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e-mail: readconn@bellsouth.net  
www.readingconnections.org

## SAVE THE DATE!

SCRABBLE®  
CHALLENGE

APRIL 7, 2005

**NOTE: Please visit**  
[readingconnections.org](http://readingconnections.org)  
to view other important  
dates!



RETURN  
SERVICE  
REQUESTED

# CONNECTIONS

ADULT LITERACY NEWS FOR THE GREATER GREENSBORO AREA • SUMMER 2004



Congratulations to Kim Yarborough and LiDonatia Norfleet on passing the GED exam!

Dear Literacy Family:

If someone had said the name Fantasia Barrino a few weeks ago, very few of us would have known who she was. Today, she has become a phenom — not just in Guilford County, but also all over the world. Nineteen-year-old Fantasia is a talented singer, a single parent, and a high school dropout — and she wants to earn her GED. It's hard to believe that a young woman who has wowed us on national TV could possibly have something in common with the typical student we see every day at Reading Connections.

That's right — Reading Connections, an adult literacy nonprofit in Guilford County. Did you know that among our students...

- 15% are 18-24 years old
- 78% dropped out of high school
- 29% are studying to earn their GED
- 60% are single parents
- 66% are female
- 69% are Black
- 100% are talented

What American Idol has been to Fantasia, our donors and volunteers (27 corporations, 9 foundations, 5 faith-based communities, the state of North Carolina, GTCC, United Way of Greater Greensboro, and more than 465 individuals) have been to the adult literacy students at Reading Connections. Letting them audition (assess their literacy levels) for our program staff, and giving them the opportunity to practice each week one-on-one with their volunteer tutors, made it possible for 273 students in the past 11 months get the chance of a lifetime — to achieve their educational goals.

Like Fantasia, I want to take the time to thank everyone in Guilford County who has made it possible for them (students at Reading Connections) to succeed!

And to our students... Each of you is a winner!

Sincerely,  
Phyllis B. Ledbetter, *Executive Director*  
Reading Connections, Inc.



SCRABBLE® CHALLENGE 2004  
HONORARY CHAIRS  
Dennis and Deborah Glass and  
Phyllis Ledbetter, *Executive Director*.



## IN THIS ISSUE

- Executive Director's Message
- Annual Report
- 2004 Award Honorees
- List of Donors
- Peek at SCRABBLE® 2004
- Save the Date!

## MISSION

*Reading Connections' mission is "To help adults live more independently by providing basic literacy services; increase community awareness of adult literacy needs, and serve as a resource for the provision of basic literacy services." Reading Connections is a United Way member agency and is nationally accredited by ProLiteracy World-wide, formerly LVA (Literacy Volunteers of America).*

# READING CONNECTIONS, INC

## ANNUAL REPORT Fiscal Year 7/01/03 through 6/30/04

Significant Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Agency Awarded \$15,000 - 1st Time Grant From Joseph M. Bryan Foundation</li> <li>Kimberly Yarborough &amp; LiDonitia Earned GED</li> <li>David Hammer Honored as Mary A. Stephens Volunteer of the Year</li> <li>Agency Awarded \$12,500 Largest Grant Ever From Jefferson Pilot Financial</li> <li>IBM Donated New Computer &amp; Microsoft Office Software</li> <li>CEO of JPF, Dennis Glass &amp; Wife Deborah, serves as SCRABBLE® Honorary Chairs</li> <li>Long time tutor, Winifred "Wink" Cottam, Wins \$2,500 Raffle</li> </ul>
SCRABBLE® Challenge 2004  \$39,628	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Corporate Sponsors - \$31,950</li> <li>Raffle - \$4,450</li> <li>Spectators - \$125</li> <li>Drinks - \$450</li> <li>NonProfit Sponsors - \$250</li> <li>Individual Sponsors - \$350</li> <li>Auction - \$1,375</li> <li>Peeks &amp; Expert Advice - \$678</li> </ul>
Programmatic Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>320 Students Served</li> <li>Obtained A 85% Retention Rate</li> <li>25 Students Enrolled In GED Prep Classes</li> <li>Two Students Earn GED; 4 Other Students Pass At Least One Section Of GED Exam</li> <li>David Hammer Honored as Mary A. Stephens Volunteer Of The Year</li> <li>64 GED Group Sessions Held</li> <li>79 Basic Literacy Group Sessions Held</li> <li>119 Adults Volunteer as 1-to-1 Tutors (15,000 Volunteer Hours donated)</li> <li>22 New Tutors Trained</li> </ul>
Income Statement  Net Income \$23,934	<p>REVENUE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Faith ..... \$2,625</li> <li>Foundation ..... \$33,500</li> <li>Individuals ..... \$18,083</li> <li>Organizations ..... \$2,167</li> <li>Meetings/Special Events ..... \$40,311</li> <li>State Grant ..... \$31,500</li> <li>United Way ..... \$50,885</li> <li>Corporations ..... \$4,355</li> <li>Other Grants Restricted ..... \$43,161</li> <li>Other Income ..... \$1,098</li> </ul> <p>TOTAL REVENUE ..... \$227,685</p> <p>EXPENSES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Personnel Cost ..... \$120,445</li> <li>Audit ..... \$4,969</li> <li>Supplies ..... \$3,041</li> <li>Telephone ..... \$3,919</li> <li>Occupancy ..... \$11,630</li> <li>Postage ..... \$2,831</li> <li>Equipment ..... \$665</li> <li>Printing &amp; Publications ..... \$5,402</li> <li>Meeting/Special Events ..... \$7,665</li> <li>Reading Materials ..... \$4,959</li> <li>National Membership Dues ..... \$325</li> <li>Other Operational Cost ..... \$37,901</li> </ul> <p>TOTAL EXPENSES ..... \$203,752</p>

# HOLIDAY SOCIAL



# TUTOR TEA

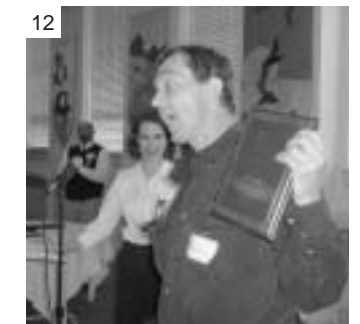


# MORE SCRABBLE®...



**Thank You!**

# STUDENTS & VOLUNTEERS Honored At 2004 Awards & Recognition Ceremony



**Read & Rise:** Preparing adults for a lifetime of success was the theme for the 14th Annual Awards and Recognition Ceremony. More than 80 tutors, students, volunteers, staff, and members of the board were in attendance. Congratulations to all of our honorees!

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <p><b>1. ESOL Tutor of the Year</b><br/>Amos Lashley with Phyliss Ledbetter &amp; David Hammer</p> <p><b>2. The Adele Terry Memorial Award</b><br/>Cleo Dimmick with David Hammer</p> <p><b>3. GED Tutor of the Year</b><br/>Ronald Newton with David Hammer</p> <p><b>4. Special Recognition for Service Award</b><br/>Beth Sheffield with Phyliss Ledbetter</p> | <p><b>5. GED Student of the Year</b><br/>Kimberly Yarborough with Phyliss Ledbetter &amp; David Hammer</p> <p><b>6. ESOL Student of the Year</b><br/>H'Mac A. with Phyliss Ledbetter</p> <p><b>7. Basic Student of the Year and Basic Tutor of the Year</b><br/>Phyllis McGee and Kathy Eaton with Wanda Parker &amp; Phyliss Ledbetter</p> <p><b>8. Special Recognition for Service Award</b><br/>Emanuel Smith with David Hammer</p> | <p><b>9. Mary A. Stephens Volunteer of the Year</b><br/>David Hammer with Phyliss Ledbetter</p> <p><b>10. Volunteer Service Award</b><br/>Doris Newton with Phyliss Ledbetter</p> <p><b>11. Special Recognition for Service Award</b><br/>Zee Tart with David Hammer</p> <p><b>12. Pro Literacy Award</b><br/>William "Bill" A. with Laura Rhodes</p> |
|---|--|---|

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- Thank You All!**

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# SCRABBLE® Challenge '04

*READ... It Will Take You Around the World*



# EXPANDING THE CONCEPT OF LITERACY

*Prepared By Wanda Parker*



When most of us hear the word “illiterate”, we think of those individuals who cannot read simple sentences, or write their own name. However, the definition of “literate” has evolved over the past decade, to better meet the needs of today’s global and technology-rich demands

of our society. Today’s adults need to be able to make informed choices and in this complex information age, we began to ask the hard questions —“What is literacy? Are the adults you know literate by today’s standards?”

Literacy is no longer simply a synonym for reading. The increase of technology has rapidly shaped our society, so has the demand for a broader range of skills that reach far beyond reading and writing. The Workforce Investment Act of 1998 gives a broader definition of literacy as “an individual’s ability to read, write, speak in English, compute, and solve problems at a level of proficiency to function on the job, in the family of the individual, and in society”. Using this definition, according to the National Institute for Literacy (NIFL), “very few adults in the US are truly illiterate”; however, between 21 – 23% of the adult population (35 million) are functionally illiterate—that is, they lack the basic skills needed to find and keep employment, participate in their children’s education, their own community and civic life.

Similar to other basic literacy students, adults who come to Reading Connections can read and write simple sentences, yet they lack the ability to comprehend, compute and solve problems necessary to perform everyday tasks. Many of them lose skills after they leave school (mostly through lack of use). However, most can increase skills through practice and additional training. My personal belief continues to be that basic education skill development is essential to an individual’s pursuit of lifelong

learning. Moreover, my goal as the Literacy Program Coordinator is to ensure that Reading Connections, in an effort to meet the needs of this population, assist adult learners with meeting their personal goals of obtaining their GED and using technology to increase basic computer literacy. Each day, the Adult Learning Lab at Reading Connections is available to learners (pre-literacy and above) along with guided activities that enable them to practice skills they will need to function in daily activities at home, work and in the community.

As Reading Connections continue to help adult learners with “connecting the dots”, so to speak, new learners can become a more effective and self-sufficient member of the community and workplace, developing much needed interpersonal skills for cooperating with others and resolving conflict and juggling life’s events.

As Reading Connections moves forward, it must continue to address and prepare for the fact that literacy standards will continue to be raised as our society becomes increasingly complex. What is deemed to be a functional standard of literacy today will most likely be found wanting ten years from now. Each day as we provide basic literacy instruction, Reading Connections must also focus on strategies to enable the new learner to build a foundation for life-long learning, and to take responsibility for their own success at learning.

## SCRABBLE® Challenge '04

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*Your continuous support to adult literacy is needed and appreciated...I thank you all! Please accept our apologies if your name has been omitted in error. Please call 230-2223 to bring any errors or omissions to our attention. Again, thank you very much for your support!*

## MEMORIALS FY 03-04

**In Memory of Tom Gleiter (Tutor)**  
Ron & Jean Pudlo  
Sara Dreyfuss

**In Memory of Hazel Sanders**  
**In Memory of Margaret Routh**  
Martha Demaree  
Ex Libris Book Club

**In Memory of Lonnie Revels**  
**In Memory of Fred Nunnally**  
**In Memory of Mrs. Doris Hammer**  
Phyllis Ledbetter

**In Memory of Janie B. McVickers**  
Michael Schifftan  
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**In Memory of Mary Foust Landry**  
Sarah Golden

## HONORARIUMS FY 03-04

**In Honor of Virginia Zenke**  
Kelly & Louise Bowles

**In Honor of Beverly McCracken**  
Susan M. King

**In Honor of SCRABBLE® Planning Committee**  
**In Honor of Newly weds Brian & Tanya Neal:**  
Phyllis Ledbetter

**In Honor of The Staff**  
Britta McNemar

**In Honor of Karen Johnson**  
**In Honor of Joe Johnson**  
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Robert & Sherrie Harmon

# READING CONNECTIONS, INC

Members of Our Literacy Family Making Other Types of Gifts in FY 2003-2004

<p><b>Grants</b></p>	<p>American Express Global Volunteer Action Fund \$850 ♥ <b>Bryan Foundation</b> \$15,000 for Adult Literacy &amp; Basic Computer Instruction ♥ <b>The Cemala Foundation</b> \$14,000 for Adult Literacy Program ♥ <b>Community Foundation</b> of Greensboro \$5,000 for Basic Adult Literacy ♥ <b>Marion S. Covington Foundation</b> \$2,500 for Basic Adult Literacy ♥ <b>Deluxe Financial Services</b> \$2,500 for Adult Literacy &amp; Basic Computer Instruction ♥ <b>Ecolab Foundation</b> \$2,994 for Basic Literacy and Employment Skills Program ♥ <b>IBM Grant</b> for Netvista computer &amp; laptop ♥ <b>NC Community College System</b> \$31,500 for Basic Skills Program ♥ <b>St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church</b> \$500 for Adult Literacy Instruction ♥ <b>St. Pius X Catholic Church</b> \$2,000 for Basic Adult Literacy and Student Mentoring ♥ <b>United Way of Greater Greensboro</b> \$55,918 funded for Adult Literacy Programs</p>
<p><b>Matching Grant</b></p>	<p>American Express \$670 ♥ Ecolab \$1,000 ♥ Jefferson-Pilot Financial \$500 ♥ Sara Lee Foundation \$2,000</p>
<p><b>In-Kind</b></p>	<p>American Express ♥ Barnes &amp; Noble Booksellers/Friendly Center ♥ Battleground Restaurants, Inc. ♥ Biscuitville, Inc. ♥ Book Lover's Shop ♥ Broach Theatre ♥ Bryson's Jewelers ♥ Carolina Panthers ♥ Carolina Theatre ♥ Carousel Grande Theatre ♥ Chick-Fil-A ♥ Community Theatre of Greensboro ♥ Cup-A-Joe ♥ Fleet Plummer ♥ Food Lion LLC #9 ♥ Four Seasons Towne Centre ♥ Fresh Market /Lawndale Drive ♥ Friendly Center ♥ Funding Solutions Unlimited ♥ Ganache ♥ George K's ♥ Gateway Technologies ♥ Greensboro Children's Museum ♥ Greensboro Public Library ♥ Greensboro Symphony ♥ Harris Teeter/ Lawndale Drive ♥ Healthtex.com ♥ Jerusalem Market ♥ Laureate Alpha Theta Chapter Beta Sigma Phi Sorority ♥ Lowe's Motor Speedway ♥ Natural Science Center ♥ Oak Hollow Golf Course ♥ Our State Magazine ♥ Paramount's Carowinds ♥ PGA Tour ♥ Quaintance-Weaver Restaurants &amp; Hotels ♥ Anhauser Busch/R.H. ♥ Barringer Distributing ♥ Reedy Fork Ranch ♥ Replacements, Ltd. ♥ Saigon Cuisine Restaurant ♥ Schiffman's Jewelers ♥ Southern Lights Bistro &amp; Bar ♥ Starmount Company ♥ Stoney Creek Express YMCA ♥ Streetcars ♥ Target ♥ Triad Stage ♥ Visigraphix ♥ Wal-Mart Battleground Avenue ♥ Wet 'N Wild-Emerald Pointe ♥ Winston-Salem SCRABBLE® Club ♥ YWCA of Greensboro ♥ Yarn, Etc. ♥ James &amp; Lynn Bennett ♥ Beverly McCracken ♥ Doris Newton ♥ Laura Rhodes ♥ Beth Sheffield ♥ Zee Tart ♥ UNCG ♥ West Market UMC</p>
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