

TUTOR CONNECTIONS

Volume 3, Issue 2

December, 2007

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Join Us at the Holiday Social!

Every year tutors, students, and staff gather to celebrate the holiday season. This year's celebration will take place at 6:00 pm, December 18 at the West Market United Methodist Church fellowship hall. There will be food, music and dancing in the spirit of the season!



This year's social will feature the first **Reading Connections Holiday Chorus**. Choir director, AmeriCorps staff member James Stewart says, "You don't have to sound perfect, just sing with feeling." If you are interested in singing with the choir at this event, please call James!

Entertainment includes a swing dance lesson provided by the Piedmont Swing Dance Society.



According to President Gail Dempsey, "It doesn't matter if you have two left feet. If you can count to six, you can swing dance!" With all this entertainment, plus catering by **Ganache**, you won't want to miss this special event.

No matter what holiday tradition you celebrate, we hope to see you, your family and your student! To RSVP, please contact the Reading Connections offices at 230-2223 today!



High Point Program Celebrates One Year

Reading Connections and High Point Regional Hospital celebrated the one-year anniversary of PREP (Program for Reaching Employee



PREP participants Wanna Sulman and Angelina Drews

Potential), our Workplace Literacy program for hospital employees, on November 1, 2007 with a reception at the hospital. To date, 40 students and 39 tutors have worked towards improving basic skills. Most of the pairs meet on site at the hospital to work on improving reading, math, workplace, and basic English language skills. Three PREP students have received promotions at the hospital since beginning tutoring, and many have made significant literacy gains.

The celebration was attended by many hospital staff participants and Reading Connections staff, as

well as RC board members Ralph Edwards, Jennifer Fountain and Lee Duvall, and High Point Regional Health System President Jeff Miller and Chief Executive Officer Martha Barham. All participating students received certificates of appreciation



HPRHS President Jeffrey Miller

for their time and effort. We look forward to continuing our partnership with High Point Regional Health System!



A NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The holidays are a time of giving thanks. Every day we are grateful for the opportunity to help others improve their literacy skills and make progress toward life goals they have set. It is humbling and fulfilling to see the transformations Reading Connections' students make each and every day. At the same time, we never forget the difference that you, our tutors, make in this community, for this agency, and for the students touched by your generosity of spirit. We hope that during this holiday season you feel

our deep appreciation for all that you do as volunteers throughout the year. We also hope you will take the opportunity to celebrate by joining us at our annual holiday social to mingle with students, staff, and other tutors!

We are pleased to announce a new venture - *Connect with Reading Connections* - a one-hour site visit for guests interested in learning more about literacy and Reading Connections. Please join us or invite a friend for one

of our first "Connect with Reading Connections" tours! You can RSVP to Karen at 230-2223 for 8:00-9:00 a.m. on December 13 or January 8 at our offices. We wish you all the very happiest of holidays and look forward to a bright new year.

Warmest holiday wishes,



Jennifer B. Gore



Winter Tutor Support & Training

In-Service Training: Please contact Mary Lester if you are a current tutor and need suggestions for how best to serve your student! Mary will also be providing in-service trainings in the spring on specific instruction and content.

New Tutor Training: We continue to have a waiting list for students needing the services of talented tutors. Please let your friends know about these opportunities to join the Reading Connections family of volunteer tutors! All-new trainings emphasize interactive, multi-modal teaching methods. If a potential tutor has prior tutoring or related education experience, we can discuss a training waiver. Call 230-2223 to register.

High Point Trainings: The Millis Center (600 N. Elm Street, High Point, NC 27261)

January 8 (Tues)	6:00—7:00 PM	Millis Center, Room 4	Orientation
January 10 (Thurs)	5:30—8:30 PM	Millis Center, Room 3	Session 1
January 12 (Sat)	1:00—5:00 PM	Millis Center, Room 5	Session 2
January 15 (Tues)	5:30—8:30 PM	Millis Center, Room 2	Session 3
March 11 (Tues)	6:00—7:00 PM	Millis Center, Room 5	Orientation
March 13 (Thurs)	5:30—8:30 PM	Millis Center, Room 5	Session 1
March 15 (Sat)	1:00—5:00 PM	Millis Center, Room 5	Session 2
March 19 (Wed)	5:30—8:30 PM	Millis Center, Room 5	Session 3

Greensboro Trainings: Self Help Building (122 N. Elm Street, Greensboro NC, 27401; Phone 336-230-2223)

January 16 (Wed)	6:00—7:00 PM	Self Help Building 8th Floor Conference Room	Orientation
January 23 (Wed)	6:00—9:00 PM	Self Help Building 8th Floor Conference Room	Session 1
January 26 (Sat)	9:00 AM—1:00 PM	Self Help Building 8th Floor Conference Room	Session 2
January 28 (Mon)	6:00—9:00 PM	Self Help Building 8th Floor Conference Room	Session 3
February 14 (Thurs)	9:00—10:00 AM	Self Help Building 8th Floor Conference Room	Orientation
February 19 (Tues)	9:00 AM—3:00 PM	Self Help Building 8th Floor Conference Room	Session 1
February 22 (Fri)	9:00 AM—3:00 PM	Self Help Building 8th Floor Conference Room	Session 2





Ask a Reading Specialist

The *Ask a Reading Specialist* section of this newsletter is designed as a space to address questions and concerns that tutors like you have in working with adult learners. Please contact Reading Connections if you have questions about working with your student by calling 230-2223 or emailing info@readingconnections.org.

Dear Mary,

My student really enjoys it when I read aloud to her. Is there any value in continuing this practice?

- Want to Know

Dear Want to Know,

Yes! When you read aloud to your student, she is thinking about what you are reading. And when you think about it, thinking about a text is what reading comprehension is all about. So continue reading to your student and let her digest what you've read. Invite her to predict, evaluate, and interpret as if she had read it herself. But also keep in mind, you don't always have to discuss what was read. Sometimes you simply want to savor the moment.

"Thinking about a text is what reading comprehension is all about."

Student Learning Opportunities

We know that students with multiple learning opportunities make progress! Share the following with your student and encourage them to attend by simply calling the office to sign-up!

Resume-Building Workshop: This workshop for students will be held on Monday, January 14th from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. and again February 11th from 11:00-1:00 p.m. in Reading Connections' computer lab. The first hour will give guidelines for writing resumes and look at examples. During the second hour we need volunteers to help students create new resumes or work on current resumes.

Civics Class: This workshop series will help students learn about the U.S. government, American history, how to register to vote, and the importance of voting. This class will meet every Tuesday February 5th - 26th from 6:00- 7:30 p.m. at the Reading Connections office.

Citizenship Class: This class will teach students all they need to know to pass the U.S. Citizenship class and the steps they need to take before taking the test. The class will be held in the Reading Connections office from 6:00- 7:30 p.m. on Tuesdays, March 4th - 25th.

Welcome to New Part-time Staff!



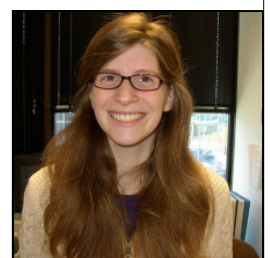
Emily Cabrera spent three years working in finance and a year teaching in the United Arab Emirates before joining AmeriCorps. Emily has many responsibilities at the High Point office and enjoys working with Reading Connections' adult students to help them accomplish their goals.

James Stewart is a senior at North Carolina A&T State University who joined AmeriCorps out of an interest in teaching and community service. He also teaches many of the group classes offered by Reading Connections in Greensboro, including computer skills and study skills.



Barbara Law was born in Cuba, raised in Puerto Rico, and has lived in many places in the U.S. and Canada. She is involved in a support group for Latinos and loves to garden, cook, and practice Reiki. She serves as our administrative assistant and helps with Motherhead family literacy classes.

Keeley Murray is from Little Rock, AR, and is a graduate student in the Library and Information Studies program at UNCG. She works closely at Reading Connections with Reading Specialist Mary Lester, and also leads a weekly conversation group for non-native English speakers.





Greensboro:

122 N. Elm Street, Suite 520
Greensboro, NC 27401
Phone: (336) 230-2223
Fax: (336) 230-2203

High Point:

919 Phillips Avenue
High Point, NC 27262
Phone: (336) 404-3474

www.readingconnections.org



Want to do some holiday shopping *and* help Reading Connections at the same time? Then shop at Barnes & Noble at Friendly Shopping Center on **Saturday, December 15th**. Cut out the voucher below and turn it in as you pay for your items.

Reading Connections will get a portion of the money from each sale. Make copies of this voucher to give to family and friends. Shopping and helping...it must be the holidays!

BARNES & NOBLE
BOOKSELLERS

SHOPPING VOUCHER

BENEFITING:

Reading Connections

Location:

Friendly Shopping Center

Date/Time:

Saturday, December 15, 2007

Present this voucher at the cash registers at the time of purchase. A percent of the net sale will be donated to the organization.

For Office Use Only:

Register #:

Transaction#

Amount of sale before tax less purchase of Gift Cards and Membership Cards.

\$

The following transactions are not included in Bookfair totals: The purchase of Gift Cards, Membership cards, and café consumables.