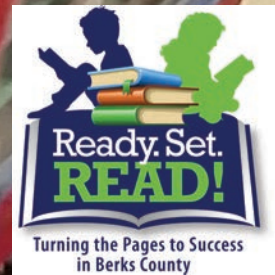
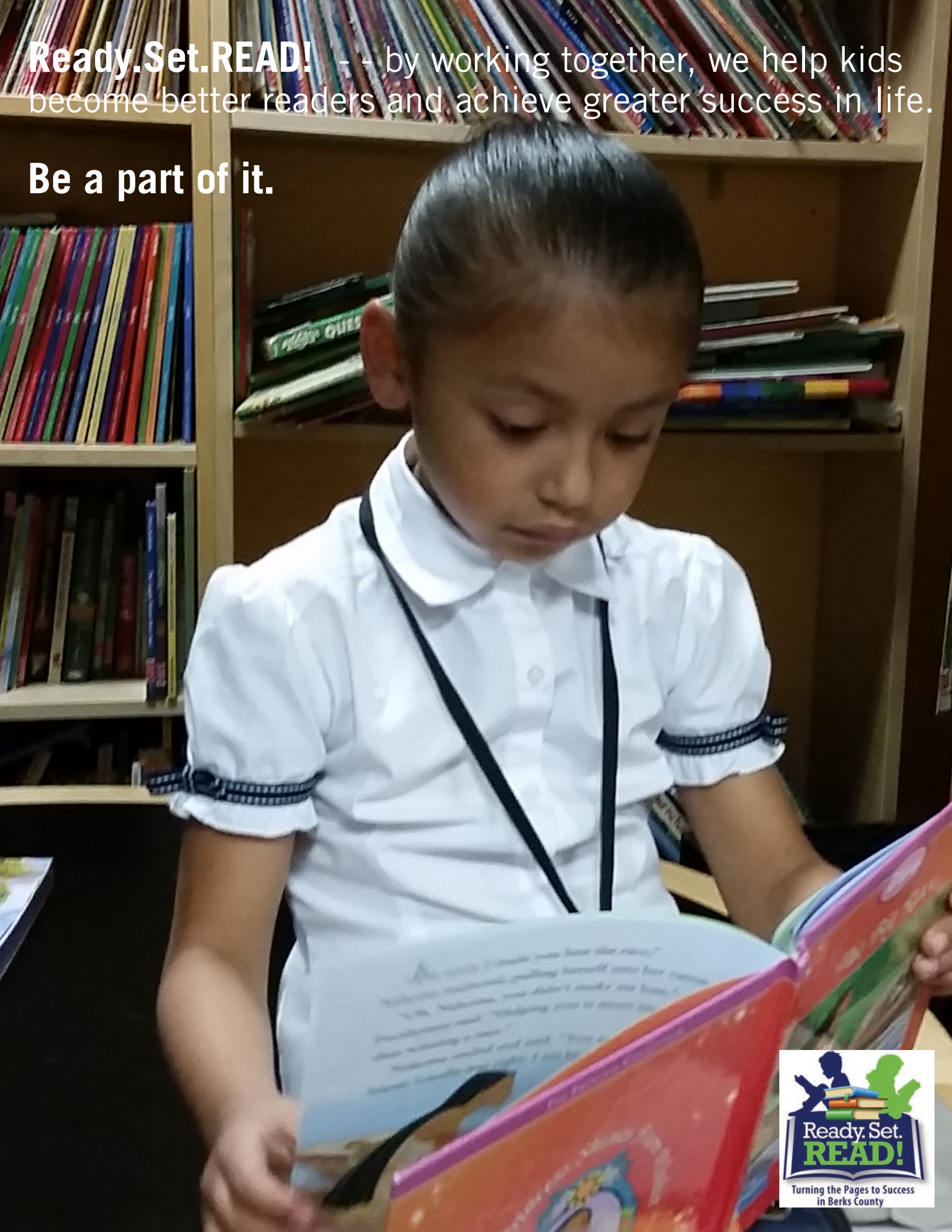


Ready.Set.READ! - - by working together, we help kids become better readers and achieve greater success in life.

Be a part of it.



Engaging the community, building partnerships and developing programs continue to be hallmarks of our work. This past year, as we worked towards the Ready. Set. READ! goal, we gained momentum within the initiative's programs and introduced a few new components.

We are pleased to share our progress in this report.

STAR READERS: Nearly 400 volunteers continue to tutor at 29 elementary schools within 12 school districts, providing one-on-one tutoring support to students each week. We remain amazed by these volunteers and their level of commitment.

RAISING A READER: Expansion of this program that builds a home book-sharing routine took place by adding one additional elementary school and two Head Start centers in Reading. In addition, an already participating elementary school added its First Grade classrooms to the program.

READYROSIE: As a resource for parents of preschoolers, ReadyRosie is currently reaching parents in nine schools districts. Bringing Up, a new tool from the makers of ReadyRosie targeted to Kindergarten through Third Grade classrooms, was launched this fall by the Reading School District.

GROWING READERS: Growing Readers is piloting an intensive model to improve curriculum development and staff retention in Reading's largest childcare center.

NEIGHBORHOOD BRIDGES: This program received overwhelmingly positive feedback from participating schools last year and is now serving all Third Grade students at 16th & Haak.

COMMUNITY INNOVATION ZONE GRANT: Ready.Set.READ! continues to partner with Berks County Intermediate Unit as part of a state multi-year grant, which has supported the expansion of Raising a Reader and Abriendo Puertas/Opening Doors.

OAKBROOK COMMUNITY INITIATIVE: RSR has embarked on a place-based initiative in response to feedback from families in the Oakbrook Housing Community who had children participating in RSR activities. During 2017, RSR will begin a community survey process in partnership with ReDesign Reading to determine the direction in which to move this initiative.

THANK YOU! We are grateful for the dedication and hard work of the schools, corporate and community partners and volunteers - board members, volunteer tutors and others - in this work to increase reading proficiency in our children. The research continues to show the lasting impact that reading proficiency has on school achievement and life success. Together, we are working to reach this goal.



Jerry Simcik
Chairperson, 2016-18

Chair: Jerry Simcik, SFS intec, Inc.
Ellen Albright
Greater Reading Chamber of Commerce
Corrine Brumbach
Berks County Public Library System
Margarita Caicedo
Reading Area Community College
Gina Crance
Albright College
Sharon Danks
Tweed-Weber, Inc.
Bronwen Gamble
Reading Public Library
Wayne Gehris
Reading School District
Brad Hall
UGI Energy Services, Inc.
Kim Johnson
YMCA of Reading & Berks County
Steve Keifer
Community Volunteer
Lorena Lazarchick *
The Highlands of Wyomissing
Stella Leonti
Reading School District
Tammy Mitgang
Community Volunteer
Jen O'Brien
Reading School District
Dr. Rev. Steve Ohnsman *
Calvary UCC Church
Barbara Pattison *
BB&T
Teresa Schutt
BCIU
State Senator Judy Schwank *
Denise Shoup *
EnerSys
Lou Shucker *
Attorney/Education Advocate
Robert Spengler
Grafika Commercial Printing, Inc.
C. Elizabeth Sterner
Comcast
Jeff Stoicheff
Penske Truck Leasing Co.
Robert Stoyko
UGI Utilities, Inc.
Pablo Tejada
Olivet Boys & Girls Club
Michael Toledo
Centro Hispano
Dr. Karen Wang
Reading Health System
Jay Worrall
Alvernia University
Cheri Woyurka
BCIU

* Also serves as Star Readers Tutor



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 be 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

WHY IT IS IMPORTANT

.....

Early grade reading success is a critical component of learning and a leading indicator of future academic and educational success. Yet over 40% of third-graders throughout Berks County are reading below grade level. That means that over 2,000 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. As a result, they are less likely to develop skills essential for contributing to the 21st Century economy and less likely to be effective citizens.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

.....

- 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

41,477

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



9,321

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

30,457

total number of children benefitting from RSR-related programs in 2016
(may be duplicated)

\$219,603

total dollar value of volunteer hours
(based on Independent Sector value of \$23.56 per hour)

5,075

books donated to community programs



BIRTH to PRE-K

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 Friend volunteers read a preselected book to children in a preschool classroom one time a month from October to May. Before volunteering, participants attend a brief orientation to receive information on current practices related to reading to children. They also receive tips on conversing with the children about the book to improve vocabulary and comprehension.

RESULTS:

- 1206 children benefitted from 4060 hours of reading and conversing with 89 volunteers.
- 1666 new books were distributed to children and classrooms



GROWING READERS is a collaborative partnership with Latino childcare providers in Reading 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 core program is made up of 12 weeks of individual teacher support providing weekly literacy planning, materials, modeling and coaching. This includes demonstrating how practices should be implemented, weekly teacher observation, weekly coaching sessions, and ongoing coaching upon program completion.

In addition, a longer-term, more intensive approach is currently being piloted at Norma DeHoyos' Daycare 2. This model encompasses a 6-8 month period of weekly support to improve quality throughout the center, improve curriculum and increase staff retention, while continuing to concentrate on literacy practices in the classroom.

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS: The New Lector Daycare, Norma DeHoyos' Daycare 2, Daisy Daycare

RESULTS:

- 100% of participating child care center personnel strongly agreed that the Growing Readers program support they received was valuable and well delivered
- 100% of children in participating child care classrooms are benefitting from daily and interactive reading activities as a result of the Growing Readers program

SCHOOL AGE

Provide supplemental support to students (grade K-3) struggling to be proficient readers.

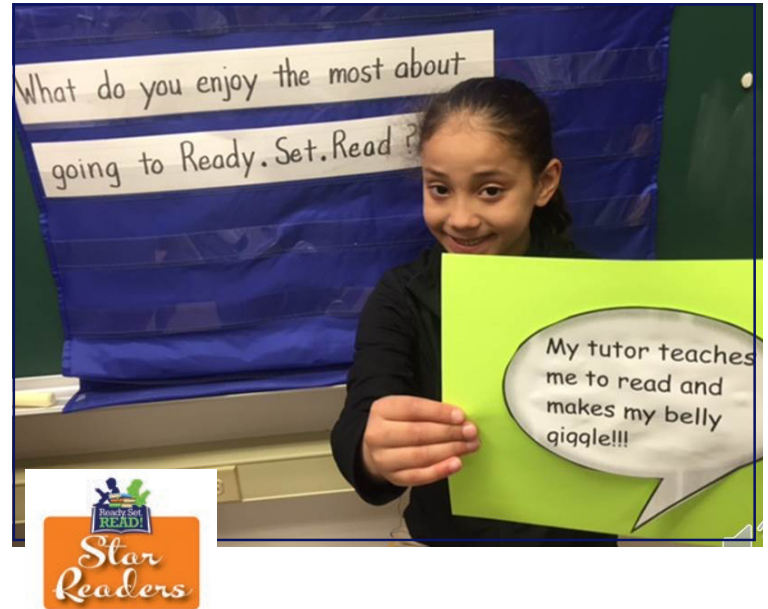
STAR READERS was established to mobilize community and volunteer resources to supplement reading instructional activities of schools, by providing one-on-one tutoring support for early grade students in order to increase their reading proficiency.

Star Readers is designed to serve those students who are reading just below grade level. In most assessments this is referred to as the Strategic 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.

Thanks to the support of the community, volunteers and school districts, the program continues to make an impact.

- Now in its fourth year, Star Readers is integrated into 12 participating school districts at 29 elementary schools.
- Nearly 400 trained volunteers, including corporate employees, college students, retired educators and community volunteers, provide weekly tutoring sessions for identified students.
- During the 2015-2016 school year, tutors were able to provide supplemental reading instruction to 356 first, second and third grade students to improve their reading comprehension, accuracy, fluency, and literacy skills.

Ready.Set.READ! engaged the services of Dr. Chrystine Mitchell of Penn State Berks, to conduct a formal evaluation of the Star Readers program. Dr. Mitchell concluded from her data analysis that there was significant improvement for tutored students in several areas. These findings were based on results from reading fluency (words per minute) and accuracy assessments, such as DIBELS Next and AIMS Web, collected throughout the year by the schools, as well as student and parent surveys.



RESULTS:

- Of the students who were evaluated using the DIBELS Next or AIMS Web assessments, 49% of the students who were tutored increased to Benchmark Level for reading fluency and 63% improved to Benchmark Level for accuracy, illustrating that students moved from Intensive or Strategic Levels to grade level expectations by the end of the school year.
- The students' surveys demonstrated that over 97% of students responded to the RSR survey positively, indicating that the program has a positive impact on the students' overall experience and in the belief the program positively influenced their reading ability.

Over 93% of parents reported that their child's attitude toward reading improved through the year. The comments also revealed that parents overwhelmingly mentioned their child's enjoyment of the program and remarked that they observed an improvement in their child's reading.

PARTNER SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Antietam

Exeter Township

Muhlenberg

Brandywine Heights Area

Governor Mifflin

Oley Valley

Conrad Weiser

Hamburg Area

Reading

Daniel Boone

Kutztown Area

Schuylkill Valley

NEIGHBORHOOD BRIDGES

During the 2015-16 school year, RSR partnered with the Yocum Institute and Reading School District to offer the Neighborhood Bridges program in 3rd Grade classrooms at both 16th & Haak and 13th & Green Elementary Schools. Two classrooms at each school participated in the program. This is a nationally recognized critical literacy program that uses storytelling, theater and writing activities to improve students' ability to read, write, think and communicate. The program was held weekly, for 90-120 minutes, during the school day, over the course of the school year, and was co-taught by the classroom teacher and a trained visiting artist.

Given the enthusiasm the program generated from teachers and participating students' academic achievements, United Way again funded the program to be offered in all 3rd Grade classrooms at 16th & Haak Elementary in 2016-17.

RESULTS:

- The average scores on the 3rd Grade PSSA English Language Arts and Math tests for participating Neighborhood Bridges students were higher when compared to those for all students in 3rd Grade at each participating school, as well as in Reading School District overall.
- Participating classroom teachers were surveyed and 100% agreed the program creates a positive learning environment, they would like it to return to their classroom and should be expanded to others.



A Note About 2016 PSSA Scores ...

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 exactly what happened. Unfortunately, test scores continued to drop across the state in 2016 as well, but not nearly as dramatically.

How did Berks County Third Grade students perform on the 2016 PSSA English Language Arts test? Overall, 57% of all students scored as Proficient or better, experiencing a three-point drop from the previous year. The 43% of students who tested as being below Proficient, represented over 2,000 students.

Ready. Set. READ! recognizes the greater challenge it faces to achieve the goal of 90% Proficiency by 2023. However, current programs and activities initiated since 2012 have shown positive impact on individual 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.



PARENTS & FAMILY

Support parents and other caregivers to help children develop, read and learn.

RAISING A READER (RAR) is an evidence-based early literacy and family engagement program helping families develop, practice and sustain home literacy routines. As a national program, RAR has had more than 20 independent evaluations verify that focusing on strengthening family literacy routines and community literacy connections improves children's academic achievement. The program involves sending a tote bag with 3-4 books home each week for the family to engage in "book cuddling" shared reading experiences with their child. This not only provides a literacy experience but an opportunity for quality interaction between the child and a parent or significant adult in their lives. The program also works to connect families with their local library, encouraging continued literacy experiences over the summer months.

Two Reading School District elementary schools offered the program in their Kindergarten and Pre K classrooms for a second year, while two new schools came on board. In addition, Glenside Head Start also participated in the program in 2016. In the Fall of 2016, Tyson-Schoener was added while Glenside expanded their program to include their First Grade classrooms. In early 2017, Emma's Place and Oakbrook Head Start Centers and Norma DeHoyos' Day Care 2 will begin implementing the program.

RESULTS:

- 613 children participated in the program in Spring 2016, for an average of 17 weeks, with exposure to approximately 50 books over the course of the program
- 97% of parents surveyed agreed that Raising A Reader was helpful in creating a reading routine in the home
- There was a 37% increase in the number of parents who reported sharing books 5 or more times per week with their child
- There was a 34% increase in the number of parents who reported spending 15 minutes or more each time they read books together



2016 Participating Sites: Reading School District Elementary Schools – 10th & Green, 16th & Haak, Glenside, Millmont, Tyson-Schoener; Head Start – Glenside

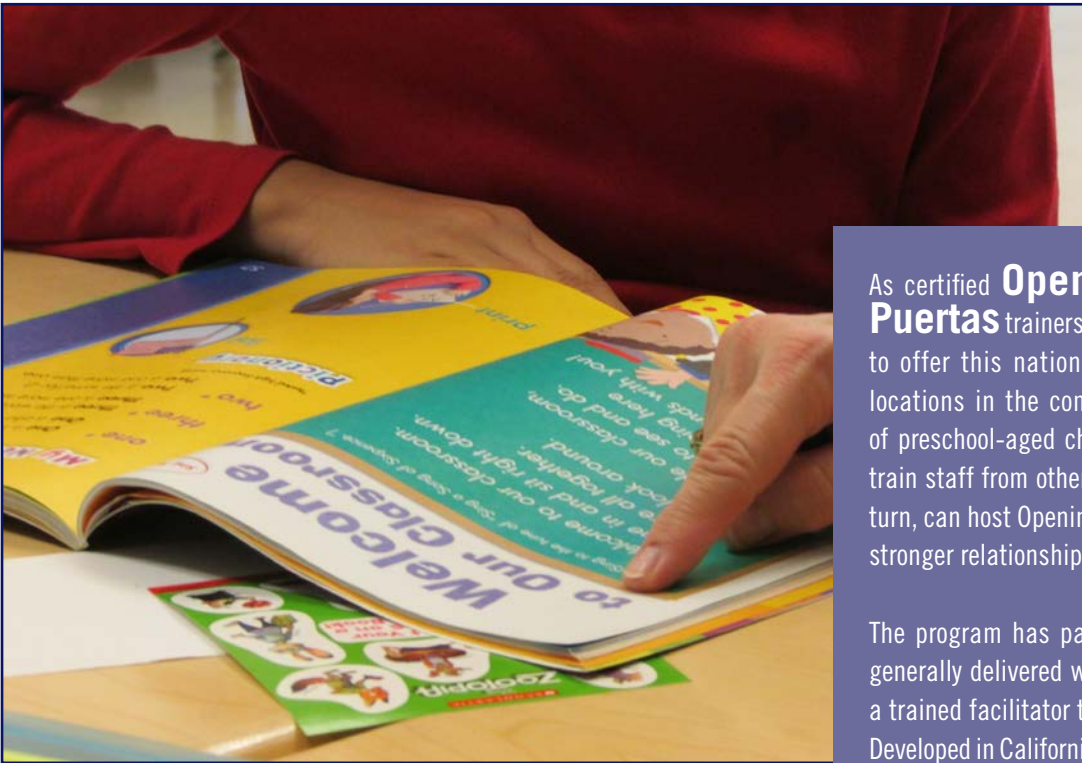
READYROSIE is an online parent engagement tool created to give parents and guardians ideas to engage their young children in learning activities during their daily routines. ReadyRosie is geared toward preschool age children. Parents receive daily emails or text messages with a video in English and Spanish. These videos show real families modeling learning activities in the places they encounter in a typical day, such as their home, the grocery store, the doctor's office or in a restaurant. This method of parent engagement has been validated by an evaluation study conducted by Penn State researchers. The study analyzed changes in families who used ReadyRosie for a three-week period. The results showed significant increases in the literacy skills of the children as well as an increase in positive interactions between adults and children.

In 2016 BringingUp was introduced from the makers of ReadyRosie to provide the same level of parent engagement as ReadyRosie to the families of Kindergarteners, First, Second and Third Graders.

This new program was launched in the fall of 2016 in the Reading School District. Professional development was provided to RSD primary teachers to introduce this new resource and give a refresher on ReadyRosie. Many teachers in RSD PreK, Kindergarten and primary grade classrooms use ReadyRosie or BringingUp as part of their daily instruction. A new Dashboard feature for ReadyRosie allows teachers to send out specific videos to families that support their units of study.

Participating School Districts: Antietam, Brandywine, Conrad Weiser, Daniel Boone, Exeter, Governor Mifflin, Hamburg, Muhlenberg, Oley, Reading

RESULTS: Through partnerships with ten school districts, ReadyRosie has exposed 2,448 parents and 3,301 children to high quality early learning activities



Reach Out & Read (ROAR), an evidence-based program, developed in 1989, incorporates early literacy into pediatric practices, equipping parents with tools and knowledge to ensure that their children are prepared to learn when they start school. The national, nonprofit organization serves 4.8 million children annually. ROAR's mission is to give young children a foundation for success by incorporating books into pediatric care and encouraging families to read aloud together.

Doctors, nurse practitioners, and other medical professionals incorporate Reach Out and Read's evidence-based, three-part model into regular pediatric checkups:

- Trained doctors and nurses speak with parents about the importance of reading aloud, starting in infancy.
- At each wellness checkup from 6 months through 5 years of age, the child receives a new book to take home.
- Many Reach Out and Read program sites create literacy-rich environments that include gently-used books for waiting room use.

In Berks County, there are currently three pediatric practices that proudly participate in ROAR. Ready.Set.READ! has provided grants to all of these sites to assist in purchasing books to distribute to children and families.

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

RESULTS:

Doctors and nurses at Reach Out and Read sites in Berks County annually distribute approximately 25,000 new books to young children at their well child visits each year.

As certified **Opening Doors/ Abriendo Puertas** trainers, Centro Hispano staff, have continued to offer this nationally recognized program in several locations in the community and at schools for parents of preschool-aged children. They have also continued to train staff from other community organizations so they, in turn, can host Opening Doors classes to parents and build stronger relationships.

The program has parenting education modules that are generally delivered weekly over the course of 10 weeks by a trained facilitator to small groups of interested parents. Developed in California, by Latino parents for Latino parents, the program shares information in a culturally relevant manner. Lessons support parents' understanding of their critical role in their children's development in the home and preparing them for school success, focusing particularly on their language and literacy development. Parents are also encouraged to become their children's advocate in their educational journey.

Program Partners: Centro Hispano, Reading School District, Berks County Head Start, Reading Public Library

RESULTS:

- 6 new program facilitators were trained to deliver the program to parents
- 54 parents, with 108 young children, successfully graduated from the 10-week parent education classes
- 67% of parents reported they now have confidence in their ability to teach language to their children
- 80% of parents reported they now know what the school's expectations are for their child in preparation for Pre-K
- 86% of parents reported they now understand the basic skills their children need in preparation for Pre-K

COMMUNITY

Mobilize the community to take action to improve early grade reading success in Berks County.



Customers Bank and the Reading Fightin Phils

On April 10, 2016 Customers Bank sponsored the second annual RSR Day at the Fightin Phils. Through their generosity, all 29 Star Readers schools, volunteers, and corporate partners were offered free tickets. The day included books, baseball, and a band to raise awareness for Ready.Set.READ! The Fightin Phils produced and featured a video recognizing the important work around reading in Reading.

The generous support continued throughout the season, as free tickets to 50 additional games were provided for the Fightins to recognize the Ready.Set.READ! students and volunteers.

At the April 10th game, Customers Bank President and COO, Dick Ehst invited families to register to participate in a reading challenge in the upcoming six weeks. Children needed to read a total of six books of their choosing and fill out a simple log sheet to receive a brand new bicycle. This event culminated at the Muhlenberg Target where the kids picked out bikes and helmets with help from Customers Bank representatives.

Thank you Customers Bank and the Fightin Phils for your continued support of our community and Ready.Set.READ!



MINI GRANTS AWARDED

For the third year, United Way made \$500 mini grants available to educators at Ready.Set.READ! partner schools who participate in the Star Readers tutoring program. Educators at the 29 elementary schools that currently host Start Readers tutors were invited to submit grant applications for literacy based projects that addressed one or more of the following approaches.

- Literacy based projects that inspire and entice students to read
- Writing activities that strengthen students' literacy development
- Literacy activities across the curriculum (e.g. STEM – Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics)

This year 29 proposals were received from ten different schools in six different school districts totaling \$13,764. Many were coordinated proposals so multiple classrooms or grades of students will benefit from these small grants.

GRANT RECIPIENTS:

Conrad Weiser, Daniel Boone, Exeter Township, Governor Mifflin, Reading and Schuylkill Valley.

RESULTS:

2516 students will benefit from the innovative programs provided by the mini-grant funds.

3rd Annual Ready.Set.READ! Community Breakfast and Forum

In March, 2016, RSR again held a breakfast event to report on the progress RSR had made in its third year of activities and thank those who played key roles. Approximately 150 people attended to hear from RSR volunteer and staff leaders, who focused on the tremendous growth the initiative experienced in the previous year. For our keynote presentation, we learned about the incredible work taking place through the Pottstown Early Action for Kindergarten community initiative (PEAK), from Dr. Jeff Sparagana, Superintendent of Pottstown School District and Mary Rieck, PEAK Coordinator

After the close of the breakfast program, many attendees stayed to participate in planning discussions that centered on three key issue areas – early childhood, summer learning and parent/family engagement. This input helped to guide RSR’s work over the past year.

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

Nonprofit Partner Awards:

- Yocum Institute for Arts Education

Corporate Partner Awards:

- Customers Bank
- Reading Fightin Phils



Community Innovation Zone Grant

In 2015, Berks County Intermediate Unit was the recipient of a multi-year Community Innovation Zone Grant, awarded by the Pennsylvania Office of Child Development and Early Learning to communities with at risk student populations. BCIU partnered with RSR, Reading School District, Berks County Head Start and Centro Hispano to expand programs designed to increase literacy skills in students in selected elementary schools. The focus of the grant’s activities was Glenside Elementary, and Tyson-Schoener was added in this school year. As a result, Tyson-Schoener Elementary School introduced Raising a Reader to its PreK and Kindergarten classrooms while Glenside Elementary added their First Grade classrooms to their already existing RAR program. A second Berks County Head Start center, Emma’s Place, will begin RAR in its two classrooms early in 2017. The CIZ grant also allows parents from both the Glenside and Tyson-Schoener communities to attend Opening Doors classes, with instructional support and management from Centro Hispano.

THANK YOU!

These individuals and organizations demonstrated commitment to Ready.Set.READ! activities in 2016

EDUCATION PARTNERS

Albright College: Heather Fowler, Erin Sullivan
Alvernia University: Jessica Umberger
Antietam School District
Mt. Penn Elementary School:
Shirley Feyers, Melissa Devlin
Berks Career and Technology Center - West Campus
Berks County Head Start
Berks County Intermediate Unit Child Care
Boyertown Children's Center, Inc.
Brandywine Heights Area School District
Brandywine Heights Elementary School:
Stephanie Kelly, Jean Condos, Cindy Rissmiller
Conrad Weiser Area School District
East Elementary School:
Janet Heilman, Nate Ottaviani
West Elementary School:
Jennifer Hassler, Cathy Penta
Daisy's Daycare
Daniel Boone Area School District
Monocacy Elementary Center :
Melanie Hefter , Janet Ebner, Charlene Richards
Exeter Township School District
Julie Kline
Lorane Elementary School:
Christy M. Haller, Monica Weisser
Flying Hills Preschool
Governor Mifflin School District
Brecknock Elementary School:
Dr. Maryellen Kueny, Patricia Nierle
Cumru Elementary School:
Richard Kaskey, Kristin Shockey
Mifflin Park Elementary School:
David Argentati, Holly Garner
Hamburg Area School District
Perry Elementary: Andrea Berger, Michelle Semian
Tilden Elementary: Lacie Cucciuffo, Susan Bear
Immanuel Preschool of Shillington
KinderCare Learning Center- Morgan Drive
Kutztown School District
Greenwich-Lenhartsville Elementary School:
Erin Anderson
Kutztown Elementary School:
Deb Barnes, Katie Gosselin
Kutztown University
Live 'n Learn SMILE Center
Live 'n Learn Station
Longswamp Learning Center
Muhlenberg School District
Muhlenberg Elementary School:
Steven Baylor, Amy Arnold
Norma DeHoyos Daycare 2
Oley Valley School District
Oley Valley Elementary School:
Matthew Broskey, Lesley Wegman

Penn State University - Berks Campus
Dr. Chrystine Mitchell, Lauren Zuidema
Penn State University - Schuylkill Campus
Reading Area Community College
Reading School District
10th & Green Elementary School:
Susan Lozada, Colleen Sagwitz
10th & Penn Elementary School:
RowBee'C Kasisky, Kerri Lubinsky
12th & Marion Elementary School:
Robinette Armstrong, Cyndi Hiryak
13th & Green Elementary School:
Kevin Collins, Christine Reichardt
13th & Union Elementary School:
Margaret Brown, Melissa Houptley
16th & Haak Elementary School:
Traci Webb, Deb Printz
Amanda Stout Elementary School:
Susan Higginson, Melissa Moyer
Glenside Elementary School:
Melissa Fisher, Andrea Salsano
Lauer's Park Elementary School:
Gordon Hoodak, Lyvia Petris, Marie Mengel
Millmont Elementary School:
April Halligan-Rostek, Jennifer Kelly,
Robin Scarpaci
Northwest Elementary School:
Jennifer Bertolet, Enes Zimmerman
Riverside Elementary School:
Kimberly Birts, Melissa Eggert
Tyson Schoener Elementary School:
Salvador Sepulveda, Jodi Charnigo
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
Wilson School District Child Care -
Berkshire Heights

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

All About Children Pediatric Partners*
Berks Community Health Center *
Birdsboro Community Memorial Center *
Calvary United Church of Christ - Barto
Calvary United Church of Christ - Reading
Christ Luthern Church
Centro Hispano, Daniel Torres, Inc. *
Easter Seals Eastern Pennsylvania
Grace Lutheran Church*
Hope Community Church
John Paul II Center
Muhlenberg Community Library
Olivet Boys & Girls Club
of Reading and Berks County*
Reading Public Library*
Reading Hospital Children's Health Center *
Salvation Army: Reading Corps*
State Senator Judith S. Schwank's Office
The Highlands at Wyomissing
United Community Services
Yocum Institute of the Arts
Zion's Evangelical Lutheran Church

*Provides Programing

CORPORATE PARTNERS

1847Financial
Angiotech
Boscov's Department Store, LLC
BB&T
Carpenter Technology Corporation
Customers Bank
Energys
Fulton Bank
M & T Bank
Materion Corporation
Met-Ed, A FirstEnergy Company
PA Judicial System
Penske Truck Leasing Co.
Quadrant EPP USA, Inc.
Reading Alloys, Inc., An AMETEK Company
Reading Eagle Company
Reading Health System
Reinsel Kuntz Leshner LLP
RE/MAX of Reading
Rhoads Energy Corporation
RPA Engineering
Santander Bank
Tompkins VIST Bank
Travelers Insurance Co.
UGI Energy Services, Inc.
UGI Utilities, Inc.
Wells Fargo



VOLUNTEERS

STAR READER TUTORS

Antietam School District

Carnes, Stella
Chirieleison, Suzanne
Constein, Anne
Cress, Jacquelyn
Fulmer, Lisa
Hemberger, Nancy
Hines, Ruth
Hughes, Miranda
Lakin, Kenneth
Miller, Sue

Brandywine Heights Area

School District

Blosser, Rev. Gary
Charnick, Linda
Christman, Karen
Draklellis, Erifili
Etchberger, Debra
Fegely, Diane
Fenstermacher, Phyllis
Guerrieri, Brittany
Hetherington, Amy
Kopp, Christine
Kwiatkowski, Ellen
Layton, Haley
Lombardo, Alexandra
Long, Karen
Lupo, Rachel
Marburger, Sarah
Meinschein, Rev. Cheryl
Miller, Kayla

Morstatt, Courtney
Novakovich, Donna
Pattison, Barbara
Reimert, Rosemarie
Rissmiller, Cynthia
Roarty, Amanda
Savidge, Lori
Stern, Hannah
Stockdale, Carol
Stone, Courtney
Strosser, Brittany
Sturtevant, Joyce
Trupp, Megan

Conrad Weiser Area

School District

Arndt, Karen
Barskey, Deborah
Bieber, Ena
Bowers, Cheryl
Buffington, Christine
Ernfield, Kendra
Godfrey, Kelly, Substitute
Herb, Bonnie
Hiester, Judy
Hirschtritt, Steven
Howard, Roseann



Lichtenwalner, Judith - Substitute

Lincoln, Joan - Substitute

Madeira, Pamela

Miller, Holly

Nallo, Kathleen

Nevelt, Sandra

Nicotra, Eileen - Substitute

Noll, Catherine

Peters, Bernice

Ranck, Lois

Scharf, Eileen

Shachat, Beth

Sherk, Gretchen

Steltz, Vicky - Substitute

Stripling, Donald

Trump, Sally

Unger, Denise

Wagner, Teri

Zechman, Loretta

Zieger-Kosloski, Joanne

Zimmer, Michelle

Daniel Boone Area

School District

Gower, Polly
Gunzelmann, Carol
Huls, Cynthia
Matchett D.D.S., Charles

Exeter Township School District

Edgar, Patricia
Gunzelmann, Carol
Hancock, Kelly
Jurasinski, Dorothy
Kalbach, Allison
Kline, Judy
O'Donnell, Jaclyn
Stamy, Jacqueline
Wagner, Bethann
Wernick, Corrine

Governor Mifflin

School District

Alessi, Thomas
Baskin, Harriet
Bausher, Deirdre
Beem, Jacqueline
Bennethum, Harriett - Substitute
Black, Terri - Substitute
Boyle, Jack
Calder, Sharon
Charles, Rev. Charles

Curran, Linda

Defazio, Victoria

Foster, Eileen

Fryberger, Karyn

Gassert, Jean

Gensemer, Charmaine

Gibble, Jodi - Substitute

Greenly, Lisa

Haley, Frances

Hall, Barbara J.

Hartman, Alicia

Hartshorne, Holly

Helinek M.D., Gerard

Helinek, Carol

Helinek, Christine

Hetrick, Heather - Substitute

Hoffman, Debra

Holmes, Christopher

Hopkins, Betty

Hopkins, Bruce

Jacobs, Joan

Kramlich, Deidra

Kring, Madeline

Krohn, Martha

Lazarchick, Lorena

Linderman, Sandra - Substitute

Little, Kerri

Matzuk, Susan

Millisock, Stacy

Murray, Stephen

Oxenreider, Joan

Paciulli, Mary Ellen

Perilstein, Barbara

Pessognelli, Marianne - Substitute

Pursel, Patricia

Radcliff, Barbara

Reeves, Pamela

Richards, Anne

Rieser, Mary

Romig, Marion

Ruiz, Ph.D., Ana

Sagner, Charlene

Schaffer, Rosemary

Schlegel, Janet

Schultz, Lisa

Schwoyer, Christine

Seidel, Susan

Sharetts, Robert

Slichter, Brenda

Snyder, Christine

Snyder, Lauren

Spencer, Judy

Stripling, Donald

Swartz, Martha

Tamburro, Anne

Verrill, Jo

Wolf, Angelina

Wolfe, Bonnie

Young, Ann

Hamburg Area School District

Blauser, Marianne

Brennan, Christine

Cox, Diane

Fritz, Kay - Substitute

Giannelli-Vrabel, Maria

Kehs, Kim

Osterhout, Rev. Bruce

Schrawder, Deanna

Smith, Lori

Sprance, Anna Marie

White, Ellyn

Zajac, Joyce - Substitute

Kutztown Area School District

Austin, Jamie

Clark, Stephen

Gallagher, Gianna

Ketterer, Dianna

Rutkowski, Elaine

Stoltzfus, Sara

Sylvernale, Cheryl

Wood, Earl

Muhlenberg School District

Futrick, Barbara

Grim, Megan

Hoffman, Lori

Horvath, Karen

Huemrich, Bridget

Knoebel, Nancy

Laing, Catherine

Livinghouse, Ellie

Maurer, Joyce

McDermott, Esq., Janice

Nawa, Jaclyn

Ritter, Curtis

Schlegel, Sandra

Smith, Linda

Snow, Lawrence

Oley Valley School District

Bispels, Helen

Chmielewski, Alan

Heydt, Tami

Kearney, Philip

Kozlowski, Rev. Linda

Kreml, Joan

Schmale, Jayne

Schwoyer, Dale

Spangler, Elaine

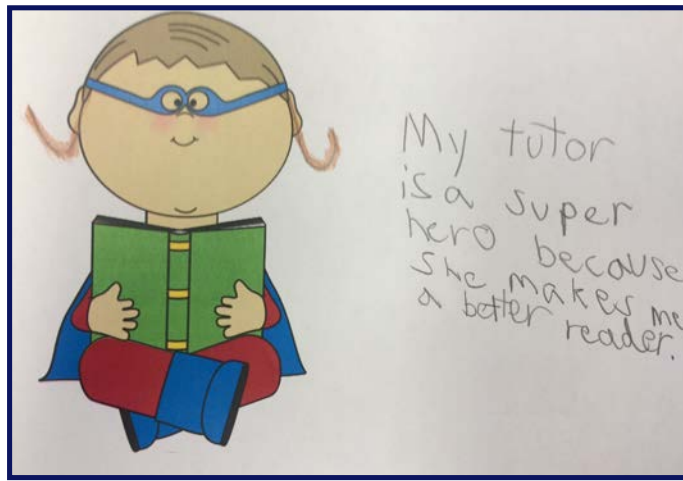
Wagner, Jacqueline

Winings, Elizabeth

Wolfe, Kathryn

Reading School District

Adams, Stacie
Addison, Sue
Baker, Alexandra
Baker, Jaimee
Beach, Katelyn
Behm, Rachel
Bliss, Ashley
Boyer, Beverly
Breisch, Dawn
Bross, Kelly
Caldwell, Breiona
Carpenter, Carmen
Castillo, Emily
Chakrapani, Sandhya
Chavez, Breanna
Cochran, Ashley
Cogan, Michael
Cortes-Carreno, Juan
Courtney, Sherry
Decker, Zoe
Delp, Marcia
DiFilippo, Robert
Docker-Ford, Patricia
Eckert, Eric
Eichlin, Susan
Endy, Caroline
Eshbach, Becky
Eyrich, Claire
Ferguson, Ann Marie - Substitute
Ferrarello, Santo
Fields, Elizabeth
Fleming, Michael
Forktus, Nicole
Gehret, Jeanne
Gernert, Jennifer
Gilbert, Sara
Gilmore, Cassidy
Goldstein, Martha
Gonzalez, Carol
Green, Alexis
Gruber, Bonnie
Haas, Judy
Hagenman, Cheryl
Hahn, Denise
Haldeman, Elaine
Hall, Barbara C.
Hannon, Catherine
Hawk, Wayne
Hillkirk, Suzanne
Hoffmann, La Dell
Hoplock, Samantha
Houser, Jill
Hurd, Ann
Johnson, Jada
Kempinski, Maryann
Key, Carmen
Kohl, Lisa
Kopetsky, Sarah
Kring, Shauna



Lee, Helen
Lengel, James
Lengel, Kelly
Madeira, Patricia
Malick, Sydney
Mancias, Mary Beth
Martin, Veronica
Matz, Carol
McMahon, Thomas
Mehos, Sue
Meister, Ph.D., Denise
Miller, Jenna
Miller, Kasey
Minear, Loretta
Minehart, Patricia
Moreno, Jorge
O'Brien, Madalin
Ohnsman, Dr. Rev. Steve
Orendorff, Felicia
Patel, Marchalin
Pohl, Michele
Priest, Margaret
Randazzo, Susan
Reese, Michael
Reilly, Peter
Reinhard, Lisa
Renninger, Elise
Ridenour, Deborah
Rittle, Michele
Rivieccio, Nicole
Rodriguez, Marisa
Rojas, Roque
Ruppert, Cynthia
Russell, Joseph
Salvato, Daniela
Scherer, Joann
Schiffman, Michael
Schwank, State Senator Judith
Scott, VeeVee
Shields, Patricia
Shoup, Denise
Simon, Tara
Smith, Bruce
Smith, Richard
Smith, Sarah
Smith, Susan
Snyder, Susan

Stanley, Ph.D., John
Stauffer, Karen
Stokes, India
Stozak, Michael
Strunk, Brielle - Substitute
Sturm, Margaret
Sundberg, Larry
Sweitzer, Nikole
Swisher, Betsy
Temple, Heather
Thomas, Talia
Tobias, Cheryl
Trace, Lauren
Traina, Brianne
Undersinger, Casey
Waschitsch, Wendie
Washburn, Marissa
Watrous, Susan
Weiler, Allison
Weiss, Denise
Wentzel, Julia
White, Tammy
Wickman, Kevin
Wilder, Joshua
Woodward, Amanda
Schuylkill Valley School District
Billman, Diane
Bressler, Patricia
Churgai, Suzanne - Substitute
Driben, Lynn
Gambler, Gloria
Hippert, Nancy
Reichard, Linda
Santangelo, Nancy
Shucker Esq., Louis
Witmer, Pamela
Wojszwillo, Joanne

Multi-School Substitutes

Albright, Sue
Farrell, Jane
Grim, Linda
Simcik, Beth
Simon, Janice
Wunder, Michelle

Tutor Trainers

Buskirk, Jan
Hall, Barbara C.
Watrous, Susan

Administrative Support Volunteers

Fichthorn, Debbie
Simcik, Beth
Reed, Mercedes

Raising A Reader

Buskirk, Jan
Fair, Erica
Fichthorn, Debbie
Fulmer, Lisa
Futrick, Barbara
Hall, Barbara C.
Lesser, Lauren
Lightman, JoAnn
Ripple, Barbara
Rivera, Lourdes
Sallade, Kathy
Seidel, Jean
Smith, Sarah
Watrous, Susan

Story Friend Volunteers

Ahmadi, Diana
Alvarez, Benny
Arrieta, Lieschen
Barr, Gregg
Barth, Colleen
Bennethum, Harriett
Berger, Wendy
Binter, Jennifer
Boyer, Beverly
Bressler, Patricia
Brown, Diane
Clark, Ellen
Clark, Fran
Dahms, Brandon
DeAcosta, Kevin
DeLong, Angela
Distasio, Laurie
Dries, Beverly
Eagleson, Lynn
Eppenstein, Sue
Fisher, John
Fogarty, Barbe
Frederick, Andy
Gasker, Kristen
George, Paula
Giles, Nancy
Guardado, Melissa
Henderson, Sandra
Heywood, Joseph
High, Terry
Holland, Amy
Holmes, Christopher
Hussar, Sharon
Jalal, Jibre

Johnson, Susan
 Kalbach, Heide
 Leiby, Florence
 Levine, Margaret
 Linderman, Sandra
 Lundin, Pamela
 Marselas Graham, Kimberly
 Martinez, Destiny
 Mates, Corayma
 McNabb, Nancy
 Melendez, Krystal
 Moyer, Karen L
 Murray, Steve
 Nawa, Barbara
 Oritz, Jessica
 Owen-Pietruszynski, Patricia
 Oxenreider, Joan
 Pagan, Johnny
 Park, Andrew
 Patterson, Ruth
 Pessognelli, Marianne
 Phillips, Mary
 Porter, Alexuz
 Pototsky, Harold
 Quinones, Shira
 Radcliff, Barbara
 Raugh, Andrew
 Ricketts, Sherry
 Ritter, Tavia
 Rivera, Monique
 Robb, Elizabeth
 Rush, Virginia
 Shellabear, Linda
 Smith, Jean
 Snyder, Patricia
 Spatz, Patricia
 Steffy, Stephanie
 Steinmetz, Maureen
 Strausser, Judith
 Swanson, Paula
 Thakur, Smriti
 Thomas, Catherine
 Troutman, Emily
 Villanueva, Jose
 Wagner, Dianne
 Wagner, Emily
 Wagner, Kerry
 Weiler, Pat
 Wells, Carol
 Wiedinmyer, Jane
 Wilson, Jeff
 Wunder, Michelle
 Yashek, Rosalye
 Zazo, Lisa
 Zweig, Nancy

2016

Educational Improvement 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 Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) program. In 2016 we reached our highest level of support yet, with the following corporations having made a total of \$105,000 of contributions:

- East Penn Manufacturing Co., Inc.
- High Industries
- National Penn
- Tompkins VIST Bank
- UGI Companies
- Weis



THANK YOU, Pat Giles!



Pat Giles is passionate about improving lives and community, and for 17 years she has been a tremendous leader for United Way of Berks County.

As Executive VP and Chief Impact Officer, Pat focused on working with volunteers to ensure United Way funds were invested in priority needs and high performing programs to improve the lives of local people. During her tenure at United Way, she was often invited to serve with other leaders to share her knowledge and experience to collaborate around health and human service concerns.

Her leadership has been incredibly valuable to United Way and the community. Pat was a driving force in developing a community initiative around early grade reading success. She recruited and supported volunteers to lead community conversations, met with key stakeholders, conducted research and developed the framework to implement what is now Ready.Set.READ! We recognize Pat for her leadership and long record of accomplishments.

We wish her all the best and great joy in retirement. We are so pleased Pat will not be retiring from all her community work. She will continue to be a passionate leader for Berks County.

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.



www.ReadySetReadBerks.org



United Way of Berks County
www.uwberks.org