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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.

November 2024 Newsletter

Change a Life! Give Today!

READY, SET, TUTOR!



New Holland Tutors



New Grand Haven Tutors

In the months of September and October READ Ottawa has gained over 30 new tutors. Training in Holland at Herrick North Branch and in Spring Lake at the Spring Lake District Library yielded a bumper crop of wonderful team members. Once again, the joy of meeting folks who want to make a difference in the life of an adult learner is such a highlight of the training process.

Learner needs in both Holland and Grand Haven continue to diversify as the program grows. Tutors are working with beginning language learners as well as adults seeking certifications, high school completions and advanced degrees. We remain grateful for the "human resource" that we are able to employ in the community. Welcome to the team, new tutors!

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 Nathan Slauer!

Nathan Slauer is a Graduate of Grand Valley State University's Master of Public Administration Program. Currently he serves as the Manager of the Annual Fund and Alumni Relations at Kuyper College, where he plans major events and fundraising campaigns.

Nathan recently moved to Holland and has loved exploring the city with his wife, Meg, and newborn son, Evan, and loyal dog, Jo.

Welcome aboard, Nathan!

READ OTTAWA IS
...IN ALLEGAN?



A few months ago READ Ottawa's Executive Director Ally Velderman was approached by Allegan Adult Education. Their story was one of a passion for their students and the aching need these learners had for one on one help. They wondered, "How can we have a tutoring program in our community?" A pilot program was created.

The pilot program is a partnership with Allegan in which READ Ottawa supplies the training and the tutor-learner oversight and Allegan Adult Education provides the resources necessary to make that happen. 11 fantastic people showed up for training and the process of making matches has begun.

Ally Velderman reports, "The READ Ottawa team has been so warmly welcomed by the staff of Allegan Adult Education, as well as community partners like the Allegan District Library and the Allegan County Community Foundation. It's encouraging to watch the Allegan community bring their energy, resources, and hope to the table as READ brings our expertise in training and coaching volunteers to tutor adult learners."

The pilot program began this fall and will conclude at the end of the 24-25 school year. There is already a lot of positive momentum for a future where adult learners in Allegan have the opportunity to receive one-on-one tutoring like READ Ottawa has been providing to adults in Ottawa County for the past 15 years.

A note from READ Ottawa's Executive Director:



Greetings, READ Ottawa Community!

It's all of November 1st and I already feel the season of thankfulness settling in.

Remember when everything was "unprecedented"? This year of READ Ottawa has been something close! **Such incredible growth in numbers of learners served, in tutors trained to match with them, and poignant and life-changing goals met by learners.** *I feel deeply grateful to be a part of this work and to bear witness to the selfless and skilled work of our staff, our many volunteers, and our exceptional learners. We are a part of something special!*

As we are approaching the end of our fiscal year and looking ahead to 2025, we are looking to grow and diversify the funding streams that support READ Ottawa. I am connecting with strategic partners across the county and applying for grants in hopes of garnering additional and sustaining support of our program and our vision to keep scaling to meet the needs of adult learners with the care and excellence READ Ottawa has long established.

I wonder if you would consider becoming a *monthly donor* in this season of growth. Monthly donors mean a lot to an organization like ours! While grants or end of the year giving campaigns have incredible seasonal impact, monthly donors are a boon all through the year. If you're interested in learning more, please see our [donation page](#) or [connect with me](#).

While READ Ottawa seeks to scale and grow, we remain heartily committed to being exceptional stewards of each resource shared with us. As you'll see in the forth-coming Annual Report, our focus is on program staff hours and educational materials for learners and tutors. Gifts of \$5 per month, \$20 per month, or even \$50 per month will have an important and felt impact on our work!

Thank you for your support of READ Ottawa. If you're able, I hope you'll consider becoming a monthly donor.

Gratefully yours,
Ally



**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

*"A single act of kindness throws out roots in all directions, and the roots spring up and make trees."
Amelia Earhart*



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