



READING PARTNERS YEAR-END REPORT

2007-08

SUMMARY

Over the past eight years, Reading Partners volunteers have engaged over **17,320** students in Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools (MNPS) in one-on-one reading tutoring and interactive read-aloud experiences. During this time, **2,988** community members and 15 federal work-study students have worked to help elementary and middle school children gain fundamental reading skills and discover the enjoyment of reading. ***During the 2007-08 academic year, Reading Partners provided services to 1,742 students in 37 elementary and 3 middle schools.***

The program's goals are to provide positive adult role models and mentoring relationships for students, to assist students in improving their reading skills, to enhance students' self-esteem and self-confidence toward reading, and to help students increase their appreciation and enjoyment of literature.

OUTCOMES

Reading Partners continues to work with MNPS to ensure that the program's components, goals, and measurements of student improvement are aligned with MNPS's strategic plan. As recommended by MNPS, Reading Partners continues to 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 consistently shown positive outcomes for students each year since its implementation.

- ***In 2007-08, 85% of students who were tutored met the performance target of improving at least two reading levels, with the average increase a 6.6 reading level gain in the sample group of 123 students reported to PENCIL.***
- ***These figures show an increase from last year's outcomes, from 75% of students reaching target last year, and the average student reading level gain of 4.7 last year.***
- ***Teacher surveys of student improvement again indicated progress in an average of four out of six categories— comprehension, vocabulary, fluency, motivation to read, confidence in reading ability, and self-esteem.***
- ***Community volunteers and federal work-study students contributed 11,776 volunteers hours this year, with an in-kind value to MNPS of \$230,960.¹***

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In 2007-08, Reading Partners:

- Provided services to 1,742 students in 37 elementary and 3 middle schools; 33 of these schools were designated as Title 1 schools, with 1,277 students served representing 73% of the total number of students served.
- Served 501 students with one-on-one reading assistance and 1241 students with read-aloud experiences.
- Worked with students in 20 Alignment Nashville schools, serving 1,317 students.
- Recruited, trained, and placed volunteers representing 28 area businesses and organizations, the Nashville Chamber of Commerce, the Office of the First Lady of Tennessee, Metropolitan Nashville government, Meharry and Vanderbilt Medical Schools, Middle Tennessee State University, The Art Institute of Tennessee-Nashville, Nashville State Community College, Vanderbilt University, Vanderbilt University Owen Graduate School,

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 2007, the volunteer value of time was reported as \$19.51/hr.

Tennessee State University, University High School, Tusculum Hills Baptist Church, and 51 individual community volunteers.

- Nominated winning 2008 Mary Catherine Strobel Youth Volunteer of the Year, Bailey Roberts, a Reading Partner volunteer who recruited 130 fellow Vanderbilt students as Reading Partners.
- Presented Math and Reading Partners at the national Gulf South Service Learning Conference.
- Partnered with Nashville State Community College and initiated a new partnership with The Art Institute of Tennessee-Nashville to place five federal work-study students as reading tutors at Bordeaux, Caldwell, and Sylvan Park Elementary Schools; two of the work-study students worked with children during the extended summer session at Bordeaux Enhanced Option Elementary School.
- Partnered with United Way and school based Family Resource Centers at Bordeaux, Fall-Hamilton, McKissack, and Napier to provide Reading Partners volunteers.
- Collaborated with Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Middle Tennessee to provide reading training for their volunteers who mentor students on-site at selected MNPS elementary and middle schools.
- Worked with Alignment Nashville to implement K-4 character education project and provide materials and training to all Reading Partners volunteers.
- Partnered with Book'em and Comcast to videotape Read Me Day celebrity readers and children at Fall-Hamilton Elementary; the program was available at Comcast On Demand throughout April.
- Provided information to all volunteers on Tennessee Governor's Books From Birth program.



Vanderbilt's Project Pencil volunteers hosted a volunteer/student/parent picnic April 13, 2008

FUNDING

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

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