credit benefits. If you complete an itemized federal return however, the savings to you are **even greater**.

Michigan Tax Credit (*based on married couple filing jointly)

Your Contribution	Less Michigan Tax Credit	After Tax Cost
\$ 100.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00
\$ 200.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
\$ 400.00*	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00

If you would like your contribution to support the **READ Endowment Fund** and be eligible for the **Michigan Tax Credit**, be sure to check the appropriate box above and make your check payable to **READ/SCF**.

Gift Planning Opportunities ...

Leave a legacy...

Reduce taxes...

Increase income for family members...

These are all reasons that planned giving can benefit you and your favorite charitable organizations. A planned gift is any gift given for any amount, given for any purpose: operations or endowment, for current or deferred use. Please consider asking your financial advisor about planned gift opportunities that would benefit you and the READ Association through gift annuities, charitable remainder or lead trusts, bequests, wills or IRA transfers. You may also call our office for more information.



Thanks for Sharing!

Special thanks to the following individuals and organizations who have contributed to the READ Association during the period of August 15, 2008 through November 13, 2008.

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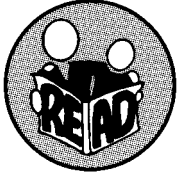
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READ Association of Saginaw County
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Saginaw, Michigan 48607

The READ Association of Saginaw County is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization whose mission is to help students improve their reading skills and discover the joy of reading.

“No one is more cherished in this world than someone who lightens the burdens of another. Thank you.”

- Author Unknown



Upcoming READ Events:

Seventh Annual Bookfair

Thursday, December 4, 2008 10am–3:30pm

at the downtown Citizens Bank Building—hosted by The Children’s Book Company

Books for Breakfast

Saturday, March 7, 2009 9am–11:30am at the Hunger Solution Center

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4075 McCarty Rd. 989.799.9326
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www.teamonecu.org

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