



HELPING KIDS BECOME BETTER READERS

# READY.SET.READ!

Managed by United Way of Berks County



In 2012, Ready. Set. READ! announced its bold goal -- 90% of Berks County 3<sup>rd</sup> Graders will be proficient readers by 2023, as measured by 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade PSSA Test Scores. In 2013 and 2014, RSR started to see progress in engaging the community, building partnerships and developing programs to work towards this bold goal. This past year, Ready. Set. READ! built momentum in programs in each strategy area which we are excited to share throughout this report.

### What's New and Exciting With Our Programs?

- **Star Readers:** Volunteers are currently tutoring in 12 school districts and 29 elementary schools providing one on one tutoring support to students each week. We have a total of 376 active tutors who make this possible.
- **Raising A Reader:** After piloting this program in Pre-K and Kindergarten classrooms in two Reading schools last year, it's been expanded to two more elementary schools and a Head Start site in Reading.
- **ReadyRosie:** As a parent engagement resource, ReadyRosie is currently engaging parents in nine schools districts.
- **Growing Readers:** Growing Readers helped seven childcare teachers increase the quality of their program for the 62 children in their care.
- **Story Friends:** Story Friends grew from 14 volunteers to 85 volunteers.
- **Neighborhood Bridges:** RSR began a partnership with Yocum Institute to pilot this program in four third grade classrooms in two elementary schools in the Reading School District.

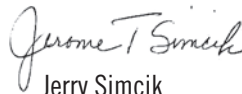
**Looking Towards the Future.** Along with the initiative's success, come challenges. With the recent changes in the PSSA's, we recognize schools and students are adjusting to a new testing structure. While these changes will initially impact assessment levels, our commitment to Ready. Set. READ!'s goal and mission remains steadfast.

Ready. Set. READ! will continue its commitment to help kids become better readers and help put young students on track for a brighter future. In 2016, RSR will continue to identify additional proven programs and engage more partners. Additionally, our commitment is to secure additional data and provide more comprehensive and thorough outcomes within each strategic priority.

**Thank You!** It is only with the dedication and hard work of all of our volunteers – board members, corporate and community partners, volunteer tutors and others – that more children enjoy reading, increase their reading proficiency and are on the path to greater achievements. We are very fortunate to have a strong community that not only believes in the RSR mission but steps up to play key roles in achieving it.



Sharon Danks  
Chairperson, 2013-2015



Jerry Simcik  
Chairperson, 2016

**Chairperson:** Jerry Simcik  
*SFS intec, Inc.*

Corinne Brumbach  
*Berks County Public Libraries*

Margarita Caicedo  
*RACC*

Gina Crance  
*Albright College*

Sharon Danks  
*Tweed Weber, Inc.*

Wayne Gehris  
*Reading School District*

Brad Hall  
*UGI Energy Services*

Ellen Horan  
*Greater Reading  
Chamber of Commerce & Industry*

Dr. Melissa Jamula  
*Retired Superintendent*

Kim Johnson  
*YMCA*

Steve Keifer  
*Retired Superintendent*

Lorena Lazarchick  
*The Highlands at Wyomissing*

Tammy Mitgang  
*NAI Keystone*

Dr. Steve Ohnsman  
*Calvary UCC Church*

Barbara Pattison  
*National Penn Bank*

Teresa Schutt  
*BCIU*

State Senator Judith Schwank  
Denise Shoup  
*EnerSys*

Lou Shucker  
*Attorney/Education Advocate*

Robert Spengler  
*Grafika Commercial Printing, Inc.*

C. Elizabeth Sterner  
*Comcast*

Jeff Stoicheff  
*Penske Truck Leasing*

Robert Stoyko  
*UGI*

Pablo Tejada  
*Olivet Boys & Girls Club*

Michael Toledo  
*Centro Hispano*

Dr. Karen Wang  
*Reading Health System*

Jay Worrall  
*Alvernia University*

*Holleran Center*

Cheri Woyurka  
*BCIU*



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Early grade reading success is a critical component of learning and a leading indicator of future academic and educational success. Yet 40% of third-graders throughout Berks County are reading below grade level. That means that over 1,900 children in our community - in urban, rural and suburban schools - are four times more likely to drop out of school and 13 times more likely to drop out if they also live in poverty. They are less likely to develop skills essential for contributing to the 21st Century economy and less likely to be effective citizens.

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## READY.SET.READ!

**MISSION:** Develop and implement a comprehensive and collaborative system of support throughout Berks County that will ensure reading proficiency for students by the end of third grade.

**GOAL:** To have 90% of Berks County third graders proficient readers by 2023, as measured by third grade PSSA scores.

**STRATEGIES:** Ready.Set.READ! has identified five overriding strategies to implement in its efforts to fulfill the mission and achieve our goal.

1. Infrastructure
2. Birth to Pre-Kindergarten Children
3. School Age Students
4. Parent & Family
5. Community Engagement

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

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- All children can learn and succeed.
- Parents and/or primary caregivers are the first and most important teachers of their children.
- Our children's success depends on a focused, collaborative effort by parents, schools, universities/colleges, government, nonprofit organizations, faith-based groups and public and private businesses.
- Early literacy development is critical to lifelong learning, success and personal fulfillment.



# BY THE NUMBERS

**42,734**

total hours kids spent in various reading activities as part of Ready.Set.READ!



**10,609**

volunteer hours in support of Ready.Set.READ! activities

**689**

total number of RSR volunteers since the initiative's inception



**\$244,750**

total dollar value of volunteer hours  
(based on Independent Sector value of \$23.07 per hour)

**4,196**

books donated

**9,924**

hours tutoring elementary students

# BIRTH TO PRE-K

## STRATEGY:

Ready. Set. READ! will support language and pre-literacy development in young children.



**STORY FRIENDS** provides an opportunity for corporate and community volunteers to help preschool children develop a love of books and reading. In addition, when adults read aloud to children they model how to read with fluency and expression. Story Friends volunteers read a preselected book to children in a preschool classroom one time a month.

After a brief orientation, volunteers spend approximately thirty minutes each month reading and conversing with a group of children in a preschool program from October to April. In select programs, the volunteers also read during the month of May.

### STORY FRIENDS RESULTS

- Story Friends volunteers increased from 40 to 85 in the past year
- 1,064 children benefited from 2,990 hours of reading time with their volunteers
- 1,154 new books were distributed to children and classrooms



## Growing Readers

**GROWING READERS** is a collaborative partnership with Latino childcare providers to develop and/or enhance research-sound teacher practices, recognizing the importance of providing a language rich environment and increasing the quality of conversation with children, in order to lay the foundation for the development of necessary literacy skills to ensure future reading success.

The program is made up of 12 weeks of individual teacher support by providing weekly literacy planning and materials, modeling and coaching. This includes demonstrating how practices should be implemented, weekly teacher observation, weekly coaching session, and ongoing coaching upon program completion.

**Participating Organizations:** The New Lector Daycare, Whitehouse Daycare 2, Mary's Daycare, Norma DeHoyo's Daycare 2, Amazing Kidz

### GROWING READERS RESULTS

- 75% of teachers found children were more engaged in reading
- 100% of teachers found the program helpful to have a coach come in daily to implement the program

*"The modeling provided helped me adapt the program and be able to create my own curriculum based off the program. After including daily reading, the children were more willing to involve themselves in conversation and they are able to retell stories they heard weeks ago."*

- Growing Readers Daycare Provider

# SCHOOL AGE

## STRATEGY:

Ready. Set. READ! will provide supplemental support to students (grades k-3) struggling to be proficient readers.



**STAR READERS** was established to mobilize community and volunteer resources to supplement reading instructional activities of schools, by providing one-on-one tutoring support for early grade students to improve their reading skills.

Star Readers is designed to serve those students who are reading just below grade level. The hypothesis of this program (based on best practices and research) is that with some extra one-on-one or two-on-one practice from a community volunteer these students will advance faster than they otherwise would have without a tutor. It was not designed to replace school-based interventions nor is it a program for the lowest achieving students.

Star Readers significantly expanded last year and is now established in 29 elementary schools in 12 school districts, thanks to the support of the community, volunteers and school districts. Nearly 400 trained volunteers, includes corporate employees, college students, retired educators and community volunteers provide instruction to nearly 500 first, second and third graders.

In the formal evaluation of Star Readers this past year, conducted by Dr. Chrystine Mitchell and Lucretia Brown, several positive findings about its impact on tutored students were identified. DIBELS Next assessment data, measuring students' Fluency (words per minute) and Accuracy, were collected throughout the year for all students who were tutored, as well as for similar non-participating students to allow comparisons. Satisfaction surveys were also completed by students, parents, tutors and school coordinators.



## STAR READERS RESULTS

- Tutored students saw a statistically significant increase in Fluency at year-end compared to non-participating students
- 74% of tutored students had a 30-point increase in Fluency, which is greater growth than typically expected
- 30% of students who began the year at the lowest level (Intensive) for Accuracy at the beginning of the year, moved into the middle level (Strategic) and 17% increased to the top level (Benchmark)
- Over 90% of students said they had a positive experience and believed it positively influenced their reading ability
- Over 82% of parents reported their child's attitude toward reading improved

## PARTNER SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Antietam	Exeter	Muhlenberg
Brandywine	Governor Mifflin	Oley
Conrad Weiser	Hamburg	Reading
Daniel Boone	Kutztown	Schuylkill Valley

*“The Star Readers tutoring program is more than reading; it creates personal connections. If you can get kids interested and reading they will have a much better chance of success.”*

- Steve Keifer  
Retired Superintendent/  
Ready.Set.READ! Board Member



## SPOTLIGHT TUTORS

These volunteers began tutoring at the inception of the Star Readers program in 2012 - 2013, providing one-on-one tutoring to students each week.

Their continued dedication throughout the past three years is tremendously appreciated and valued. We thank them for their generosity and we are grateful for their engagement in Ready. Set. READ! to provide supplemental support to students to increase their reading proficiency.

Bear, Susan	Hall, Barbara C.	Schaffer, Rosemary
Blatt, Ruth	Horvath, Karen	Schlegel, Janet
Futrick, Barbara	Lambert, Kalli	Schlegel, Sandi
Gantz, Aaron	Mancias, Mary Beth	Smith, Lori
Goldstein, Martha	McMahon, Tom	
Gunzelmann, Carol	Murphy, Kathleen	
Haas, Judy	Pietrowski, Joanne	



## THE IMPACT OF PSSA CHANGES

With the recent adoption of the PA Common Core Standards, the annual Pennsylvania System of State Assessment (PSSA) tests were revised and utilized for the first time in Spring, 2015.

The PSSA test that assesses language and literacy skills is first given in Third Grade, and the new test was designed to be in alignment with the new standards and included increased writing elements. The state adopted these standards in 2013 in an effort to teach and measure more complex 21st-century skills, such as problem-solving and critical thinking. The tests are also heavier on writing. The “cut scores,” or passing levels, were changed significantly to reflect the new test. As a result, it was predicted that PSSA scores would significantly drop across the state, which is what happened. The state Department of Education has indicated that the 2015 scores should be viewed as the new baseline for future comparison purposes.

How did Berks County Third Grade students perform on the 2015 PSSA English Language Arts test? Unfortunately, across the county, only 60% of all students scored as Proficient or better, which represents a 10% decrease from the previous year. The 40% who tested as being below Proficient, represented over 1900 students.

Ready. Set. READ! recognizes the greater challenge that it faces to achieve its goal of 90% Proficiency by 2023. However, it believes the current programs and activities that it has initiated since 2012 have had positive impact on participants. RSR will continue to partner with school districts to support struggling readers and will increase its efforts to support children and families from birth. Collectively, given enough time, all of the community's efforts will ultimately produce early grade reading success for children in Berks County.

## MINI GRANTS AWARDED

For a second year, United Way made \$500 mini grants available to educators at elementary schools that partner with Ready. Set READ! to offer the Star Readers tutoring program. Educators at all 29 elementary schools that currently host Star Readers tutors were invited to submit grant applications for literacy based projects.

31 proposals from 14 schools, received funding totaling \$14,596 from this opportunity. The school districts benefiting include: Antietam School District, Brandywine Height Area School District, Conrad Weiser School District, Daniel Boone Area School District, Governor Mifflin School District, Oley Valley School District, Reading School District, and Schuylkill Valley School District.

## Neighborhood Bridges

During the 2015-2016 school year, RSR is partnering with Yocum Institute to pilot this program to four 3rd grade classrooms at both 16th & Haak and 13th & Green Elementary Schools. Based on midyear evaluations, 83% of teachers strongly agreed this program has benefited their students and would like Neighborhood Bridges to return to their classroom in future years.

# PARENTS & FAMILY

## STRATEGY:

Ready. Set. READ! will support parents and other caregivers to help children develop, read and learn.



**ReadyRosie** is an online parent engagement tool, created to give parents and guardians easy ideas of how to better engage their young children. Every day they receive an email or text with a video in English and Spanish, showing real families modeling ways to incorporate learning at home, in the library, in the car, at the grocery store, or wherever the day takes them!

The most effective forms of parent involvement are those which engage parents working directly with their children on learning activities at home. Nearly 80-90% of young parents access the internet once a day, everyday. ReadyRosie was created to help schools and communities deepen and scale their early childhood parent engagement efforts by leveraging the power of video modeling and mobile technology to meet and equip parents where they are.

### PARTICIPATING SCHOOL DISTRICTS:

Antietam, Brandywine, Conrad Weiser, Daniel Boone, Governor Mifflin, Hamburg, Muhlenberg, Oley, Reading

### READYROSIE RESULTS

- Through partnerships with nine schools districts, ReadyRosie is currently engaging 1,537 parents and 1,977 children

## RAISING A READER

Raising A Reader (RAR) is an evidence-based early literacy and family engagement program that helps families develop, practice and sustain home literacy routines. More than twenty independent evaluations indicate significant improvements in family reading behaviors and school readiness across children from diverse socio-economic, cultural and language backgrounds after participating in RAR.

Last year, RAR was initiated in pre-kindergarten and kindergarten classrooms at 16th & Haak and 10th & Green schools in Reading. With positive findings from the pilot, RAR is now implemented in two new schools, Glenside and Millmont Elementary schools, and Glenside Head Start, starting February 2016.

### RAISING A READER RESULTS

- Families in pre-kindergarten and kindergarten classrooms in the initial two elementary schools increased the frequency of their book sharing time as well as the length of time spent reading books each week
- 24% increase in children asking parents to read books three or more times per week
- 37% increase in families spending fifteen or more minutes each time reading books
- 75% of parents now ask children questions about the story when reading







## ABRIENDO PUERTAS/OPENING DOORS



Abriendo Puertas/Opening Doors is a nationally recognized 10-session group education program for parents of children 0-5 years old, to help them understand the importance of their role as their child's first teacher and increase their child's school readiness. Developed in California, specifically for Latino parents, it also helps them learn to be their child's advocate once they start their formal education.

As certified Opening Doors trainers, Centro Hispano staff has facilitated several programs in the community for parents of young children. They have also trained staff from other community organizations so they can host education classes to parents they're connected with.

### **PARTICIPATING PROGRAM PROVIDERS:**

Centro Hispano, Reading School District, BCIU Head Start

## OPENING DOOR RESULTS

- 22 new community facilitators were trained to deliver the program to parents
- 45 parents, with 96 young children, have graduated from 10-week parent education classes
- Parents reported a 77% increase in their ability to teach language to their children
- Parents also reported a 60% increase in their understanding of the importance of reading to their children



## REACH OUT AND READ

Reach Out and Read (ROAR) was developed by pediatricians and early childhood educators who recognized that growing up healthy means growing up with books.

A national, nonprofit, school readiness organization since 1989, ROAR builds on the unique relationship between doctors and patients to spread the message that reading aloud is the most important thing parents can do to help their children love books and start school ready to learn.

- At every checkup, doctors and nurses encourage parents to read aloud to their young children.
- During the checkup, every child between the ages of 6 months and 5 years is given a brand-new, developmentally-appropriate book to take home.

In Berks County, there are currently three pediatric practices that proudly participate in ROAR. Ready. Set. READ! hopes to add other health care providers to this list, and has provided grants to some of the current sites to assist in their purchasing books to distribute to children. In addition, RSR volunteers have occasionally spent time reading to children in the waiting room.

**PARTNERING PEDIATRIC SITES: All About Children Pediatrics, Berks Community Health Center, Reading Hospital Children's Health Center**

## REACH OUT AND READ RESULTS

Doctors and nurses at Reach Out and Read sites in Berks County distributed 20,000 new books to young children at their well-child visits last year.

# COMMUNITY

## STRATEGY:

Ready. Set. READ! will mobilize the community to take action to improve early grade reading success in Berks County.

## VOLUNTEER ENGAGEMENT

Hundreds of Ready. Set. READ! supporters, volunteers and companies share their caring spirit to make this initiative successful. Organizations conducted book drives for local child care, school and youth programs. In total, we have approximately 689 active volunteers. More specifically, with the Star Reader's program, we have 376 active tutors who make this program possible. Of that group, 27% are from the corporate sector and an additional 36% are volunteers from the community. Martha Goldstein from UGIES states why she continues to support the program: "This experience is so satisfying helping students on their journey. The children are great!"

Berks Countians continue to strive to make a difference as they recognize the need and importance of this work in the lives of children, families, and our community. **If interested in volunteering with one of Ready. Set. READ!'s programs visit [uwberks.org](http://uwberks.org).**

## 2nd Annual RSR Community Breakfast and Forum

In December, 2014, we again held a breakfast event to report on the progress RSR had made in its second year of activities and thank those who played key roles. Over 150 people attended to hear from RSR volunteer and staff leaders, who focused on the tremendous growth the initiative experienced in the previous year. Our keynote speaker was Bill Isler, President and CEO of the Fred Rogers Company and a recognized state and national advocate for quality early childhood learning programs. He applauded our community for its support of RSR, reinforced the importance of its mission and shared his thoughts on the critical need for RSR to continue its focus on helping children be better prepared to learn to read when they start school.

In addition, awards were presented to four community organizations who demonstrated significant support for RSR in the previous year:

### Nonprofit Partner Awards:

- The Highlands at Wyomissing
- Birdsboro Community Memorial Center

### Corporate Partner Awards:

- EnerSys
- Travelers Insurance Co.



## Celebrate RSR with the Fightin Phils!

On April 19th, 2015, the first-ever RSR Day at the Fightin Phils took place and was generously sponsored by Customers Bank. As a result, thousands of people attended the game with free tickets made available to school students, school personnel and volunteers involved with RSR. In addition, special picnic area tickets allowed us to honor UW and RSR Board members, along with other key school district and corporate supporters. A special RSR video was produced by the Fightins, which was shown that day to the crowd on the scoreboard before the game.

To help spread the RSR message even broader, free tickets to 50 other games throughout the season were provided to RSR students or volunteers so that the Fightins could recognize their involvement with Ready. Set. READ!

Thanks to both the Fightin Phils and Customers Bank for being such strong RSR fans.

**Come out and join us for another RSR Day at Fightin Phils on April 10, 2016!**



## 2015 Earned Income Tax Credit Contributions

United Way is proud to be an approved charitable organization to annually receive corporate contributions in support of Ready. Set. READ!, through the PA Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) program. In 2015 we surpassed our previous level of giving, with a total of \$103,000 of contributions received! We give our sincere thanks to the following corporations who made gifts in support of Ready. Set. READ! this past year:

- UGI Companies
- Tompkins VIST Bank
- National Penn Bank
- High Industries
- Weis



# SHARING THANKS!

*These individuals and organizations demonstrated commitment to Ready.Set.READ! activities in 2015*

## EDUCATION PARTNERS

Albright College - Jasmine Clarke, Dorothea Miller  
Albright Early Learning Center  
Alvernia University - Jessica Umberger  
Amazing Kidz Daycare  
Antietam School District,  
Mt. Penn Elementary School -  
Shirley Feyers, Melissa Devlin  
Berks County Head Start  
Berks County Intermediate Unit Child Care  
Brandywine Heights Area School District,  
Brandywine Heights Elementary School -  
Karen Long, Jean Condos, Erin Davis  
Conrad Weiser Area School District,  
East Elementary School -  
Janet Heilman, Rachael Haverstick  
Conrad Weiser Area School District,  
West Elementary School - Jennifer Hassler, Cathy Penta  
Daniel Boone Area School District,  
Monocacy Elementary Center -  
Melanie Hefter, Janet Ebner,  
Charlene Richards  
Exeter Township School District,  
Lorane Elementary School -  
Christy M. Haller, Monica Weisser  
Flying Hills Preschool  
Governor Mifflin School District,  
Brecknock Elementary School -  
Dr. Maryellen Kueny, Patricia Nierle  
Governor Mifflin School District,  
Cumru Elementary School -  
Richard Kaskey, Kristin Shockey  
Governor Mifflin School District,  
Mifflin Park Elementary School -  
David Argentati, Holly Garner  
Hamburg Area School District,  
Perry Elementary - Andrea Berger, Michelle Semian  
Hamburg Area School District,  
Tilden Elementary - Lacie Cucciuffo,  
Amy Easter, Heidi Heberle, Lynn Haring  
Immanuel Preschool of Shillington  
KinderCare Learning Center- Morgan Drive  
Kutztown School District,  
Greenwich-Lenhartsville Elementary School-  
Erin Anderson  
Kutztown School District,  
Kutztown Elementary School -  
Deb Barnes, Katie Gosselin  
Kutztown University  
Live 'n Learn SMILE Center  
Live 'n Learn Station  
Longswamp Learning Center  
Mary's Daycare  
Muhlenberg School District,  
Muhlenberg Elementary School -  
Steven Baylor, Amy Arnold  
Norma DeHoyo's Daycare 2  
Oley Valley School District,  
Oley Valley Elementary School -  
Matthew Broskey, Lesley Wegman  
Penn State University - Berks Campus -  
Dr. Chrystine Mitchell, Dr. Carole Roberts

Reading Area Community College  
Reading School District,  
10th & Green Elementary School -  
Susan Lozada, Colleen Sagwitz  
Reading School District,  
10th & Penn Elementary School -  
RowBee'C Kasisky, Ann Marie Brown  
Reading School District,  
12th & Marion Elementary School -  
Cynthia Ajemian, Billie Jo Long-Grohoh,  
Cyndi Hiryak  
Reading School District,  
13th & Green Elementary School -  
Kevin Collins, Christine Reichardt  
Reading School District,  
13th & Union Elementary School -  
Margaret Brown, Melissa Houptley  
Reading School District,  
16th & Haak Elementary School -  
Traci Webb, Lauren Walton  
Reading School District,  
Amanda Stout Elementary School -  
Susan Higginson, Melissa Moyer  
Reading School District,  
Glenside Elementary School -  
Melissa Fisher, Andrea Salsano  
Reading School District,  
Lauer's Park Elementary School -  
Gordon Hoodak, Lyvia Petris, Marie Mengel  
Reading School District,  
Millmont Elementary School -  
Jennifer Murray, Margaret Schlauch  
Reading School District,  
Northwest Elementary School -  
Maria Wengyn, Enes Zimmerman  
Reading School District,  
Riverside Elementary School -  
JuliAnne Kline, Melissa Eggert  
Reading School District,  
Tyson Schoener Elementary School -  
Salvador Sepulveda, Robin Scarpaci  
Right From the Start  
Schuylkill Valley School District,  
Schuylkill Valley Elementary School -  
Melissa Kelchner, Kathleen Gwiazdowski  
SpringRose Childcare  
The New Lector Daycare  
Touching the Future LLC  
Whitehouse Daycare 2  
Wilson School District  
Wilson School District Child Care - Berkshire Heights



## COMMUNITY PARTNERS

All About Children Pediatrics \*  
AmeriCorps VISTA  
ATS Barber Shop\*  
Berks Community Health Center \*  
Birdsboro Community Memorial Center \*  
Calvary United Church of Christ  
Christ Lutheran Church  
Zion's Evangelical Lutheran  
Centro Hispano, Daniel Torres, Inc. \*  
Danny Moore's Barber Shop\*  
Easter Seals Eastern Pennsylvania  
Grace Lutheran Church\*  
Greater Reading Economic Partnership  
Hope Lutheran Church  
John Paul II Center  
Mike and Joe's Barber Shop\*  
Muhlenberg Community Library  
Olivet Boys & Girls Club of Reading and Berks  
County\*  
Opportunity House\*  
Reading Public Library\*  
Salvation Army: Reading Corps\*  
Service Access & Management, Inc  
State Senator Judith S. Schwank's Office  
The Bubble Room\*  
The Highlands at Wyomissing  
United Community Services  
YMCA of Reading & Berks County\*  
Yocom Institute\*

*\* Provides programming*

*"I enjoy giving back to my community and want to pass along my love of reading to the students for their future."*

*-Lori Smith, Community Volunteer*

## CORPORATE PARTNERS

Aetna  
Bosco's Department Store, LLC  
Carpenter Technology Corporation  
Customers Bank  
EnerSys  
Freedom Auto Group  
Heidelberg Township  
M & T Bank  
Materion Corporation  
Merrill Lynch Wealth Management  
Met-Ed, A FirstEnergy Company  
National Penn  
Nationwide  
PA Judicial System  
Penske Truck Leasing Co.  
Republic Services  
Quadrant EPP USA, Inc  
Reading Alloys, Inc., An AMETEK Company  
Reading Eagle Company  
Reading Health System  
Reinsel Kuntz Leshner LLP  
Rhoads Energy Corporation  
RPA Engineering  
Santander Bank  
Tompkins VIST Bank  
Travelers Insurance Co.  
UGI Energy Services, Inc.  
UGI Utilities, Inc.  
Wells Fargo

## TUTORS

### Antietam School District

Carnes, Stella  
Constein, Anne  
Cress, Jacquelyn  
Hemberger, Nancy  
Lakin, Kenneth  
Matchett, DDS, Charles  
Oplinger, MD, Arthur  
Stuber, Gail  
Wernick, Corrine

### Brandywine Heights Area School District

Charnick, Linda  
Christman, Karen  
Etchberger, Debra  
Felegy, Douglas -substitute  
Heloskie, Molly  
Jackson, Rebecca  
Kwiatkowski, Ellen  
Landis, Kathy  
Marburger, Sarah  
Meinschein, Rev. Cheryl  
Mink, Morgan  
Pattison, Barbara  
Potteiger, Andrew  
Quinn, Shannon  
Repko, Karly  
Schnader, David  
Schnader, Jean  
Sloughfy, Frances  
Stockdale, Carol  
Sturtevant, Joyce  
Vignola, Jennifer

### Conrad Weiser Area School District

Barskey, Deborah  
Bieber, Ena  
Bowers, Cheryl  
Brubaker, Diane  
Buffington, Christine  
Ernfield, Kendra  
Godfrey, Kelly - substitute  
Herb, Bonnie  
Hiester, Judy  
Howard, Roseann  
Kurshuk, Lindsay  
Lichtenwalner, Judith  
Lincoln, Joan - substitute  
Madeira, Pamela  
Michael, Mary Lou  
Nevitt, Sandra  
Nicotra, Eileen - substitute  
Peters, Bernice  
Sherk, Gretchen  
Steltz, Vicky  
Stripling, Donald  
Troutman, Anna  
Unger, Denise  
Wagner, Teri  
Weatherholtz, Sara  
Wilson, Linda  
Zechman, Loretta  
Zieger-Kosloski, Joanne  
Zimmer, Michelle

### Daniel Boone Area School District

Dickinson, Laura  
Grim, Linda  
Gunzelmann, Carol

### Exeter Township School District

Daniels, Carol  
Gunzelmann, Carol  
Jurasinski, Dorothy  
Kalbach, Allison  
Kline, Judy  
O'Donnell, Jaclyn  
Papich, Todd  
Paquet, Jacqueline  
Pyle, Anne  
Schaffer, Rosemary  
Simcik, Beth  
Wagner, Bethann

### Governor Mifflin School District

Alessi, Thomas  
Archer, Jr., George  
Bausher, Deirdre  
Beem, Jacqueline  
Bennethum, Harriett - substitute  
Bernstein, Tamara  
Calder, Sharon  
Campanella, Susan  
Charles, Rev. Charles  
Curran, Linda  
Deem, Virginia  
Dieruff, Robert  
Fryberger, Karyn - substitute  
Gassert, Jean

Gensemer, Charmaine  
Geraci, Lucia  
Greenly, Lisa  
Hall, Barbara J. - substitute  
Hanna, Mitchell - substitute  
Hawk, Wayne  
Helinek, Carol  
Helinek, Christine  
Helinek, MD, Gerard  
Hoffman, Debra  
Holmes, Christopher  
Hopkins, Betty  
Hopkins, Bruce  
Jacobs, Joan  
Kramlich, Deidra  
Lazarchick, Lorena  
Lillis, Lori  
Linderman, Sandra - substitute  
Little, Kerri  
Mancuso, Elizabeth  
Matzuk, Susan  
Mohn, Barbara  
Murray, Stephen  
Naugle, Amy  
Oxenreider, Joan  
Paciulli, Mary Ellen  
Perilstein, Barbara  
Pessognelli, Marianne - substitute  
Pursel, Trish  
Ranck, Lois  
Reinhart, Marcella  
Richards, Anne  
Ruiz, Ana  
Schartel, Denise  
Schultz, Lisa  
Schumacher, Pam  
Schwoyer, Christine  
Seidel, Susan  
Slichter, Brenda  
Smith, Yana  
Snyder, Christine  
Snyder, Lauren  
Stripling, Donald  
Swartz, Martha  
Thomas, Novelette  
Verrill, Jo  
Wodehouse, Angela  
Wolf, Angelina  
Wolfe, Bonnie  
Young, Ann

### Hamburg Area School District

Bear, Susan  
Blausner, Marianne  
Bowser, Kathy  
Churgai, Suzanne  
Cox, Diane  
Fritz, Kay  
Kehs, Kim  
Killough, Jacqueline  
Levermore, Judy

*“ I love meeting with my second grader and watching when she pronounces a hard word correctly and she beams with pride. Thanks for this privilege. ”*

*- Volunteer Tutor*

Lucas, Shawn  
Merkt, Patricia  
Murphy, Kathleen  
Narducci, Richard  
Osterhout, Rev. Bruce  
Smith, Lori  
Sprance, Anna Marie  
Strouse, Amy  
White, Ellyn

**Kutztown Area  
School District**

Austin, Jamie  
Biedka, Emily - substitute  
Bispels, Helen  
Bittenmaster, Tyler  
Dietrich, Ashely  
Fegely, Diane  
Ginder, Olivia  
Ketterer, Dianna  
Myers, Laura  
Rutkowski, Elaine  
Stoltzfus, Sara  
Sylvernale, Cheryl

**Muhlenberg School District**

Futrick, Barbara  
Grim, Megan  
Harcar, Mary  
Hoffman, Lori  
Horvath, Karen  
Huemrich, Bridget  
Knoebel, Nancy  
Laing, Catherine  
Lambert, Kalli  
Livinghouse, Ellie  
Lott, Lacey  
Nawa, Jaclyn  
Patrick, Katherine  
Rieser, Mary  
Ritter, Curtis  
Schlegel, Janet  
Schlegel, Sandra  
Snow, Lawrence

**Oley Valley School District**

Chmelewski, Alan  
Clark, Ellen  
Heydt, Tami  
Kearney, Philip  
Kozlowski, Rev. Linda  
Longenberger, Melissa  
Romig, Gloria  
Schmale, Jayne  
Schwoyer, Dale  
Small, John  
Spangler, Elaine

Wagner, Jacqueline  
Wolfe, Kathryn  
**Reading School District**

Adams, Stacie  
Addison, Sue  
Affleck, Jennifer  
Arndt, Karen  
Baker, Jaimee  
Beckett, Chantel  
Berger, Wendy  
Berlin, Stephanie  
Blatt, Ruth  
Bogdanski, Megan  
Boland, Cheryl  
Boyd, Kristin  
Boyer, Beverly  
Breisch, Dawn  
Bross, Kelly  
Castro, Denise  
Chakrapani, Sandhya  
Ciesnolevicz, Tracey  
Cogan, Michael  
DiFilippo, Robert  
DiGenova, Barbara  
Docker-Ford, Patricia  
Dunkle-Moser, Clare  
Eckert, Eric  
Eichlin, Susan  
Endy, Caroline  
Engleman, Marilyn  
Eshbach, Becky  
Eyrich, Claire  
Ferguson, Ann Marie  
Fields, Elizabeth  
Fleming, Michael  
Formando, Joie  
Forte, Victor  
Gantz, Aaron  
Gehret, Jeanne  
George, Paula  
Goehring, Jennifer  
Goldstein, Martha  
Gonzalez, Carol  
Gonzalez, Leilani Nenadich  
Gould, Alexandra  
Graser, Kelly  
Green, Alexis  
Grim, Katie  
Gruber, Bonnie  
Gudikunst, April  
Haas, Judy  
Hagenman, Cheryl  
Haggerty, Ann  
Haldeman, Elaine  
Hall, Barbara C.  
Hannon, Katie  
Hess, Holly  
Hillkirk, Suzanne  
Hoplock, Samantha  
Houser, Jill  
Kempinski, Maryann  
Koch, Shanelle  
Kohl, Lisa  
Korczykowski, Karen  
Kreml, Joan  
Kring, Shauna  
Kuhlman, Nancy  
Laubenstine, Ashlee

Lee, Helen  
Lengel, James  
Lengel, Kelly  
Lomax, Megan  
Lopez, Alyssa  
Madeira, Patricia  
Malenda, Ruth  
Malick, Sydney  
Mancias, Mary Beth  
Manning, Wendy  
Martin, Veronica  
Mason, Thomas  
Matz, Carol  
Mauk, Amber  
McMahon, Thomas  
Mehos, Sue  
Mente, Michael  
Mericsko, David  
Miller, Jenna  
Miller, Kasey  
Minear, Loretta  
Minehart, Patricia  
Moliatu, Shawn  
Morlock, Eryn  
Nelson, Tom  
Ohnsman, Dr. Rev. Steve  
Orso, Jason  
Palmer, Imani  
Pehlman, Corina  
Phillips, Aaron  
Pietrowski, Joanne  
Pinadella, Nicole  
Priest, Margaret  
Randazzo, Susan  
Reese, Michael  
Reilly, Peter  
Renninger, Elise  
Richardson, Shanice  
Rivieccio, Nicole  
Roberts, Calvin  
Romano, Kaela  
Rozzi, Jessica  
Ruppert, Cynthia  
Rush, Virginia  
Russell, Joseph  
Scherer, Joann  
Schiavone, Benjamin  
Schiffman, Michael  
Schwank, Senator Judith  
Scott, Vee Vee  
Sheehan, Ann  
Shields, Patricia  
Shoup, Denise  
Simon, Tara  
Smith, Bruce  
Smith, Richard  
Smith, Sarah  
Smith, Susan  
Snyder, Susan  
Speaks, Carla  
Spedding, Emily  
Stauffer, Karen  
Strozak, Michael  
Stuber, Gail  
Summer, Susan - substitute  
Sundberg, Larry  
Sweigert, Jennifer  
Swisher, Betsy  
Tobias, Cheryl

Travers, Alexis  
Tunnell, Patricia  
Waschitsch, Wendie  
Watrous, Susan  
Watt, Hannah  
Weand, Eileen  
Weiss, Denise  
Wickman, Kevin  
Wilder, Joshua  
Yeager, Mary  
**Schuylkill Valley  
School District**  
Bond, Dawn  
Bressler, Patricia  
Driben, Lynn  
Gambler, Gloria  
Gaspari, Jordann  
Hippert, Nancy  
Koller, Chad  
Ohlinger, Colleen  
Quinn, Coralee  
Reichard, Linda  
Shucker, Esq., Lou  
Troxell, Marlene - substitute  
Walborn, Helen  
Witmer, Pamela  
Wojszwillo, Joanne

**Substitutes -  
All Schools**

Albright, Sue  
Fegely, Jeanne  
Farrell, Jane  
Roshong, Linda  
Simon, Janice  
Wunder, Michelle

**Administrative Support  
Volunteers**

Barbara Ripple  
Jan Buskirk  
Lisa Fulmer  
Margie Shearer

**STORY FRIENDS**

Ahmadi, Diana  
Aponte, Lisette  
Baldeon, Javier  
Barr, Gregg  
Barth, Colleen  
Bennethum, Harriett  
Berger, Wendy  
Binter, Jennifer  
Bressler, Patricia  
Brown, Diane  
Clark, Fran  
Dahms, Brandon  
DeAcosta, Kevin  
Delgado Cartagena, Elizabeth  
DeLong, Angela  
Devenport, Jennessy  
Distasio, Laurie  
Dries, Beverly  
Eagleson, Lynn  
Eppenstein, Sue  
Ferrer, Peggy  
Fisher, John  
Foley, Daniel  
Frederick, Andy  
Garcia, Rosalee  
Gasker, Kristen



Giles, Nancy  
 Greyes, Marwin  
 Hall, Darshae  
 Henderson, Sandra  
 High, Terry  
 Holland, Amy  
 Holmes, Christopher  
 Humma, Ashley  
 Hussar, Sharon  
 Johnson, Susan  
 Kalbach, Heide  
 Levine, Margaret  
 Linderman, Sandra  
 Marselas Graham, Kimberly  
 McNabb, Nancy  
 Menet, Christine  
 Menia, Justin  
 Miller, Patricia  
 Moyer, Karen L  
 Murray, Steve  
 Nawa, Barbara  
 Negron, Lillian  
 Owen-Pietruszynski, Patricia  
 Oxenreider, Joan  
 Park, Andrew  
 Patterson, Ruth  
 Perez, Alex  
 Pessognelli, Marianne  
 Phillips, Mary  
 Pomaes, Giovanni

Pototsky, Harold  
 Radcliff, Barbara  
 Ramirez, Favian  
 Raugh, Andrew  
 Ricketts, Sherry  
 Shamus, Anne  
 Shellabear, Linda  
 Smith, Jean  
 Snyder, Patricia  
 Spatz, Patricia  
 Steffy, Stephanie  
 Steinmetz, Maureen  
 Strausser, Judith  
 Swanson, Paula  
 Thakur, Smriti  
 Thomas, LaTasha  
 Troutman, Emily  
 Wagner, Emily  
 Wagner, Kerry  
 Walker, Lyndon  
 Weiler, Pat  
 Wells, Carol  
 Wiedinmyer, Jane  
 Wilson, Jeff  
 Wunder, Michelle  
 Zabinski, Sherrie  
 Zavala, Daniel  
 Zazo Lisa  
 Zweig, Nancy



*This list reflects our volunteers as of January 8, 2016. We have made every attempt to ensure the accuracy of this list. If you discover an error, please accept our apologies and contact us at 610.685.4574 so that we may correct our records.*

**UNITED WAY STAFF  
 SUPPORTING READY.SET.READ!**

Pat Giles	Jane Moyer
Alicia Hartman	Jen O'Brien
Jessica Heil	Chris Spanier
Mary Jimenez	Jen Tinsman
Stella Leonti	Tammy White
Jean Morrow	Darby Wiekrykas

## Thank you Sharon Danks and Stella Leonti!

Ready. Set. READ! experienced two key leadership changes at the end of 2015.

Sharon Danks and Stella Leonti both provided extraordinary time, commitment and passion to our mission and have jointly played significant roles in developing RSR into the large-scale and effective initiative it is today.

Sharon Danks was the first RSR Board Chair, and she brought her collaborative style and strategic thinking to the Board's development of RSR's strategic plan and helped establish broad community leadership for the initiative. And, of course, she made sure serious discussions also included lots of humor, so that participants always left meetings feeling informed, accomplished, and proud to be working collectively together so productively. Sharon is no longer Chair, but she's continuing her involvement with RSR as a member of the Board and Chair of the Road Map Committee.

Stella Leonti was Ready. Set. READ!'s first Director, and she was the perfect person to take the initiative from vision and mission to action and results. She came to RSR with a long record of leadership and accomplishments in education, coupled with strong relationships throughout the community. She quickly assembled a strong following of schools, nonprofits, companies and individuals who all wanted to help children throughout Berks County become better readers ... and then she gave them the tools and guidance to put them to work. Her legacy is that she left RSR with strong and effective programs in place that are producing good outcomes, along with a large corps of supporters to sustain it in the years to come. Stella will be continuing her involvement with RSR as a volunteer member of its Board.





[www.ReadySetReadBerks.org](http://www.ReadySetReadBerks.org)



**United Way of Berks County**

[www.uwberks.org](http://www.uwberks.org)

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