



Providing adults who live in or near Ottawa County with an opportunity to improve and transform their lives by strengthening their reading and language fluency.

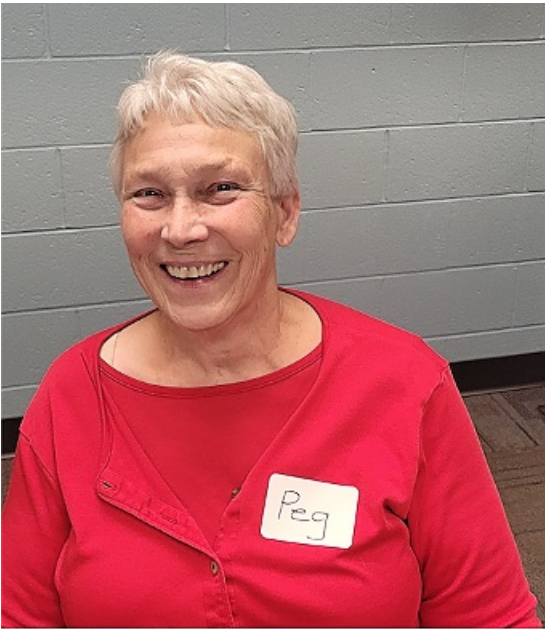
October 2024 Newsletter

Change a Life! Give Today!

Tutor Spotlight



Peggy Helmink



Peggy Helmink, "Peg", has given READ Ottawa her all since she came on board just one year ago. Since then she has taken on 2 learners and has become our resident expert on the TOEFL and the HESI, standardized tests that help learners get professional status here in the United States. Her first learner is currently working at Metropolitan Hospital as a nurse after passing the HESI with Peg's dedicated tutoring. As READ's resident expert Peg has mentored other tutors regarding the preparation for these tests, sharing her research and resources freely.

After what was supposed to be a quick stop in Washington D.C. following graduation from Hope College, Peg ended up landing a 13-year career with the World Bank. The World Bank is a specialized agency of the United Nations that loans money to middle and lower income nations for development projects. Her work with the unseen parts of the world where economic growth was challenging at best fueled her love for learning about people and the places they come from.

READ Ottawa keeps Peg busy these days by taking on multiple learners and new challenges. She points to the learners, "Two of my learners have inspired me with their commitment to our efforts by unfailing attendance, pursuit of homework, tough questions, and good humor (not to mention sometimes a tasty snack)".

Certainly that good humor goes both ways!

Welcome New Board Members!



READ Ottawa recently welcomed three new board members:
Hannah Everett, Tina Zellman, and Nathan Slauer.
We're deeply grateful for their commitment to our organization's continued success.



Meet Tina Zellman!

Tina and her husband moved from Maryland to West Michigan in 2004 to raise their 2 children. As a graduate of Michigan State University, Tina has worked as a Human Resources professional for over 30 years. In this capacity she has witnessed firsthand the connection of literacy support and success in the workplace.

Tina is active in the Autism Support of West Shore, Inforum, and Talent First. She loves spending time with family, reading, traveling and enjoying Lake Michigan.

Welcome aboard, Tina!

Fall Tutor Trainings

Holland: September 24 & 26

Grand Haven: October 1 & 3

Allegan: October 8 & 10

Interested in becoming a tutor? RSVP through one of the following:
Filling out the form at <https://readottawa.org/volunteer>
Email Lynn Groothuis at lynn@readottawa.org
Call Lynn at 616-414-0295

"The illiterate of the 21st century will not be those who cannot read and write, but those who cannot learn, unlearn and relearn." Alvin Toffler



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