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 Learn FUN, Easy-to-Use Skills to Help Striving K-3 Students Reach Grade-Level Reading Goals!
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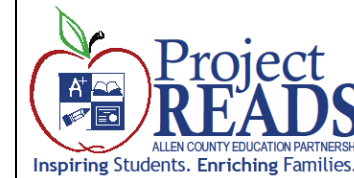
Brian White	Executive Director
Deb Dutton	Program Manager
Craig Nix	Projects Manager
J C York	Office Manager
Toma Davis	Program Assistant

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260-423-6447

Our vision is that all Allen County children will read at grade level by the completion of third grade.

Follow Project READS on Facebook



Project READS is an organization dedicated to helping K-3 students achieve grade-level reading goals.

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About EDUCATION

April 2016



The Many Forms of Support

Supporters of community non-profit organizations sometimes minimize the importance of contributions other than money. While it's true that funds are required to sustain the operations of an organization [see the enclosed donation envelope], supporting Project READS comes in many forms.

Take, for example, Project READS Breakfast of Champions last spring. While the event was designed as a fundraiser for the agency, the guest speaker, Ruth Riley, represented another avenue of support for children's literacy. As co-founder of Inspire Transformation, Ms. Riley promotes the development of both health and literacy in youth. Buoyed by Ms. Riley's presence, the Champions Breakfast produced both funds for Project READS [see list of Breakfast Donors, bottom page 2] and heightened an awareness in our community of the need for engagement in a complete education.



Ruth Riley reads with student

Other valuable forms of support:

IN KIND—In lieu of funds, goods and services also contribute to Project READS's success. This year, the Fort Wayne Youtheater presented "Dr. Seuss on the Loose" at a number of Project READS sites. Northeast Indiana Poets brought poetry lessons to other sites. McDonald's restaurant group provided Free menu item cards. And Elite Dance Center conducted a book drive.

TIME—Project READS volunteers offer one hour per week of one-to-one engagement with a K-3 student. This hour represents a dedicated, impactful investment not only in one student, but in the future of the neighborhood and community at large.

TALENT—Volunteers don't have to be trained as a teacher to help fashion a child's love of reading. With our training and guidance, they build reading enthusiasm and skills—and better readers.

ADVICE—To grow and to flourish, the agency needs fresh ideas. Project READS invites community members to become involved in our committees. Please share your thoughts.

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Executive Director's Message Thank You...

We have so many things to be thankful for in our lives. We have our families, our friends, and our health. These personal things help to define who we are and how we look at life. We also have jobs and careers which fulfill us and help make us whole. Each of us is different, each of us fills a niche.

In the world of non-profits, we have much to be thankful for, too. The volunteer who comes out each week and gives so much to support our efforts. The businesses that offer in-kind donations that allow us to better provide what our young learners need. The financial donors who provide funding support that enables us to serve our striving young readers year after year.

It is clear to me that whether we look at our personal lives or our work lives, it takes all kinds of people to make us who we are and to make a community what it is. I am thankful for everyone listed in this newsletter. Simply put, we wouldn't be here without you.



In closing, I have one other thing to be thankful for. At the end of April, I will be leaving Project READS after nearly 14 years as the Executive Director. While I don't know what the future holds, I do know that I am thankful for the past 13+ years that I have been here. Each of your contributions have helped this program to succeed, and I pray that your future engagement and support will allow it to grow and to prosper for many years to come.

Best wishes to you all and thank you.

Brian White

To those who contributed financial support for Project READS Champions of Children's Education Awards Breakfast on April 16, 2015, we acknowledge your gifts and extend our thanks.

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Focus on One Loyal Supporter

Lincoln National Foundation

Since its inception in 1991, Allen County Education Partnership (then known as Allen County Local Education Fund), has counted on the Lincoln National Foundation as one of its strongest supporters. Ian Rolland, then Lincoln National Corporation's President, evidenced his concern for local education by serving on the agency's Board of Directors. Since then, Lincoln representatives have helped to guide the agency in its impactful and responsible service to young students, as well as to the community.

That direction also took the form of providing necessary operational funds to the agency. In 25 years, the Lincoln National Foundation has provided Allen County Education Partnership with financial support necessary to help children's early literacy development. Those funds have made a life-changing difference in thousands of young language learners' lives.

Lincoln National has held a treasured position in the community for over 100 years, and Project READS wishes to thank them for their continued support. We look forward to another 25 years of their assistance in making Allen County as strong a community as it can possibly be.



We wish to acknowledge these individuals, corporations, and foundations who have provided their generous financial support to the Allen County Education Partnership from July 1, 2014—December 31, 2015.

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