

FALL 2021 NEWSLETTER



AUGUSTINE LITERACY PROJECT-BREVARD

TUTOR ONE CHILD. CHANGE TWO LIVES



Our Mission

To improve the reading, writing, and spelling abilities of low-income students who struggle with literacy skills.

How We Do It

By training and supporting volunteer tutors who provide free, long-term 1:1 literacy instruction using the Orton-Gillingham Approach and Wilson Reading materials.

Why We Do It

82% of students eligible for free or reduced-cost lunch are reading below proficiency. If these students aren't on track by 3rd grade, they are four times more likely not to graduate high school.

ALP Tutor Training

Four new Augustine volunteer tutors completed the Augustine basic training in September of this year: Tobbie Love, Maria Byler, Micki Gillman, and Deborah Paratore. We thank them for their commitment and welcome them to the Augustine family. The basic training consists of fifty hours of Orton-Gillingham-based literacy instruction, including a practicum covering topics such as phonemic awareness, the phonemic-alphabetic structure of the English language, spelling concepts, fluency, vocabulary, comprehension, the brain and reading, and dyslexia. It is an in-depth training that prepares ALP tutors to work with students in grades 1-3 struggling with literacy. Tutors are equipped with Wilson Reading System and Augustine materials to deliver their instruction. After completing the basic training, tutors are paired with a student in Transylvania County reading at least one year below their grade and qualifying for free or reduced-cost lunch. Tutors commit to sixty free 1:1 tutoring sessions with their assigned students, meeting them twice a week at their school.

The Augustine advanced training is offered after a year of tutoring has been completed and prepares tutors to instruct students in grades 4-12. It includes advanced language topics including morphology, syllable division, syllable types, spelling rules, and cursive instruction. In October, three devoted tutors completed this training: Maitreya Milligan, Toby Summerour, and Dori Miller. We congratulate them on this accomplishment and are sincerely grateful for their dedication.

Augustine Literacy Project currently has sixteen tutors serving eighteen students in Transylvania County. ALP volunteers are tutoring students attending Brevard Elementary, Rosman Elementary, TC Henderson, Pisgah Forest, Brevard Academy, and Brevard Middle School.

Building Blocks for Literacy

Kathryn Polmanteer

This year, Augustine Literacy Project-Brevard(ALP) is a community grant partner with the Key Learning Center (KLC) in Asheville, NC, and was invited to participate in a train-the-trainer event centered on Phonological/Phonemic Awareness in young children. Phonological Awareness skills, the ability to identify and manipulate word parts through listening, are a key identifier of later reading success. Wendi Adair, Kathryn Polmanteer, and Jill Stewart completed the July workshop on **Building Blocks for Literacy** and received instruction in the KLC Phonological Awareness Skills Continuum, 16 Building Blocks for Literacy Lessons, and the Phonological Awareness Screening Tool and Checklist developed by Key Learning Center. This fall, ALP launched a new phonological awareness small group instruction pilot project at Rosman Elementary School with four first-grade students. We will be tracking results of this project to determine next steps. For more information, contact Wendi Adair (brevardaugustine@gmail.com) or Kathryn Polmanteer (kpalmanteer@gmail.com).

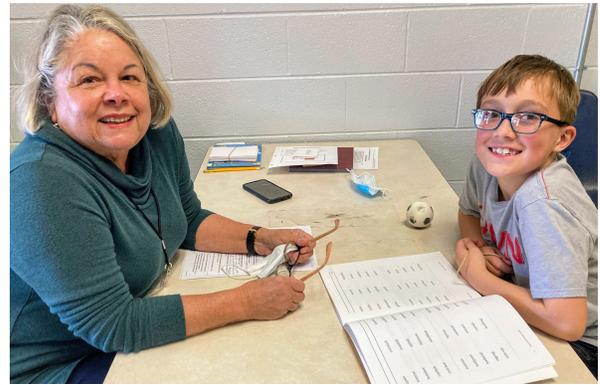
Dreams do Come True!

Dolores Brown

Up, up, up along winding Rich Mountain Road and following a gravel path you come upon the wonderfully situated new camp property for Bound for Glory Camp (BFG). BFG is a summer Christian literacy camp that Augustine students ages 9-12 are invited to attend (bfgcamp.org). At long last, Bound for Glory Camp has begun to put down roots and will focus on bringing long held dreams to fruition. The new camp property is truly perfect for all the elements that are planned for their campers. There's a huge building that will house arts and crafts projects, drama productions, dance offs and even playing hoops. Next door, you'll find a well designed spot for tutors to work quietly with students. There is a plan to turn one building into kitchen space for cooking lessons. Another space will be a lending library just for campers. A swimming pool is planned for an open grassy area. Connecting with the outdoors is another goal of BFG Camp and plans are underway to create nature trails that include plant identification signs. A small chapel sits in the center of the circular drive. It lends itself perfectly to BFG's mission to include Christ's teachings in daily lessons.

Lastly, this new camp property will have enough room to offer a home to Augustine Literacy Project. Augustine tutors will be able to come by for support materials, to have a quiet space to develop lessons, and to meet for Augustine related functions.

In all, the long held dreams of Bound for Glory are coming true in ways they never could have imagined. Consider a visit to see this spectacular haven!



Ms. Linda and Cole

Tutor Story

Linda Schieve

I have been an ALP tutor for four years. I have also been a coach for new Augustine tutors. At the beginning of 2020, I was assigned a 2nd grader with a visual impairment who had reading difficulties. He couldn't decode well and he stumbled while reading aloud. It was a challenge to find ways of presenting the material in ways that would allow him to participate fully. Together we found what worked and what did not. I included ways for him to be successful every lesson. Since 2020, he has shown steady progress. This year, 2021, his teachers tell me that he is a more confident reader and more participatory in class. Our work is continuing and we both enjoy each time we meet. This is what ALP is about: helping discover for each child the "key" to reading.

I am grateful to the project for training me to inspire struggling students and lead them to success.



New Augustine office at BFG Camp

Sponsor a Student

Wendi Adair



Ms. Rachel and Mason

Our new donor opportunity, Sponsor a Student, allows Augustine supporters to participate in mentor relationships with Augustine students and directly benefits the student they sponsor. Augustine students gain confidence not only through improved reading skills but through caring relationships with reassuring adults. As Augustine tutors continue to witness, both the nurture and knowledge they impart to their students enable students to persevere and thrive. The Sponsor a Student initiative will allow students to receive additional encouragement from sponsors and support Augustine tutor trainings.

How it Works-

Sponsors commit to a fifty-dollar-a-month donation for each month of the school year. Augustine will then pair them with a student currently obtaining Augustine instruction. After the first donation is received, the sponsor will be mailed an introduction packet including a get-to-know-your-student page completed by the student sharing some of their favorite things and a literacy progress report from the student's tutor. Sponsors will receive additional literacy progress reports every four-six weeks. In response, sponsors are urged to send their student notes and letters of encouragement. Students will receive one book a month to take home for their participation. Augustine will send a final literacy progress report and a message from their student at the end of the school year.

All efforts will be made to protect the students' and sponsors' private information. Only the first names of participants will be shared. Addresses, school locations, and contact information will be kept confidential by Augustine coordinators.

If you are interested in sponsoring an Augustine student, please indicate so on the donation form and return to Augustine Literacy Project-Brevard or visit our website (augustineproject-brevard.org).

Recycle for Literacy!

Megan Keiser

Reduce waste, help the Earth, and raise funds for ALP!

Did you know that every year more than 300 million printer cartridges end up in landfills? Surprisingly, 90% of printer cartridges are actually recyclable but only 20% are being recycled. Meanwhile excess ink can filter into our water supply and consumers are wasting the required two ounces of oil used for the production of every inkjet cartridge with a single use. These shocking statistics are what motivated environmentally responsible remanufacturing company, Planet Green, to partner with consumers and offer reuse options.

The way this fundraiser works is that Augustine Literacy Project collects used small printer cartridges, ships them to Planet Green's California-based factory and then receives funds for each cartridge that is remanufactured. The funds support the ALP annual volunteer tutor training.

Starting in January 2022, ALP will broaden its collection sites with a powerful collaborative partnership. ALP will partner with our board members' schools. Michael Terry's 1st grade class at Pisgah Forest, Lee Timmon's Brevard High School classroom, and Megan Keiser's Methods of Reading class at Brevard College, will work together to educate students about the power of recycling. The 1st graders will work on decorating collection boxes and then the college and high school students will be responsible for gathering and mailing these old cartridges to California for their second chance!

If you would like to start a collection site to support ALP, please contact Megan Keiser at keisermmm@brevard.edu.

90% of poor readers can improve their reading skills to an age appropriate level with intensive 1:1 instruction.

Our New Board Members

Wendi Adair

Augustine Literacy Project is governed by an elected board of directors comprised of esteemed members of our community that are committed to improving literacy rates of less fortunate children in Transylvania County. We are proud to introduce three new appointed board members to the ALP governing body.

Linda Schieve-Board Vice Chair: Linda has served as an Augustine tutor for four years. Her career was in Human Services as a social worker in Pennsylvania, Florida, and NC. Locally, she has served on the Transylvania County Board of Health and the Children's Center of Transylvania County.

Michael Terry-Member at Large: Michael is a graduate of Brevard College, where he earned his BA in Integrated Studies with Elementary Licensure. He is currently working on his Master's in Executive Leadership at Gardner-Webb University and is employed as a first-grade teacher in Transylvania County.

Lee Timmons-Member at Large: Lee earned her bachelor's degree in English Literature from the University of the South: Seawee and her teaching license in secondary English Language Arts at Brevard College. Augustine Literacy Project and its mission have inspired her to continue working in service of Brevard's youth, both as a high school teacher at Brevard High School and as an ALP board member.

These new board members join Dolores Brown-Board Chair, Megan Keiser-Secretary, and Kathryn Polmanteer-Member at Large.

Thank you to our supporters!

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 Micki Gillman
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 Toby Summerour
 Wendi Adair

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 Linda Schieve-Vice Chair
 Megan Keiser-Secretary
 Kim Limerick-Treasurer
 Kathryn Polmanteer
 Michael Terry
 Lee Timmons
 Wendi Adair-Director

Become a literacy advocate!

Your generous, tax-deductible donation to Augustine Literacy Project-Brevard helps to provide tutor trainings and materials, so that together we can support literacy for students in our community.

Join the Sponsor a Student Initiative

Give a Donation to Support ALP

Name _____ Address _____
 Email _____ Amount _____

Checks can be mailed in the envelope provided. Online donations can be made at augustineproject-brevard.org.