

AUGUSTINE LITERACY PROJECT - BREVARD



FALL
2020
NEWSLETTER

TUTOR ONE CHILD. CHANGE TWO LIVES.

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ONLINE TUTORING & COVID RESPONSE

Covid-19 has presented detours but not barriers to the mission of the Augustine Literacy Project - Brevard to provide research-based literacy instruction to low-income children struggling with reading. When the schools were placed under lockdown in the spring, ALP developed and implemented an online tutoring method to assure our students could continue their tutoring sessions from home using their school-issued Chromebooks.

Throughout the summer and fall, training in this online method has been offered and currently there are 10 volunteer tutors who have completed the training.

This fall, now that have schools transitioned to Plan A and students in grades K-5 have returned to classrooms, we are able to offer in-person or virtual tutoring sessions depending on student need, school policy, and the health/safety needs of tutors. We are especially excited about the iPad stations that have been set up at three elementary schools for virtual tutoring. The iPad technology will enable students to manipulate materials for selected portions of the ALP lesson plan, one of the drawbacks we discovered with the Chromebooks.

The annual Augustine training and practicum for new volunteer tutors typically held the first two weeks in September and consisting of 50 hours of literacy instruction in the Orton-Gillingham approach and the use of Wilson Reading materials, has been postponed to the spring. A date for the week-long advanced training for experienced tutors covering topics such as morphology, spelling rules, syllable types, cursive handwriting and lesson planning remains under discussion. All training dates will be finalized once we are assured that it will be safe for volunteers and literacy coaches to return to Transylvania County schools. The online instruction method will be used by our volunteer tutors who cannot return to face-to-face tutoring until a vaccine is readily available.

"THE BEE" UPDATE

Although we were unable to host "The Bee" fundraiser this year, we are grateful to all of our supporters who contributed and will utilize those resources for a future event. In these unprecedented times, it is unfortunate that many things we all had planned and anticipated have had to be put on hold. Our community has come to love the annual spelling competition and costume contest -- whether as participant or spectator--and we look forward to a time when we can enjoy that fellowship once again.

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VOLUNTEER TUTORS

Active tutors indicated with *

Judy Baghose	Maitreya Milligan*
Suzanne Bell*	Carol Moore
Lise Brown	Rachel O'Neill
Dolores Brown*	Kathryn Polmanteer*
Joe Cagney	Nita Porter
Jo Ditzel*	Linda Schieve*
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Wendi Adair, Program Director; Kathryn Polmanteer, Chair; Dolores Brown, Vice-Chair; Megan Keiser, Secretary; Kim Limerick, Treasurer; Laura Gardner, Newsletter Editor

SPECIAL THANKS FOR GRANTS & SUPPORT

Augustine Literacy Project - Brevard extends a huge thank you to the wonderful groups that offered financial support in the form of grants: Lake Toxaway Charities, Episcopal Church Women - St. Philip's Brevard, Transylvania County Endowment, Dollar General, and United Way of Transylvania County. Our need as tutors to reinvent how we work with our students changed dramatically this past year, and we wish to express gratitude to our grantors who supported our rapid adoption of an online approach with our ALP students.

BOUND FOR GLORY CAMP

Augustine students ages 9-12 had the opportunity in July to attend Bound for Glory Camp, a free Christian summer camp that offers Augustine literacy instruction. Campers made progress in their literacy skills and also had fun attending weekly outings such as horseback riding, a visit to a local farm, kayaking, hiking, swimming, games, and Bible study. Campers had this to say: "Bound for Glory Camp was fun. It was amazing to see each other because we haven't been able to because of COVID." "It meant a lot to me. I really like this camp because it helped me learn more and be ready to go back to school."



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STUDENT HIGHLIGHT: KINSLEY HUDSON

Kinsley received an Augustine tutor, Ms. Sara Wilber, in the fall of 2018 when she was in 3rd grade at TC Henderson Elementary. At the time, she was reading below her grade level and struggling with literacy concepts such as spelling, word reading, and letter-sound correspondence. Kinsley diligently met with Ms. Wilber twice a week for fifty-minute sessions for the school term. She continued working with Ms. Wilber for the 2019-20 school term until it was interrupted by the COVID lockdown. Over the summer months, she was able to maintain her Augustine literacy instruction by attending Bound for Glory Camp.



Kinsley is currently in the fifth grade and reading at grade level. Remarkably, she has improved 2.4 years in her text reading abilities since starting her Augustine instruction! When asked how she felt about Ms. Wilber, Kinsley responded, "Ms. Sara has helped me so much. Before [tutoring], I was reading okay, and now I am doing great! She has helped me a lot!"

The rewards of tutoring an Augustine student far exceed the satisfaction of helping students achieve academically. Ms. Wilber warmly shared her Augustine experience with Kinsley: "It's hard to sum up all the fun and joy Kinsley brought to our tutoring partnership! It was a joy to work with her. She is so hardworking, kind, helpful, positive, creative, and resilient. She has a great sense of humor and always made me laugh. Her eagerness and readiness to learn new things have been exciting to watch blossom and grow. I am thankful to have been a part of Kinsley's journey as a lifelong learner." The journey that an Augustine tutor and student share creates a special life-changing relationship for them both.

BECOME A LITERACY ADVOCATE

Your generous, tax-deductible donation to Augustine Literacy Project - Brevard helps to provide tutor training and materials, so that together we can support literacy for low-income students.

Name _____

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Yes, I give permission for my name to be included on the Donor List.

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Checks can be made to: Augustine Literacy Project Brevard

Mail to: P.O. Box 305, Brevard, NC 28712

Online payments accepted through PayPal at augustineproject-brevard.org

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

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TUTOR HIGHLIGHT: JUDY BAGHOSE

Lifelong Educator and Augustine Literacy Project - Brevard Volunteer Tutor



Judith Baghose's passion for helping children learn how to read was sparked more than 25 years ago when she was completing a master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction at University of Florida. This passion didn't dim; even after a 15 year hiatus in the restaurant business, she kept engaged in the field of teaching. Eventually she added a Special Education degree to her list of credentials which only reinforced her understanding that reading instruction was fundamental.

After "retiring" to western North Carolina, she soon joined the Rise and Shine Afterschool staff and coordinated reading groups for more than ten years before

she found herself in an intensive Orton-Gillingham training to learn the ins and outs of a systematic, scientific, brain-based, multisensory approach to reading instruction. This method provided the materials, training, and support she eagerly sought to find a way to make a difference. She soon shifted to providing quality free reading tutoring for more than fifteen Augustine students in the local public schools.

Pre-Covid19, Ms. Baghose was up at 4:00 am to prepare lessons, buoyed by the moment when struggling readers who are gaining decoding skills can confidently say "I can do this!"

Brevard College Reading Methods students annually observe this master teacher in action and note the powerful connection built between her and her students. Inspired by her dedication, Augustine Project thanks her for her bedrock commitment to the one-on-one relationships of reader and tutor.

Brevard, NC 28712

P.O. Box 305

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