



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.

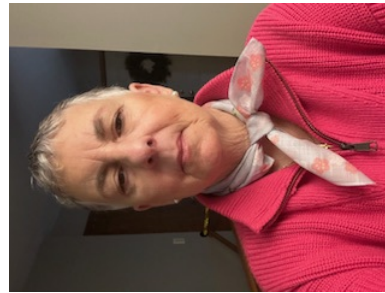
May 2025 Newsletter

Change a Life! Give Today!

Tutor Spotlight



Paulette Smith

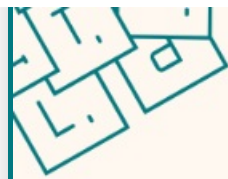


Paulette Smith began her career teaching special education and regular classroom education in Midland, Michigan many years ago. After staying home to raise her children, Paulette and her husband moved to Zeeland to be closer to her now adult children and grandchildren.

Paulette felt she had skills to share and when she came across READ Ottawa's literacy program she thought it would be a great fit. Indeed it has. Paulette is now on her second learner and she thoroughly enjoys sharing life with her-- even including her husband in the mix!

The biggest challenge Paulette has faced was specifically narrowing down her learner's goals. After getting a driver's license and a library card, they continue to add new challenges. Paulette has been with READ Ottawa for 3 years now; we hope she keeps sharing her skills for many more.

Paulette's learner shares, "I'm very happy that I have decided to participate in the READ Ottawa program and have Paulette as a tutor. She is so supportive. Her intelligence, teacher's skills, positive energy, kindness and wit make me feel that Holland is the right place to live for me."



7TH ANNUAL SCRABBLE TOURNAMENT



Enjoy an evening of wordplay, dinner, drinks, and prizes to support literacy!

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

 **MAY 8, 2025**
6:00 PM - 9:00 PM

 **FRATERNAL ORDER OF EAGLES 925**
20 N 2nd St, Grand Haven, MI 49417

REGISTER TODAY!



 **Contact us**
info@readottawa.org

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readottawa.org

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Celebrating our Learners being Moms who Read

HAPPY
Mother's Day

Family Literacy is one of the key components in the literacy development of a child. Family literacy is simply a family culture that values reading. This is expressed in reading to children and the sharing of the literary world with them. Many of the learners at READ Ottawa list the goal of being able to read with their children as a top priority. These are stories of some moms who are making it happen!

After her tutor made word cards from the book *Stellaluna*, SD was able to read the tale to her children at home.

MK expressed her delight in using her tutoring lessons to teach her own developing school aged children improve their English.

J volunteered to read aloud to her son's 1st grade class. Her tutor practiced with her and expressed so much pride in her courage and hard work.

RR has read biographies of both Martin Luther King and Rosa Parks to her children.

MI was given Kindergarten level worksheets from her tutor to use with her children, reading the instructions to them and acting as their teacher.

SD has read a whole handful of books with her children, given to her by her tutor. During Reading Month, she took a big step and read to her daughter's classroom.

After her tutor gave her selections to acquaint her with common English children's books, JE is now reading *Charlotte's Web* to her daughter.

JY's 5 year old son is enjoying *Frog and Toad*, thanks to her tutor!



Reflections on My First 60 Days as Executive Director

As I wrap up my first 60 days as Executive Director of READ Ottawa, I'm filled with gratitude, excitement, and a renewed sense of purpose. These first two months have been a whirlwind of learning, connecting, and laying the groundwork for the future of our organization.

Expanding Our Educational Impact

A significant focus has been enhancing my understanding of the READ Ottawa organization. This has been achieved through attending workshops, volunteer training, and establishing relationships with staff and our board of directors. And working on maintaining and growing our community partners, such as Zeeland Adult Education, Latin Americans United for Progress and READ Muskegon.

Building Brand Awareness

Efforts have also been made to increase awareness of READ Ottawa and its initiatives. Participation in events such as the Grand Haven Author Event and the Lakeshore Nonprofit Alliance/Chamber's Community Connections event have provided opportunities to communicate our mission and establish meaningful connections.

Events like the Early Bird Breakfast have facilitated deeper relationships with local partners and supporters. These connections are essential for prioritizing adult literacy within the community.

Looking Ahead

The initial phase has involved listening, observing, and engaging—creating a foundation for future endeavors. The upcoming months will focus on growing our volunteer tutor base, reaching more learners, and enhancing our impact within the community. I am looking forward to engaging more with our volunteers, learners and our community. If you would like to connect to learn more about what READ Ottawa or what I am up to, please feel free to connect with me.

~Vicki

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

"Develop a passion for learning. If you do, you will never cease to grow." Anthony J. D'Angelo



Website: www.readottawa.org
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