

# The READ CENTER Report Card

News, events and information about The READ Center

Winter 2017

## Extra! Extra! The READ Center wins the election by a landslide!



As READ Center classes resumed in September, everyone was focused on the upcoming national and local elections. We were no different. Our goals were to make sure any READ Center student who wanted to vote was registered and that our students understood the ballot for their locality.

The READ Center teachers knew the election was a great learning opportunity. For some students, assignments began before September. Over summer break, students in the 7th Street Christian Church class read a brief biography of a past president. When they returned to class, students completed a character outline to share with their classmates.

***"Tutors and teachers were brought to tears as students showed their conviction, patriotism, and heart as they debated the issues and presented their platforms."***

7th Street students also wrote short essays about their qualifications to run for president, as well as creating their own policy platform. Students used this to campaign for president. Tutors and teachers were brought to tears as students showed their conviction, patriotism, and heart as they debated the issues and presented their platforms.

READ Center students at our Northside location learned how the donkey and elephant got to be the symbols of the national parties and about the process of electing the president. They also wrote about their qualifications to be president and two things they would change if they were elected.

"If I Was President", was a topic tackled in the Chesterfield Technical Center class, along with the top issues of the campaign.

While we may not have all agreed on candidates, we can agree that voting is the most important exercise a responsible citizen of a democratic nation can do.



**President**

By, J.



If I were president this is what I would do. I would rise minimum wages so workers can support their families. I would give businesses a small tax break for the first two years of their business so they can pay their workers Healthcare.

**Student Voice 2016**

### Inside:

- ◆ Union Bank to sponsor the new Great Richmond Trivia Bee, page 2.
- ◆ Want to know how READ got its start? Turn to page 3 to learn more.
- ◆ Don't miss a thing with The READ Center Events calendar on page 4.

## Union Bank is the title sponsor for the Great Richmond Trivia Bee



The Great Richmond Trivia Bee® is a live game show that is coming to Richmond in Spring 2017.

It's a team-based competition for people who love words, vocabulary, pop culture, history, literature and showing how smart they are.

This new event will replace The READ Center's Spelling Bee. Reigning 2016 Spelling Bee Champions, Innsbrook Rotary, will be the defending champions for the Trivia Bee.

### What's the same?

- The game is open to everyone.
- Teams of 3 participate in the event.
- It will be a lot of fun and benefit a great cause: The READ Center!

### What's different?

- Everyone in the room can play along. You'll have your own score card.
- Spelling will be part of the game, but there will be other fun categories also.
- There will be a ticket charge for guests, but remember—you'll be able to participate the whole time.

We are working on a venue and date for the event right now! As soon as it is confirmed, details will be available on our website.

Thank you Union for being the first title sponsor for the new event!

## Annual Report Corrections

We make every effort to ensure the donor information published in the Annual Report is correct. However, the following donors were omitted from the report. Our apologies to these donors and many thanks for their support.

Charles & Gloria Blades  
in memory of Toni OBrion

Gilgit Foundation

## Fundraising 2016-2017

The READ Center has raised \$243,950 in the first five months of the 2016-2017 fiscal year (7/1/16 – 11/30/16).

It costs about \$1,785 to provide services to one READ Center student for one year. So far, we have raised enough to provide 137 students with services.

Our goal is provide services to at least 198 students in classes and through one-to-one tutoring his academic year.

We still have a ways to go, but we are off to a good start.

Thank you to all who have given this year. You have a made a difference in the lives of our students and their families.

**A Better Life for all American Families**  
By, Harry



If I was elected president I would raise the minimum wage from \$7.25 to \$10.50. So the poor American families will have more buying power and have a better life. I would also decrease taxes so American people would have more money to spend. This would give them a better life. I would give companies breaks on the cost of health care for employees. As a result companies could hire more people.

**Student Voice 2016**

## How did The READ Center come to be?

**"We had no idea what we were doing when we started READ. We just knew that a segment of our community needed help and we responded. That what Altrusans do."**

The following is an excerpt from a speech delivered by READ founder and Altrusa International member, Jean Proffitt at The READ Center's June 2016 Student and Tutor Recognition Event.

*"...I want to share with you what led to our founding of the READ Center. I want you to realize what an incredible community service project this turned out to be.*

*It is my hope that you will see what remarkable things can happen when we set our minds, our talents, our resources and our hearts to improving and serving our communities....*

*The Altrusa International Foundation coined the phrase "Literacy Lights the World" in 1977 when we accepted literacy as our on-going international service emphasis.*

*Our club was one of the first to adopt this service commitment...Because I expressed disbelief about the problem, I was appointed to study the problem and report back to the club.*

*The more I learned, the more disgusted and disillusioned I became. And then I got mad....*

*With \$4,000, 12 volunteer tutors, a handful of students and a strong determination to fill a gap in our educational system, we set out to assist adults with no or low-level literacy.*

*This was 37 years ago and I'm still at it... I found my niche."*

**What made Jean so mad? There are a lot of statistics about the costs and impacts of illiteracy on crime, employment and health care. It's hard not to be mad when you read the statistics and know we can stop illiteracy.**

However, Jean's passion was driven by more than anger. She met a gentleman named Earnest. He told her he had given his wife, Bessie, a card for her birthday. "It was such a beautiful card, I just knew she would love it," is what he told Jean. Unfortunately, it was a sympathy card.

The memory of the conversation still gives Jean chills today and drives her to continue to champion adult literacy in metro Richmond.

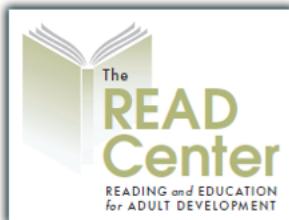


The Literacy Council of Richmond was founded in 1984. It became The READ Center in 1995. Today, The READ Center serves 150-160 students in classes and one-to-one tutoring, has more than 120 volunteers, 3 full time and 12 part-time employees and a budget of \$355,374.

Jean Proffitt is a member of The READ Center's Board Directors serving on the Marketing and Fundraising Committee. Altrusa International, a service organization specializing in community needs as well as literacy, the environment, and AIDS/HIV, continues to support The READ Center.



Ever wonder why we do not include more pictures of READ students in our publications? Most of our students prefer to remain anonymous. We respect their choice and privacy. For those who allow us to show their pictures, it helps to put a face to their stories and to READ's work.

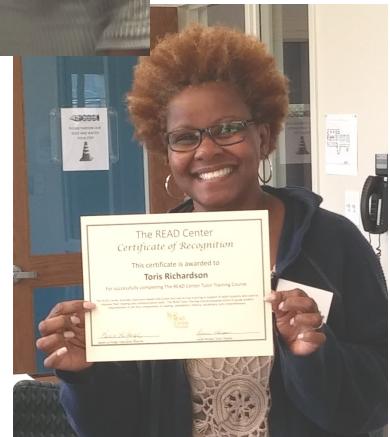


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## READ Center Events Calendar

<b>Monday, January 16</b>	<b>Martin Luther King Day</b> There will be no classes and the READ office will be closed in observance of the holiday.
<b>Wednesdays, February 15th <b>and</b> February 22nd 5:30pm-8:30pm Must attend both days. Location TBD</b>	<b>Tutor Training Basics</b> For more information visit the Tutor page on the READ website, <a href="http://www.readcenter.org">www.readcenter.org</a> .
<b>Tuesday, April 18th &amp; Wednesday, April 19th 5:30pm-8:30pm Must attend both days. Location TBD.</b>	<b>Tutor Training Basics</b> For more information visit the Tutor page on the READ website, <a href="http://www.readcenter.org">www.readcenter.org</a> .
<b>Wednesday, May 17th 10:30am-5:30pm Ginter Park Library</b>	<b>Tutor Training Basics</b> For more information visit the Tutor page on the READ website, <a href="http://www.readcenter.org">www.readcenter.org</a> .

"VOLUNTEERING IS THE ULTIMATE EXERCISE IN DEMOCRACY. YOU VOTE IN ELECTIONS ONCE A YEAR, BUT WHEN YOU VOLUNTEER, YOU VOTE EVERY DAY ABOUT THE KIND OF COMMUNITY YOU WANT TO LIVE IN."



**Thank you to all of the great READ Center tutors who supported and participated in READ Center programs last semester. We can't do it without you!**

**Would you like to become an adult literacy tutor? You can register for training in February, April or May. (January is filled!) Dates are listed in the READ Events calendar on this page and on the READ website, [www.readcenter.org](http://www.readcenter.org).**

**For information and questions, contact Volunteer Coordinator Teri Taylor at [teri@readcenter.org](mailto:teri@readcenter.org) or 804-288-9930.**