

DECEMBER
2017

R.E.A.D.

READING ENABLES ADULT DEVELOPMENT

501(c)3
NON-PROFIT

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS AND PROSPECTIVE DONORS

"WHAT I HAVE GAINED FROM THE R.E.A.D. PROGRAM IS THE ABILITY TO IMPROVE MY VOCABULARY AND MY READING SKILLS THAT I USE ON A DAY TO DAY BASIS."

MATT, R.E.A.D. STUDENT

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU TAKE AN ADULT AND TEACH THEM TO READ? YOU CHANGE A LIFE AND STRENGTHEN YOUR COMMUNITY! R.E.A.D. GIVES HOPE AND FREE ACCESS TO LITERACY TUTORING FOR ADULTS IN NORTHWEST OTTAWA COUNTY WHO STRUGGLE WITH READING.

OUR VOLUNTEER TUTORS MEET WITH THEIR STUDENTS WEEKLY TO ACHIEVE THEIR LITERACY GOALS. EACH STUDENT'S NEEDS AND GOALS ARE PERSONAL AND DIVERSE. AMONG THE MANY GOALS ARE:

- ATTAINING BETTER EMPLOYMENT
- READING TO GRANDCHILDREN
- HELPING CHILDREN WITH HOMEWORK
- READING A NEWSPAPER
- PASSING A DRIVER'S TEST
- UNDERSTANDING PRESCRIPTION INFORMATION
- OBTAINING CITIZENSHIP

THIS SERVICE IS NOT OFFERED ANYWHERE ELSE IN NW OTTAWA COUNTY. WITH NO STATE OR FEDERAL FUNDING, R.E.A.D. RELIES ON THE GENEROSITY OF COMMUNITY DONATIONS TO CONTINUE LITERACY TUTORING THAT TRANSFORMS AND IMPROVES LIVES.

"I'M VERY HAPPY TO BE PART OF THE R.E.A.D. PROGRAM FOR MANY REASONS. THE MOST IMPORTANT THING FOR ME IS KNOWING A WONDERFUL TUTOR AND ALSO KNOWING THE OTHER PEOPLE I HAVE MET INSIDE OF R.E.A.D. MY TUTOR HAS HELPED ME IN MANY WAYS INCLUDING UNDERSTANDING AND LEARNING ENGLISH AND ALSO IMPROVING MY PRONUNCIATION!"

FEDERICA, R.E.A.D. STUDENT

WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS

R.E.A.D. RECENTLY WELCOMED TWO NEW BOARD MEMBERS. BARBARA GOUDIE AND JEANNE FARRER HAVE JOINED THE ADULT LITERACY PROGRAM BRINGING EXTENSIVE EXPERIENCE IN WORKING WITH DIVERSITY AND RESPECT FOR MARGINALIZED POPULATIONS.

BARBARA GOUDIE HAS BEEN A PRACTICING NURSE SINCE 1974 AS WELL AS A NURSE EDUCATOR FOR THE PAST 12 YEARS. SHE HAS DEDICATED HERSELF TO ADVOCACY FOR PEOPLE WHO HAVE NO VOICE. BARB IS A GRADUATE OF

QUEEN ELIZABETH COLLEGE OF NURSING AND HEALTH STUDIES IN BOTH NURSING AND MIDWIFERY, SHE CONTINUED HER STUDIES AT OPEN UNIVERSITY IN GREAT BRITAIN AND KIRKHOF COLLEGE OF NURSING AT GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY. SHE WAS THE 2008 RECIPIENT OF THE OHIO LEAGUE OF NURSING & HEALTH STUDIES EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARD AND THE NATIONAL COALITION OF HOSPITAL ASSOCIATED SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES OF NURSING FACULTY EXCELLENCE AWARD. BARB HAS ACTIVELY VOLUNTEERED WITH SEEDS OF LEARNING IN WEST CLEVELAND WORKING WITH LOW LEVEL READERS PURSUING THEIR GED AND THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MENTALLY ILL ADVOCATING FOR PEOPLE WITH SERIOUS MENTAL ILLNESS.



JEANNE FARRER IS A LIFELONG EDUCATOR WHO CONTINUES HER COMMITMENT TO INSTRUCT AND TEACH IN VARIOUS CAPACITIES.
(CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)

MISSION STATEMENT

"... TO PROVIDE NORTHWEST OTTAWA COUNTY ADULTS WITH AN OPPORTUNITY TO IMPROVE AND TRANSFORM THEIR LIVES BY STRENGTHENING THEIR READING AND LANGUAGE SKILLS."

"EDUCATION IS THE MOST POWERFUL WEAPON WHICH YOU CAN USE TO CHANGE THE WORLD."

NELSON MANDELA

THANK YOU

R.E.A.D. WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL OF OUR PARTNERS FOR THEIR GENEROUS SUPPORT:

LOUTIT DISTRICT LIBRARY

SPRING LAKE DISTRICT LIBRARY

GRAND HAVEN AREA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

ZEELAND/HOLLAND ADULT EDUCATION

THANK YOU TO OUR OUTGOING BOARD MEMBERS, WHO HAVE BEEN PASSIONATE SUPPORTERS OF ADULT LITERACY IN OUR COMMUNITY!

MARILYN REICHARDT
JOHN MARTIN
LORI KOONS
DAVID DWYER

VOLUNTEER TUTORS

Eric Anderle
Bruce Baker
Nancy Bauer
Deanne Brink
Nancy Collins
Kathy Duvall
Karen Egedy-Bader
Judy Flick
Barbara Goudie
Rob Goudie
Jean Grossnickle
Richard Hoffstedt
Robert Jensen
Cassie Karr
Jane King
Ellen Klintworth
Maxine Kolb
Barry Kram
Diane Kubal
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Renate Watters

SUK MAYA TAMANG AND HER JOURNEY FROM NEPAL TO UNITED STATES CITIZEN

SUK MAYA TAMANG LIVED IN NEPAL UNTIL JULY 2009 WHEN SHE IMMIGRATED TO THE UNITED STATES AS A REFUGEE WITH ONE OF HER DAUGHTERS AND THREE OF HER SONS: JILLI, BIR MAN, BHIM AND ADITYA. SUK MAYA LEFT HER LIFE OF LIVING IN THE NEPALI CAMPS AFTER HER HUSBAND PASSED AWAY BECAUSE SHE WANTED A BETTER LIFE FOR HER FAMILY IN AMERICA. SHE JOINED HER OTHER CHILDREN WHO HAD IMMIGRATED EARLIER TO THE GRAND HAVEN AREA. THE TAMANG FAMILY WAS SPONSORED BY ST. PATRICK-ST. ANTHONY PARISH IN GRAND HAVEN THROUGH BETHANY CHRISTIAN SERVICES. SUK MAYA AND HER YOUNGER CHILDREN LIVED IN SEVERAL PLACES IN GRAND HAVEN; INCLUDING FIVE YEARS WITH HER OLDEST SON, SUK MAN, AND HIS FAMILY.



SUK MAYA AND HER FAMILY (THREE DAUGHTERS AND FOUR SONS) LIVED IN A BAMBOO HOUSE IN A CAMP IN NEPAL FOR 18 YEARS. THERE WERE ABOUT 10,000 PEOPLE LIVING IN THE NEPALI CAMP. THERE WAS A SCHOOL FOR THE CHILDREN AND A MARKET. THE HIGH SCHOOL WAS AN HOUR BIKE RIDE FROM THE CAMP. SUK MAYA AND HER CHILDREN WOULD MAKE RUGS TO MAKE EXTRA MONEY FOR FOOD. SUK MAYA NEVER ATTENDED SCHOOL IN NEPAL AND WAS NOT LITERATE IN HER OWN LANGUAGE WHEN SHE ARRIVED IN WEST MICHIGAN. ALTHOUGH SHE COULD NOT READ AND WRITE, SUK MAYA COULD SPEAK TWO DIFFERENT LANGUAGES SHE LEARNED IN BHUTAN AND NEPAL.

OVER HER YEARS IN THE UNITED STATES, SUK MAYA HAS FREQUENTLY ATTENDED ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE (ESL) CLASSES HELD FOUR DAYS A WEEK IN GRAND HAVEN THROUGH ZEELAND/HOLLAND ADULT EDUCATION. SHE HAS FOUND THESE CLASSES TO BE VERY HELPFUL AND HAS MADE MANY FRIENDS. SHE ALSO KEEPS EXTREMELY BUSY COOKING AND CLEANING IN THE HOME SHE SHARES WITH HER YOUNGEST SONS. SUK MAYA ALSO HAS THE IMPORTANT JOB OF CARING FOR GRANDCHILDREN WHILE THEIR PARENTS WORK IN THE COMMUNITY. THROUGH HARD WORK, ESL CLASSES AND TUTORING THROUGH THE R.E.A.D. PROGRAM; SUK MAYA HAS LEARNED TO READ, WRITE AND SPEAK ENGLISH.

TO HELP HER EXPAND HER ENGLISH LITERACY SKILLS, SUK MAYA HAS BEEN WORKING WITH HER R.E.A.D. TUTOR, EUNICE PETERSEN SINCE 2012. THEY MEET ONCE A WEEK FOR A TUTORING SESSION. THEY HAVE WORKED ON VOCABULARY, READING AND COMPREHENSION SKILLS USING VARIOUS WORKBOOKS SUCH AS SCHOOL ZONE TO PROVIDE PRACTICE. OTHER READING CONTENT HAS INCLUDED PORTIONS OF NEWSLETTERS RECEIVED FROM SUK MAYA'S CHURCH, INFORMATION FROM DOCTOR'S VISITS AND PRESCRIPTIONS, AND E-MAIL UPDATES FROM THE COMMUNITY GARDEN WHERE SHE HAS HER OWN GARDENING SPACE. SUK MAYA HAS A STRONG DESIRE TO READ THE BIBLE. AT HER READING LEVEL, MANY OF THE VERSES ARE STILL CHALLENGING. SUK MAYA IS BECOMING MORE FAMILIAR WITH BIBLE CONTENT BY READING FROM STORY BOOKS THAT SHE ENJOYS VERY MUCH. SUK MAYA AND EUNICE HAVE ALSO GONE ON OUTINGS IN THE COMMUNITY SUCH AS SHOPPING, MUSICAL EVENTS AT THE LOUTIT DISTRICT LIBRARY, FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AND THE CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE GROUNDS. WHETHER STUDYING OR ON AN OUTING, SUK MAYA AND EUNICE ENJOY THEIR TIME TOGETHER. EUNICE ADMires SUK MAYA'S DETERMINATION TO IMPROVE HER SKILLS AND ADAPT TO LIFE IN AMERICA. SUK MAYA IS SO APPRECIATIVE OF THE TIME EUNICE GIVES HER AND EXPRESSES HER APPRECIATION WITH A HUG, KIND WORDS AND DELICIOUS NEPALI FOOD!



AFTER LIVING IN THE UNITED STATES FOR FIVE YEARS, SUK MAYA WAS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY TO BECOME A UNITED STATES CITIZEN. IN NOVEMBER OF 2016, SUK MAYA FILLED OUT HER TWENTY PAGE APPLICATION WITH THE HELP OF JANIS BURKHARDT, NORTHWEST OTTAWA LIAISON FOR THE REFUGEE COMMUNITY, AND BEGAN THE INTENSE STUDYING PROCESS FOR THE TEST. IN ADDITION TO BEING ABLE TO WRITE AND READ SENTENCES IN ENGLISH, SHE HAD TO LEARN THE ANSWERS TO ONE HUNDRED QUESTIONS ABOUT UNITED STATES HISTORY, GOVERNMENT AND GEOGRAPHY. WITH THE HELP OF THE ESL CLASS, HER R.E.A.D. TUTOR, FAMILY AND FRIENDS, SHE SUCCESSFULLY PASSED THE U.S. CITIZENSHIP TEST IN DETROIT ON MARCH 15, 2017! SUK MAYA IS SO PROUD AND HAPPY TO MAKE THE UNITED STATES HER COUNTRY!

(WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE)

A GRADUATE OF WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY AND IS ESL CERTIFIED. JEANNE HAS A PASSION FOR TEACHING AND HELPING OTHERS LEARN. SHE HAS TAUGHT IN MULTIPLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN KALAMAZOO, PORTAGE, MUSKEGON HEIGHTS, VICKSBURG AND CHAPEL HILL. ADDITIONALLY, SHE HAS TAUGHT IN ALASKA, ESPANOLA, NEW MEXICO, APPALACHIA, AND KENTUCKY. INTERNATIONALLY SHE HAS TAUGHT IN WEST AFRICA, INDIA, SOUTH KOREA, EGYPT, HUNGARY, TANZANIA, THAILAND, NOVA SCOTIA, CHINA, ROMANIA AND JAPAN! SOME OF JEANNE'S COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT HAS BEEN WITH THE GLOBAL AWARENESS TASK FORCE AT CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH, BIG SISTER PROGRAM, MUSKEGON HEIGHTS LEARNING CENTER, YOUTH FOR UNDERSTANDING, HOSPICE, CAMP BLUEBIRD, GIRL TALK 101, SUPPER HOUSE AND MEALS ON WHEELS.

2017 EVENTS



The first Ride for R.E.A.D. Fundraiser was held on September 21st. Thanks to all who attended and supported adult literacy tutoring in our community!

The evening started at the Grand River Sailing Club with appetizers, beverages and entertainment by local musician, Loren Johnson.



Then all boarded trolleys for a ride around Grand Haven enjoying snack bags, trivia games and adult beverages. The trolley rides included stops at Grand Armory Brewing to enjoy a sample of local craft beer and to local independent bookstore The Bookman where Lake Effect Kitchen provided Bánh mì sandwiches and watermelon soup. The evening concluded back at the Sailing Club with coffee and desserts.

R.E.A.D. WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL WHO MADE THIS EVENT A SUCCESS!

**THE BOOKMAN
D & W FRESH MARKETS
GRAND ARMORY BREWING
GRAND HAVEN TRIBUNE
GRAND RIVER SAILING CLUB
J-DUBS MARKET AND WINE SHOP
LOREN JOHNSON
LAKE EFFECT KITCHEN
SHERRY MITCHELL
MEIJER
CAROL RICKY
WGHN**



THANK YOU TO CULVER'S OF GRAND HAVEN FOR THEIR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF R.E.A.D. THROUGH "SHARE NIGHTS" ON MARCH 1ST AND OCTOBER 3RD!

WE APPRECIATE OLD BOY'S BREWHOUSE HOSTING ANOTHER EVENT TO SUPPORT TUTORING FOR ADULTS IN NORTHWEST OTTAWA COUNTY ON APRIL 30TH!



Thanks to our Community Sponsors!





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“EVERYTHING BEAUTIFUL BEGINS WITH LOVE” - A CHILDREN’S BOOK ADVENTURE

DR. BRIAN STORK HAD AN IDEA FOR A CHILDREN’S BOOK. HIS SISTER WAS PREGNANT, AND HE WANTED TO SHARE HIS PASSION FOR BEEKEEPING AND HIS LOVE FOR THE OUTDOORS WITH HIS FUTURE NEPHEW. HE COLLABORATED WITH CAROL RICKY, A FRIEND AND AMAZING WATERCOLORIST WHO DID ALL THE ILLUSTRATIONS FOR HIS STORY. CAROL IS ALSO A TUTOR FOR R.E.A.D. AND RECOGNIZES THE IMPORTANCE OF A LITERATE COMMUNITY. THE COLORFUL BOARD BOOK IS A SIMPLE STORY FOR CHILDREN ABOUT RELATIONSHIPS. DR. STORK WAS SO PLEASED WITH THE FINISHED BOOK THAT HE DECIDED TO ORDER BOOKS TO GIVE AS GIFTS TO FAMILY AND FRIENDS.

“I’VE LEARNED A LOT OF THINGS IN MY CHILDREN’S BOOK ADVENTURE. MOST IMPORTANTLY, I’VE LEARNED THAT BOOKS AND READING CAN CONNECT PEOPLE AND BUILD RELATIONSHIPS, UNLIKE ANYTHING ELSE,” SAID DR. STORK. HE WANTED TO SEE HIS BOOK BE USED TO CONTINUE TO BUILD RELATIONSHIPS. HE IS HAPPY THAT HIS CHILDREN’S BOOK, “EVERYTHING BEAUTIFUL BEGINS WITH LOVE” IS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE AT THE BOOKMAN IN GRAND HAVEN. THE BOOKMAN HAS GENEROUSLY AGREED TO DONATE ALL PROCEEDS FROM THE BOOK TO SUPPORT R.E.A.D.!

