



READING PARTNERS YEAR-END REPORT 2006-07

SUMMARY

Since the program's launch in 2000, Reading Partners volunteers have provided over **15,500** students in Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools (MNPS) with one-on-one assistance and interactive read-aloud sessions, increasing the children's reading ability, confidence and enjoyment of the reading experience. ***This year, Reading Partners surpassed its goal of providing one-on-one tutoring to 500 students, serving 531 students. In addition, Reading Partners served 1,684 students through classroom readers.***

Community involvement and participation continues to be strong, assisting PENCIL in meeting the following program goals:

- Provide volunteer time, talent, and resources in a consistent and coordinated framework to assist educators as they work to improve student reading skills
- Promote career success by helping young students gain the reading skills needed for academic achievement, high school graduation, and productive employment
- Improve quality of life in our community by increasing and strengthening school/community connections, providing volunteer opportunities, and supporting teachers, families, and students

OUTCOMES

MNPS recommends that Reading Partners measure tutored students' reading improvement using their standardized Reading Progress Levels and an improvement of at least two reading levels for each tutored student. ***Reading Partners has shown positive outcomes each year. In 2006-07, 75% of students who were tutored met this performance target with the average increase a 4.7 reading level gain in the sample group of 155 students reported to PENCIL. Students participating showed a range of improvement from one level to nineteen levels. In addition, teacher surveys of student improvement indicated progress in an average of four out of six categories— comprehension, vocabulary, fluency, motivation to read, confidence in reading ability, and self-esteem.***

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In 2006-07, Reading Partners has:

- Contributed over 10,100 volunteer hours plus an additional 1,277 hours contributed through four federal work-study students with an in-kind value to MNPS of approximately \$213,753¹.
- Served 2,215 students in 44 elementary and 2 middle schools.
- Provided tutoring for children at Cole and Charlotte Park Elementary Schools through four Nashville State Community College (NSCC) federal work-study students; 40% of the tutored students were English Language Learners and 21% were special education students.
- Initiated volunteer service projects with sixty high school students enrolled in three Leadership Classes at Antioch and Maplewood High Schools who provided weekly tutoring at Mt. View and Tom Joy Elementary Schools
- Engaged federal, state, and city employees as Reading Partners, including twelve volunteers from the United States Office of Housing and Urban Development, Ms. Andrea Conte, Tennessee First Lady, and Ms. Virginia Lodge, Tennessee Commissioner, Department of Human Services

¹ The value of volunteer time is based on the average hourly earnings of all production and nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls (as determined by the Bureau of Labor Statistics). Independent Sector takes this figure and increases it by 12 percent to estimate for fringe benefits. In 2006, the volunteer value of time was reported as \$18.77/hr.

- Collaborated with Comcast and Book'em to videotape celebrity readers with children at Carter-Lawrence during Read Me Week. The tape was aired on Comcast throughout the month of March.
- Partnered with Alignment Nashville - a system to bring community organizations and resources together to support MNPS district goals in a coordinated effort - to provide character education information to Reading Partners volunteers
- Worked collaboratively with other community organizations to provide services to students as a part of the Bordeaux, Fall-Hamilton, and Kirkpatrick school-based Family Resource Centers.
- Provided information and assistance to PENCIL Job Skills Training and Employment participants on registering their children for free monthly books (birth through age four) through the Tennessee Governor's Books From Birth Foundation.
- Participated in the third Family Literacy Day event at Belmont University and provided read-aloud seminars to student volunteers in preparation for the event.

FUNDING

PENCIL Foundation is grateful to the following funders who make it possible for students to continue receiving volunteer assistance through Reading Partners:

- *Martha and Bronson Ingram Foundation Advised Fund*
- *Comcast Foundation*
- *Creative Artists Agency*
- *The Memorial Foundation*
- *The Cal Turner Family Foundation*
- *Dollar General Corporation*

- *Bank of America*
- *Rogers Group, Inc.*
- *Alcoa/DixieWire*
- *Marsh*
- *United Way of Metropolitan Nashville*

