

>>> NEWSLETTER <<<

AUGUSTINE LITERACY PROJECT



TUTOR ONE CHILD. CHANGE TWO LIVES.

THE ALP MISSION

Augustine aims to improve the reading writing and spelling abilities of low-income students who struggle with literacy.

>>> WELCOME NEW TUTORS

We welcome six new tutors to our Augustine family: Rene Burns, Betty Padrick, Laura Denniston, Ruth Mcree, Barbara Ritchey, and Evelyn Sheahan. All successfully completed the fifty-hour Augustine initial training, learning to teach science of reading topics such as phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, comprehension, and vocabulary. They have been placed in a Transylvania County elementary school to work 1:1 with a qualifying student and are changing children's lives.

2023-24 TUTORS <<<

Augustine Literacy Project currently has nineteen volunteer tutors serving twenty-three Transylvania County students. Tutors serve students attending all five Transylvania County elementary Schools (Brevard Academy, TC Henderson Elem., Rosman Elem., Brevard Elem., Pisgah Forest Elem.), Rosman Middle School, and Brevard High School.

WHY ALP IS NEEDED

- 50% of Transylvania County 3rd-5th graders are not reading proficiently
- 80% of low-income children are not reading proficiently



>>> BEE By Dolores Brown

Augustine Literacy Brevard held its second adult spelling bee last March 25, 2023 at The Lumberyard. Sixteen teams registered for what would be a fun filled, quite competitive fundraiser. The lively evening was enjoyed by many as they sampled dinner items from El Queruebin food truck and beverages from Up Country Saloon. There were many silent auction items with some fierce bidding taking place. At the end of some intense, good natured competition the event proclaimed a tie between Smells Like Team Spirit (Brevard Middle School) and Bee-chy BA Bulldogs (Brevard Academy). The event raised over \$27,000 to support children's literacy instruction through Augustine Literacy- Brevard! Please look for our next "BEE" in 2025.

>>> COMMUNITY OUTREACH By Kathrine Polmanteer

In spring 2023, The Augustine Literacy Project, Brevard College Childhood Education students, and Brevard Elementary School collaborated to introduce SPARK (Sharpening Phonemic Awareness and Reading Knowledge) to identify at-risk first graders. After a one-day workshop and introduction to the Key Learning Center Building Blocks for Literacy intervention materials presented by ALP, the Brevard College students and their professor completed 12 intervention lessons with the first graders over a six-week period at Brevard Elementary.

Pre and Post screening results indicated that the SPARK intervention had positively impacted the first graders' knowledge of phonological awareness. The college students noted their growth in knowledge and understanding of phonological awareness as well as increased confidence in classroom management, data-driven instruction, and practitioner research.

>>> TUTOR HIGHLIGHT By Rachel O'Neill

What does volunteering with Augustine Literacy Project mean to me?

I took the Augustine Literacy training in 2018 and have tutored multiple children since then using the Augustine materials and instruction.

I enjoy working with children. They are so excited to be working with an adult that gives them one on one individual attention. Many children do not have these types of mentor relationships. The quality of training that a tutor receives is extensive, with hands on materials, and step by step instruction that will allow you to be a GREAT teacher.

Watching the growth that children make and the confidence they display warms my heart. The hugs that I receive brighten my day. You can see the joy in their faces when they advance to the next step in the program. Following a systematic approach with many multisensory materials and positive reinforcements from the tutor is the backbone of the Augustine approach.



BRINGING LIGHT TO THE LITERACY CRISIS

By Micki Gillman

Augustine Literacy Project (ALP) partnered with Center for Spiritual Wisdom (CSW) to present *Right to Read*, an eye-opening documentary on the alarming literacy crisis in our community and across the country. This community event shed light on the pressing issue of low literacy rates among children in Transylvania County and the need for both a change in the way reading is taught in schools and for appropriate teacher training in the Science of Reading. The event was held on Sept. 12 at 6:00 p.m. at Brevard College.

Across the nation, including Transylvania County, schools are struggling to equip our children with the fundamental skills needed to read, and a movement is taking place to transition from whole language instruction to the science of reading method. In 2023, only 50% of third to fifth-graders in Transylvania County are reading at grade level (reading proficiency is even lower for low-income, black, Hispanic, and mixed-race students). As these statistics come to light across the country, a movement is taking place to change the way children are taught to read.

Right to Read depicts the compelling story of an activist, a teacher, and two American families who are tirelessly fighting to ensure our youngest generation receives the essential foundation for lifelong success: the ability to read. It unravels the dire consequences children face when they lack these crucial skills, including increased risks of incarceration, homelessness, and unemployment. One of the film's central figures is Kareem Weaver, an Oakland-based NAACP activist, who staunchly declares literacy as one of the greatest civil rights issues of our time.

Following the film, Wendi Adair, Executive Director of ALP Brevard, posed questions to each panelist and moderated a lively and informative panel discussion with audience questions from local educators, Transylvania County librarians, and others in attendance. The panel included: Carrie Norris (Director of K-8 curriculum in Transylvania County); Samantha Osteen (Brevard Elementary Reading Specialist); Courtney Morgan (Adjunct Professor at Brevard College); Carrie Erb (Orton-Gillingham Specialist and Executive Director of Key Learning Center in Asheville); and Tyree Griffin (NAACP Executive Committee and Community Center Director for the City of Brevard).

On a personal note, it is exciting as an Augustine tutor to see the science-based instructional methods Augustine has always used extend to students statewide due to state legislation supporting research-based instruction. While there is still work to be done in the area of teacher preparation to administer the new curricula, progress is being made. I was proud to see ALP-Brevard amplify its impact on the community through its collaboration with CSW, Brevard College, and local stakeholders. It was truly a team effort, and was encouraging to see people come together as a concerned whole around this important issue.



The Right to Read

A documentary about the early literacy crisis in America.

“Literacy is one of the greatest civil rights issues of our time.”

**Kareem Weaver,
NAACP Activist**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

4

Donors

Abigail Arnold
Adella Anderson
Aimee Smallwood
Alexis Levin
Alicai Parker Sweat
Alysee Hollingsworth
Amand Lewis
Amanda Weaver
Amy Turner
Andi Sigsbey
Anna Faulkner
Ashley Dickson
Audrey Tacdol
Barbara Cowen
Barbara Smart
Bernadette Almeida
Beth Bicerstaff
Betty Mushynski
Beverly Yeager
Bill Pauer
Bob and Cindy Garfield
Bob Dinsdale
Brad Kimzey
Brenda Johnson
Bryan/Rachel O'Neill
Carol Dugger
Carol Smith
Carolyn Van Ness
Carson Griffin
Catherine Resmer
Catherine Sullivan
Charles Le Grand
Charles Parsons and
Margaret Brown
Cindy Trowbridge
Constance Farina
Dan Luebbe
Danny and Jill Stewart
Dawn Barr
Deborah Leafe
Deborah Paratore
Debra Swantek
Dilshad Posnock
Don Bierger and Dori
Miller
Doug Luebbe
Dr. Paula Hartman
Edna Kopetz
Elanor Richards
Ellen Brown
Emily Atkinson
EveyIn Sheahan
Fori Kay
Fred and Dolores Brown

Gail Atkinson
Gareth Tate
George and Nancy
Goyette
Gerard and Joan
Koperski
Grant and Anne Bullard
Hannah Souther
Heather Corn
Heather Strickler
Heidi O'Neill
Ian Ombres
Jacquelyn Rogow
James and Michelle
Whitmore
Jan Erik Holland
Jan Lhotka
Jason and Kellie Trent
JB Joseph
Jennifer Campbell
Jim/Kathryn Polmanteer
Jodi Huggins
John and Carol Carrano
John and Patricia Stark
John and Sara Wilber
John Austine Jr.
John Bridges
Joleen Brannnigan
Jorge Morales
Josh Vandergriff
Joshua/Elizabeth Shober
Josephine/Michael Kirila
Joyce Townson
Judith Baghose
Judy Whisnant
Julie Duval
Julie Gray
Julie Hancher
Julieta Uriarte
Justin Cuddeback
Karen Vsoke
Karla Atkinson
Karloline Dejarnette
Kathrine Crawford
Kathryn Timmons
Kathryn Lewis
Kay Wiles
Ken and Lynn Adams
Kim Bank
Kim Geer
Kim Jardine
Kristen Anderson
Kristy Pressley
Laura Ledford

Laura Sperry
Lauren O Ombres
Laurie Kleppe
Lee B. Luebbe
Lindsay Green
Linwood/Marjorie Nelson
Lisa Halle
Lisa Morris
Lise Presnell
Lorena Uriarte
Lucia Gerdes
Lynn Sullivan
Madelin Magin/Cody Noble
Maggie Kelsey
Marcia Hoppers
Marcy Thompson
Margaret Bridges
Margaret Nemec
Margaret Resmer
Margret Joseph
Marjorie Morales
Mark and Karen Vsoke
Mary Anne Hamilton
Mary Arnold
Mary Graham
Mary Guhin
Melissa Meek
Meredith Carli
Michael Kirst
Michele Engel
Michelle Paladino
Miriam Bradley
Mona Yarnell
Nancy Cadora
Nancy Nebenzahal
Noel Daniel
Nona Walker/Charles Kropp
Pamela Harpootlian
Pamela Weekes
Patrick/Jennifer Marcellino
Paula Stone
Polmanteer Family
Rachel Durant
Rachel Hillyer
Rasheeda Hemphill
Rebecca Sankey
Richard/Martha Mayberry
RK Farrand Jr.
Robert and Val Thompson
Robert and Mary Graham
Robert and Rebecca Weber
Robert Barkley
Rodge/Barbara Livengood
Ron and Linda Schieve
Ryan Gardner

Ryan McClane
Samantha Osteen
Sarah Montgomery
Scott and Wendi Adair
Scott Stuart
Shannon Powell
Shelley Hoogstraten-Miller
Shelton and Judy Jones
Sheryl Netzkzy
Spencer Morrow
Stephanie Thomas
Steve and Beth Womble
Steven Mondul
Susan Faber
Susan Lefler
Susan Marsee
Susan Stark
Susan Zilliox
Sybil Turner
Sylvan Copelof
Tasmin Freeman
Teresa Hauswirth
Thomas/Marjorie Rainey
Tom Dorety
Tony and Lynn Gillman
Torry Negart
William and Jo Ditzel
William and Sandra Briggs
Wilson Hooper

Grantors

Charles Timmons Foundation
Episcopal Church Women
Lake Toxaway Charities

Community

Partners

185 King Street
3 Oak Handcrafted
Ashley Freed Jewelry
Brevard Academy
Brevard College
Brevard Elementary
Brevard Health Racquet Cl.
Brevard Middle School
Brevard Music Center
Brevard Rock Gym
Brevard Rotary Club
Broad Street Wines
Cedar Mountain Yoga and
Pilates
CH Real Estate LLC
City of Brevard

Class and Sound
Entertainment
Connestee Country Club
Delaney Law
Democracy Proj. of Tran.
Destiny Church
Duck Pond
Ecusta Brewery
Elements Spa
Equalibria
Gaia Herbs
Guidelight Insurance
Gwynn Valley Camp
Healthy Harvest
Highland Books
Looking Glass Realty
Lost Girl Creations
Lumberyard
OP Taylors
Pisgah Forest Elem.
Pisgah Pest Control
Platt
Racquet Club of Brevard
Reed-Joseph Intern. Co.
Resort Inventory Group
Riveter
Rosman Elementary
Sauna House of Ashe.
Shine Family Chiropractic
Sky Dancer
Spiritual Whisperings
TC Henderson
Elementary
The Color Wheel Gallery
The Hub
Transylvania County
Library
Transylvania Democracy
Project
Unitarian Universalists
Unsettled
UPS of Brevard
Wheelhouse Builders

BEE Volunteers

Amy Turner
Bonnie Jensen
Chris Wiener
Cindy Trowbridge
Devin Gentry
Heather Layton
Liz Fuller
Marcus Lester
Molly Tart

Tobbie Love
Dolores Brown
Kathryn Polmanteer
Deborah Paratore
Linda Schieve
Lee Timmons

Volunteer Tutors

Barbara Ritchey
Betty Padrick
Deborah Paratore
Dolores Brown
Don Fleming
Dori Miller
Evelyn Sheahan
Kathryn Polmanteer
Laura Denniston
Linda Schieve
Maitreya Milliagn
Maria Byler
Micki Gillman
Paula Stone
Rachel O'Neill
Rene Burns
Ruth Mcree
Toby Summerour

Governing Body

Linda Schieve-Chair
Michael Terry-Vice Chair
Megan Keiser-Secretary
Kim Limerick-Treasurer
Dolores Brown
Lee Timmons
Deborah Paratore
Wendi Adair Director

BE A LITERACY PARTNER!

Your generous, tax-deductible donations to Augustine Literacy Project-Brevard helps to provide tutor trainings and literacy materials for our volunteer tutors. Together we can improve literacy skills for at-risk students in our community.

___ Friend of ALP (Monthly Giver) ___ Donation to Support ALP ___ Consent to Receive Email Updates

Name _____ Email Address _____ Amount _____