

READ..The News

Sharing the joy of reading for over 40 years

Vol. 8, Issue 3/September 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



I hope all of you found time this summer to enjoy our beautiful Michigan weather and your favorite places for relaxation, whether at home or in your travels. Enjoy the remaining days of summer

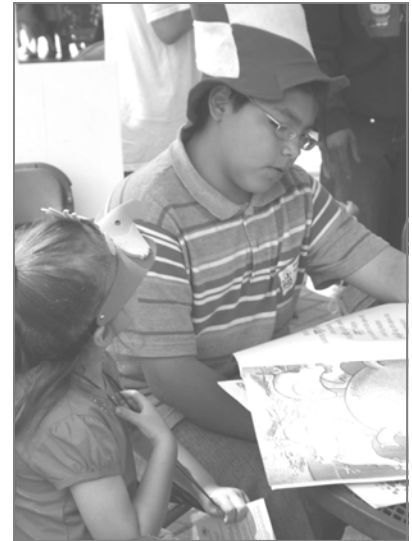
and the upcoming fall season.

Although the calendar year officially begins with the month of January, September always brings to mind new beginnings, especially for children who are just starting — a new school year, a new classroom, new teachers, new friends, new books, and new opportunities. This year our READ Board of Directors approved the following new goals as part of our strategic plan for the next three years:

- Strengthen and broaden our volunteer base to more effectively service children in our community.
- Address the literacy needs of our community.
- Develop awareness of the Read Association and its impact.
- Maintain financial stability and diversify donor support.

Together all of us serve an important role in helping READ achieve our goals. The READ program is a true partnership of people working together to ensure every child's success. Helping children learn to read is one of the best investments we can make to ensure that success.

As a READ volunteer, educator, contributor or someone who simply believes that all children should succeed both academically and socially, you know the importance of children learning and enjoying the benefits of reading. I encourage YOU to share with others in our community why you support our literacy efforts through your time, talent and treasures. Each new school year brings new children needing



A White Pine Reading Buddy volunteer reads to a child at this year's D.E.A.R. at the Zoo. See inside for more pictures.

help and motivation to master the art of reading. We need more people like you to ensure that all children experience success and the joy of new adventures that reading brings to our lives.

Carol Lechel
Director



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D.E.A.R. at the Zoo

7th Annual D.E.A.R. at the Zoo— Drop Everything And READ

Over 1800 children and families enjoyed the reading celebration on June 11. Once again it was a fun-filled day with animals, reading activities, books to keep and take home, and plenty of sunshine and smiling faces throughout the zoo. Special thanks to all of the enthusiastic booth sponsors, generous donors, friendly zoo staff and fantastic volunteers who took part in this year's successful event.



Mentoring Moments

"I would like to express the appreciation of the staff at the Freeland Learning Center for the many hours that have been donated to our students this past school year. The volunteers have been instrumental in giving individual help to those students who needed it by reinforcing instruction from the classroom and by reading more books! The greatest rewards in teaching (and tutoring) are the results we see in the students' smiling faces when they see their own improvement and skills build. I am sure these dedicated volunteers have a feeling of satisfaction — yet simply saying "Thank You" hardly seems enough. Thank you volunteers, many times over!"

- Ms. Bev Beyer, Principal
Freeland Learning Center

"Thank you READ Mentors for helping us learn to understand what we were reading, about how to read better, and coming when you didn't have to come. You helped us read better, you gave gifts and treats. We appreciate you letting us be a part of your team. Thanks for coming from your job and spending time with us."

- 4th and 5th grade students
Longfellow Elementary School

Save the Date

for the
**7th Annual
Bookfair**

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

at the downtown
Citizens Bank Building

Hosted by The
Children's Book Company

LIVE UNITED

READ is grateful to be one of 23 agencies that benefits from program support funding from the annual United Way of Saginaw County campaign: **LIVE UNITED**—that's the message this year.

HOW TO LIVE UNITED:
JOIN HANDS. OPEN YOUR HEART.
LEND YOUR MUSCLE **FIND YOUR VOICE** **GIVE 10%** **GIVE 100%** **GIVE 110%**. GIVE AN HOUR. GIVE A SATURDAY. THINK OF WE BEFORE ME. REACH OUT A HAND TO ONE AND

INFLUENCE
THE CONDITION OF ALL.

GIVE. ADVOCATE.



"To say that our READ mentors are creative and adaptable to a variety of situations would be an understatement! Because they take the time to talk with the children and get to know them, they are acutely aware of when a child may be having a difficult day and they work their magic! I don't think there is a day that goes by that I haven't wished that our READ volunteers were in my room every day! These selfless volunteers have not only helped my students increase their reading fluency and self-esteem: they have touched their hearts and lives in ways I don't think any of us truly comprehend. I think my students say it best. Recently, one of my third grade girls referred to her volunteers as her "heroes". Another said they wanted to grow up and be just like them. Finally, one of my 1st grade boys had such a great time reading and loved the book he received and said, "This has just been the best day."

Ms. Vicki Pett, Teacher
Weiss Elementary School



FALL ORIENTATION

For all returning Mentors

You are requested to attend one of the following orientation sessions:

Wednesday, September 24th 10am–11am

Hoyt Public Library

505 Janes

Located at the corner of Janes and Jefferson Aves.
(Parking at Janes and Warren)

or

Thursday, September 25th 6:30pm–7:30pm

Saginaw ISD TRANSITIONS CENTER

3860 Fashion Square Boulevard

Located near the corner of McCarty Road and Fashion Square Blvd.
(1/2 mile south of Fashion Square Mall)

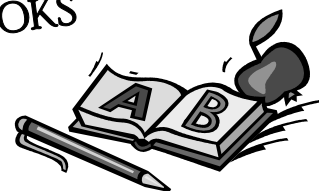
Our guest speaker this year is Kathy Couillard, Saginaw Public Schools International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program Coordinator. Kathy will discuss simple reading comprehension and decoding strategies that are especially helpful when working with elementary children.

The Orientation also provides a great opportunity to meet other volunteer mentors, share ideas and receive new supplies and materials to help you during your mentor sessions. Please plan to attend one of the above sessions.

REFRESHMENTS

MATERIALS FOR
MENTORS

BOOKS



HELPFUL
TIPS

Volunteer Bulletin Board:



Learning to Read

Start Date: We look forward to your participation as returning volunteer mentors this year! You should receive a call or be contacted sometime by the end of September regarding your specific center details, start date, student assignments and school calendar. You may also initiate this call to your respective center coordinator or school liaison from last year as well, or call the READ office at 755-8402. Most volunteers do begin the first part of October and volunteer through May.

School Calendars: Each school district has their own school calendar which includes school in-services, testing dates, parent/teacher conferences, etc. Be sure you are provided this information throughout the school year.

Weather cancellations: In the event of inclement weather conditions, listen to the local radio and television stations for school closings.

Books and Supplies: Visit the READ Office for books and supplies. Most centers do have reading tubs at your site for you to use. We also encourage you to visit our office for books and supplies to use specifically with the students you mentor. Our lending library continues to grow each year.



Success in school starts with reading. When children become good readers in the early grades, they are more likely to become better learners throughout their school years and beyond.

Learning to read is hard work for children. Fortunately, research is available that suggests how to give each child a good start in reading.

Becoming a reader involves the development of important skills, including learning to:

- **use** language in conversation
- **listen** and respond to stories read aloud
- **recognize** and name the letters of the alphabet
- **listen** to the sounds of spoken language
- **connect** sounds to letters to figure out the “code” of reading
- **read often** so that recognizing words becomes easy and automatic
- **learn** and use new words
- **understand** what is read

from *Put Reading First*,
National Institute for Literacy,
The Partnership for Reading

We Value Your Gift

I/We would like to make a donation in support of the READ Association of Saginaw County:

Amount Enclosed: \$25 \$50 \$100 Other \$ _____

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

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

This Gift is made: In Memory of In Honor of In Celebration of _____
Person(s)/Occasion

Send acknowledgement to: Name(s) _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please make checks payable to: READ Association Mail to: READ Association 100 S. Jefferson Ave. Ste. 401, Saginaw, MI 48607

4 READ Association of Saginaw County _____



Please Help... Spread the Word

Please share with others in the community why you support our literacy efforts through your time, talent and treasures. Most people get involved with an organization because they personally know someone affiliated with the organization. We are asking you to help us recruit individuals to serve as volunteer mentors by sharing your passion to help a child succeed. Together... we can make a difference.



One hour.
One child.
One volunteer.
One day a week.
You can make a difference.

READ Association of Saginaw County

READ is a local organization whose mission is to help students improve their reading skills and discover the joy of reading.

989.755.8402 • www.ReadinSaginaw.org
email: information@readinsaginaw.org



Special thanks to Laurie Russell, graphic designer with 989 Design, Bay City for all her design work and assistance in creating new volunteer recruitment and marketing materials. We appreciate your expertise and support Laurie! — 989.895.3560 or email laurie@989design



Literary Legacy

Theodore Huebner Roethke was born in Saginaw, Michigan, the son of Otto Roethke and Helen Huebner, who, along with an uncle owned a local greenhouse.

As a child, Theodore spent much time in the greenhouse observing nature. Roethke lived on Gratiot (M-46) in the City of Saginaw, attending Arthur Hill High School. Roethke is widely considered to be one of the great innovative voices in 20th century poetry. At the time of his death in 1963, Roethke had won more awards and prizes for his poetry than any other poet of his time.

The Friends of Theodore Roethke are committed to promote, preserve and protect the literary legacy of Theodore Roethke, a Michigan Pulitzer Prize winning poet, by restoring his family residences at 1759 and 1805 Gratiot in Saginaw for cultural and educational opportunities. To schedule a tour by appointment or for more information on the Theodore Roethke Home Museum, writing workshops, literary picnics, student tours with docents, museum collections, and the community cultural center to promote reading and writing, contact 989-928-0430 or write to P.O. Box 20362, Saginaw 48602.

Thanks for Sharing!

Special thanks to the following individuals and organizations who have contributed to the READ Association during the period of May 28 through August 14, 2008.

GENERAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Allan's Barbershop
Altrusa International of Saginaw, Inc.
and Rotary Club of Saginaw—Bee for Literacy Proceeds
Andy Bethune
Catholic Federal Credit Union
Ruth Glynn
Knights of Columbus #4232 Ladies Auxiliary
Kohl's Department Store—Kohl's Cares for Kids
Jane Larson
Mark & Karen McNish
Mr. & Mrs. William Nickle
Jeanne Schirmer
Dee Storey
Jerry & Joan Talbot

IN MEMORY OF

Ellen Oszust
Lloyd Yeo

FROM

Adam Oszust
Tom & Marcia Schmidt

ENDOWMENT

David & Gail Stoddard

SPONSOR-A-CENTER

Morley Foundation
Allen E. & Marie A. Nickless Memorial Foundation
Margaret Stoker Charitable Trust
Wickson-Link Memorial Foundation

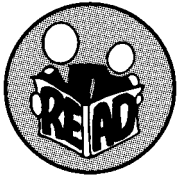
GRANT

Saginaw Community Foundation Incentive Grant

IN-KIND

Julie Mackey





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100 S. Jefferson, Suite 401
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.

**“What we need
is more people
who specialize in
the impossible.”**

- Theodore Roethke



Upcoming READ Events:

Fall Orientation— For all returning mentors

**Wednesday, September 24th 10am-11am
at Hoyt Library**

OR

**Thursday, September 25th 6:30pm—7:30pm
at Saginaw ISD Transitions Center**

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



Central Warehouse Company

Central Warehouse Operations, Inc.
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Central Property Development, Inc.
www.central-warehouse.com

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Saginaw County*