

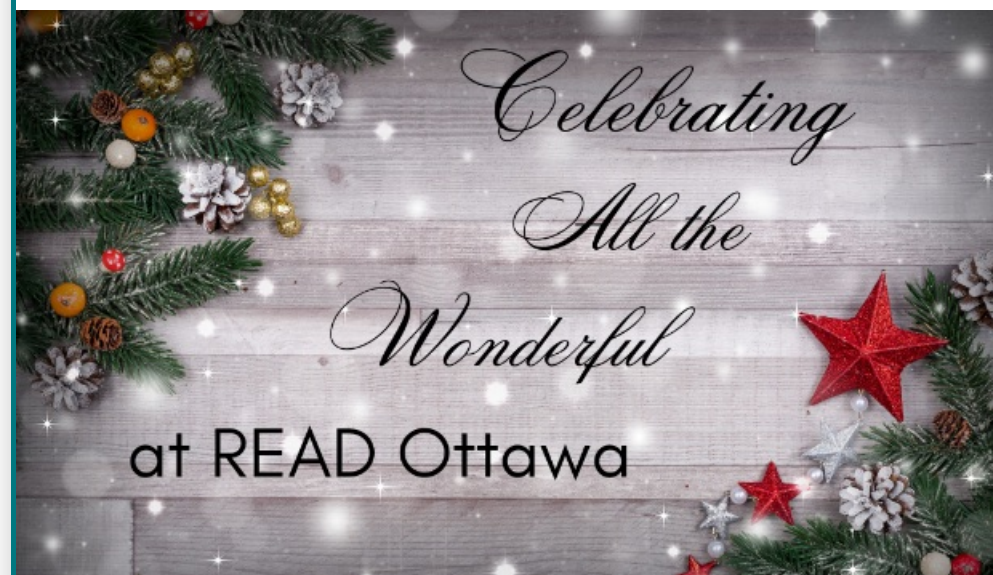
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Providing adults who live in or near Ottawa County with an opportunity to improve and transform their lives by strengthening their reading and language fluency.

December 2024 Newsletter

Change a Life! Give Today!



We have so much wonderful to celebrate at READ!

Tutors as Mentors

Many of READ's tutors have become the experts on many facets of tutoring. This plays out in various ways. Currently tutor, Joo Young Chung, is meeting with other tutors who have low level ESL learners. Joo is sharing her expertise in the form of self-made worksheets and flashcards. The resulting confidence and excitement is invaluable. Similarly, Mary Stitt, Vicki Mast and Peg Helmink are sharing their knowledge of the requirements of specific tests (TOEFL, HESI and GED) as well as the practices they found helpful to achieve successful results for their learners.

READ Ottawa is celebrating this extra layer of volunteer work by our tutors. Tutors mentoring other tutors has opened up another avenue to quality tutoring that certainly changes the lives of the tutors and the learners alike.

The Gift of Time

It is quite astounding when the tally of tutor investment hours is finally put on paper. Keep in mind the following data is not even for the full year! Grand Haven reports nearly 700 tutor hours and Holland is over the 2,000 mark.

Testing Data

To say that the work of testing this year has been exhausting is a drastic understatement! And yet, witnessing the way tutors showed up with encouragement, treats and even sharpened pencils made all the effort worth it. All in all there will be over 60 tests administered by the end of the year. Both Holland and Grand Haven's data in testing clearly points to the fact that this program works. Richelle Hofman beams as she says, "I don't think we could have expected better results!" 14 learners transitioned out of ESL testing and into GOALS testing, and over 30 learners improved their CASAS reading scores. This progress was for learners who are currently in ESL classes AND for those who meet just once a week with their tutor. Incredible!

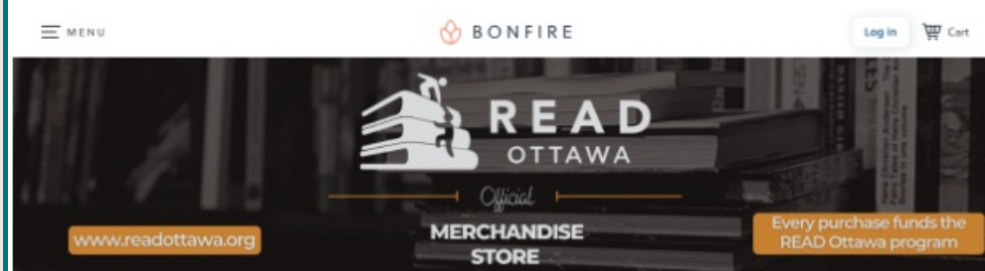


READ Staff at the MACAE Conference

Since 1983 The Michigan Adult Community and Alternative Education Association(MACAE) has provided professional development for leaders in the field. READ Ottawa, as a recipient of the association's grant funding, had the privilege of attending such a conference in nearby Muskegon. Key note speakers as well as section hosts provided much to think about and many ideas to put into practice.

The staff, lead by Ally Velderman, then began a SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats) analysis of the READ Ottawa organization. This resulted in a more streamlined work calendar offering both efficiency and encouragement! Indeed, READ Ottawa stands as a well-oiled machine coming into the new year.

The bulk of READ's strength lies in its human resource, notably our volunteer tutors. The organization sees the opportunity to use its tutors creatively with mentoring and collaborating as well as opportunities to partner with libraries and other community sources to provide materials in need. And while the ever present funding issue is a reality, READ Ottawa is more encouraged than ever to get the word out regarding the life changing work that is being done.



**Support READ Ottawa and get cool stuff!
Clothing, mugs and more available at our Bonfire site!**

[Learn More](#)

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

*"Blessed is the season which engages the whole world
in a conspiracy of love." Hamilton Wright Mabie*



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