

READ/Orange County, the adult literacy services of the OC Public Libraries, provides basic reading & writing help to adults throughout Orange County. www.readoc.org

New Beginnings – Start a Year of "Lifelong Learning!"

You may have heard the phrase, "never too old to learn something new."

READ/OC tutors and learners believe it and live it! Both new tutors and learners start with READ/OC with a little bit of uncertainty, but as they start working on their learning journey toward the learner's goals, they are soon true believers and are eager to encourage others to do the same—often with the words, "if I can do it, you can too."

The start of a new year is the perfect time to remind ourselves and encourage others to look at each day or each new experience as a learning opportunity. Tutors often confess this experience helps them learn more than they help their learner. And learners are surprised to learn their tutor doesn't know everything and they are not the only person who can use some help with learning. The key is to try something new and learn it with a friend or a "learning partner."

Regardless of your experience, your grades when you were in school, your age, or how busy you are...take time to read and to learn every day...make a "READsolution!"

What's Your 2013 "READsolution" for the New Year... Love to Learn...Live to Read...Help Another to Bloom?

Write a note to my child and slip it in to her lunch bag at least once a week...Turn off the TV and the computer for an hour at least one evening each week and have a family storytime or family game night...Help my grandson write the shopping list and check off the items as we put them in the shopping cart...Return the library books I



checked out on time, attend a special reading or learning event at the library, check out an e-book online,...Write "that" letter I've been meaning to write (even if I don't send it)... Attend that "how to build/make it" workshop at the local hardware store...Volunteer to do a read-aloud story time at the nearby senior's center or food distribution center for families in need...Become a READ/OC tutor!

FRIENDS OF READ/OC CORNER

As current president of the Friends of READ/OC, it is my honor and privilege to thank everyone who, over the course of this past year, supported FROC's and, in turn, READ/OC's mission of enriching lives though the gift of literacy. I especially thank the dedicated members of the FROC Board: Linda Kricfalusi, Carolyn Pinney, Richard Scott, Wanda Shaffer, Anita Taillon, and Margaret Watkins. I look forward to another great year of changing lives through literacy.

This year's holiday gift-wrap at Barnes & Noble brought in nearly \$350 dollars. Many thanks to the kind-hearted individuals who volunteered for the event and those who donated money to the cause. Joining the FROC Board were READ volunteers: Therese Caso, Fritzi Goldberg, Davina Graver, Marty Green, Jean Hentschel, Patrice Kaska, Christine Montonna, Jessica Schultz, Shereen Shoulders, Pat Tonini and Thuha Tran.

On behalf of the FROC board and those involved in the READ/OC program, I also want to give a big thanks to Vanessa Villa, the Community Relations Manager, and the rest of the staff at Barnes & Noble Metro Pointe at South Coast Mall in Costa Mesa for hosting us all these years.

Last, but by no means least, I would like to especially thank FROC board member Margaret Watkins, for leading the very successful holiday gift card campaign. This was our inaugural run, selling gift card honorariums as a fundraiser to support the primarily volunteer driven READ/OC program. This campaign brought in about \$1,000 and will go a long way in supporting the mission of the READ/OC program.

There is no greater gift than teaching someone to read. If supporting this most worthy of causes appeals to you, then please consider joining the Friends of READ/OC (FROC) board and together we can change lives and better our community.

-Ryan Ramos, President, Friends of READ/OC







PROUD MOMENTS

Congratulations to each and every READ/OC learner and tutor pair who have dedicated many hours, much effort and progress toward reaching their personal goals! They are off to a great start for 2013 experiencing many new milestones and achieving many lifelong goals!

Four learners have, with their tutor's encouragement, entered the Writer-to-Writer Challenge. READ/OC wishes them wonderful outcomes for their writing efforts and appreciates the continued encouragement of their tutors: Ed Petersen, Amber Carlson, Stephanie Li, and Jewel Kamita. Best of luck to these learning partners for taking this learning adventure!

And more kudos to learners and their tutors for their efforts and proud moments:

- Sharon's learner passed his DMV truck driver's test
- Neera's learner wrote a letter to her child's teacher
- Phyllis' learner made bread after reading recipes together in their tutoring session
- Darelene's 2 learners in the WIN program are now confident to take the GED test
- Cindy's learner began writing a formal journal and wrote a Christmas letter to her family
- Darlene's learner passed her DMV written test with "perseverance"
- Patrice's learner is using the internet to help better understand word meaning and context
- Patrick's learner is using the dictionary more often to better understand new words.

Dear Paige Turner

Dear Paige Turner,

I feel so lucky! It seems I have always had a hard time reading and writing. Last year a friend told me about READ/OC and I thought I might try to get help. I called READ/OC and attended a learner information meeting. I thought I was the only person in Orange County who needed this help, but I found out there were so many other people just like me! I waited a long time for help and just got a tutor in December. It was the best gift I ever got! Can you tell everyone in Orange County about READ/OC and how they can help someone like me?

Dear Lucky Reader,

Of course! And, you are <u>not</u> alone! There are many other adults in Orange County like you who need help with reading and writing to accomplish their life goals. I wish you and your tutor continued success on both of your lifelong learning journeys. I encourage both you and your tutor to share your successes and encourage others to do the same! Learning for each of us is a lifelong adventure—and adventures are best when they are shared! *So be bold:* learn, read, share, and learn some more! And keep telling others to do the same...call READ/OC to help another!

Have You Checked Out READ/'s New Website?

If you have not visited the READ/OC website recently, you are in for a treat! Go to www.readoc.org.

On the READ/OC website there is information about literacy in Orange County and how to volunteer to help and get help. There are new Learner and Tutor portals—each with links to online resources for learners' goals. Tutors can now print monthly reports before sending them to READ/OC. The calendar of events has features to set reminders on your phone and computer. Current and archived issues of the READ/OC newsletter are also available.

While you're there, check out the OC Public Library website where you can check out e-books, e-audio books, library hours, events at your local branch and share your thoughts about books on the readers' blog. You can find out about Literary Orange, sign-up to attend an e-reader workshop, even renew your books online!

Introduce others to these helpful and entertaining websites. Encourage others to "check out" READ/OC and OC Public Libraries websites: www.readoc.org & www.ocpl.org



Help adults and families "bloom" through reading and lifelong learning. Support READ/OC efforts by joining Friends of READ/Orange County and help Orange County grow!

February-March 2013

Mark Your Calendars and Tell A Friend or 2 or 3...

Many adult learners are waiting for help! Volunteer as a tutor and change a life!

Sat., Jan 26 Sat., Feb 2 Tue., Feb. 5	Tutor Training Workshop Session 1 @ READ/OC office, 9am-4pm Tutor Training Workshop Session 2 @ READ/OC office, 9am-4pm Family Reading Time @ La Palma Library, 6:30-8pm
Thu., Feb. 7	Family Reading Time @ El Toro Library, 6-8pm
Sat., Feb. 9	Family Reading Time @ University Park Library, 10am-12
Tue., Feb. 12	Lincoln's Birthday—Libraries & READ/OC office closed
Wed., Feb. 14	Family Reading Time @ Mesa Verde Library, 7-8pm
	Happy Valentine's Day—Read to Your Sweetheart!
Sat., Feb. 16	Family Reading Time @ El Toro Library, 10am-12pm
Mon., Feb. 18	Washington's Birthday—Libraries & READ/OC office closed
Sat., Mar. 2	Tutor Training Follow-Up Workshop, 9-11am All tutors welcome!
Tue., Mar. 5	Family Reading Time @ La Palma Library, 6:30-8pm
Thu., Mar. 7	Family Reading Time @ El Toro Library, 6-8pm
Sat., Mar. 9	SCLLN Conference for Tutors & Learners @ Buena Park Holiday Inn, 9am-3pm—Watch your email for more information! SAVE THE DATE!
Sun., Mar. 10	Daylight Savings Time Begins! Time to Spring Forward.

Planning Ahead!



Grow your talents! Become a READ/OC Tutor and help another adult bloom through lifelong learning!

The next READ/OC Tutor Training begins with information meetings Tuesday, April 16, 2013 at 1-2 pm or 6-7pm. The Tutor Training Workshop will be Saturdays, April 20 and 27 from 9am-4pm, and the follow-up workshop on Saturday, June 1 from 9-11am.

Volunteers are also needed to assist in the READ/OC office with filing, data entry, helping with the newsletter, making phone calls, and much more! Call us for more information about how you can help. Share this with a Friend, Neighbor, or Colleague! Tell someone...

Adult Learners Are Waiting for Help!

Call today! 714-566-3070. Email: readoc@occr.ocgov.com
This Year Change the Lives of Two People in Orange County...
Yours and Another Adult Learner







