

Making a Difference Today and in the Future: A Literacy Legacy

The Walsh Memorial Fund



Mike Walsh and fellow winners of the 2014 Spelling Bee. Walsh and his employer, Union Bank, have sponsored READ's annual event, now a Trivia Bee.

One Christmas, almost twenty years ago, the Walsh family discussed making donations to charity in lieu of a gift exchange. What resulted is a series of legacy gifts to The READ Center that have helped hundreds of adults improve their literacy skills over the years.

“Literacy has always been important to my family. My parents encouraged me to read as a child, a passion that continues today. It’s a skill that I took for granted,” said Mike Walsh. Walsh is a past Treasurer and Board President of READ, and serves on the Marketing and Development Committee today.

After Mike’s father passed away several years ago, the family established the Edward F. Walsh Memorial fund to honor his memory. It was seeded with \$500 in 1999.

“The primary purpose of the fund was to provide a financial foundation to ensure the long-term health and vitality of READ,” says Mike.

Helen Walsh, Mike Walsh’s mother, was also inspired by READ’s mission and attended READ events. When it came time to do some estate planning of her own, she identified a few organizations she wanted to support, READ among them. After Helen passed away, a \$100,000 bequest was made to READ from her estate. The fund was renamed the Helen Walsh & Edward F. Walsh Memorial Fund in 2007.

Continued on next page...

The READ Center Legacy Society

Making a donation to The READ Center through a planned gift is a great way to create a legacy of learning for adults in our community. It does not require a large income or vast estate, just the thoughtful intention of continuing your commitment to The READ Center and the idea that everyone needs and deserves a literate life.

You can support The READ Center while generating tax savings and personal income through deferred gifts. There are several options:

- Bequests
- Charitable Trusts
- Life Insurance
- Retirement Assets
- Personal Property

Members of the The READ Center Legacy Society receive invitations to all READ Center events as VIPs, annual READ mission tour, and recognition (if wanted) in READ publications.

If you’d like to learn more about including The READ Center in your estate plans, please contact Executive Director Karen La Forge at 804-288-9930 or karen@readcenter.org. If you have already remembered READ, please let us know so we can thank you and add you to The READ Center Legacy Society.

A Literacy Legacy continued...

Though READ is eligible to use a portion of the fund's investment for operations, 50 percent of the annual revenue is reinvested in the fund each year, and the fund is growing. Its current value is more than \$162,000.

"I plan to set aside my own bequest as I put my own estate plan together," Mike says.

Revenue from the fund has been used to provide teacher salaries, train tutors, purchase books and curriculum materials – all the things READ needs to help adults improve their literacy skills. A steady source of funds provides stability for READ programs and a foundation to plan for the future.

Mike hopes the fund will continue to grow. "My mom and I envisioned the fund as a leadership gift, to set an example," Mike says. "More supporters including The

READ Center in their estate planning would be transformative for the organization. **Sometimes bad things happen. A strong endowment ensures that READ's programs will carry on.**"

The READ Center thanks Mike Walsh and his family for their generous support of The READ Center through the Walsh Memorial Fund.

If estate planning is one of your new year's resolutions, please consider making a bequest to The READ Center. Bequests can provide READ with funding for programs and operational support. If you've already named The READ Center in your will or trust, let us know! We hope that in the years to come, adult literacy services will be obsolete. Your support brings us closer to that reality. ~

The Great Richmond



The Great Richmond Trivia Bee returns on Wednesday, April 25, 2018! Last year, we tried out a new format for our annual fundraiser, and it was a hit. Trivia Bee is Richmond's own live game show. It's a team-based competition for people who love pop culture, history, literature, vocabulary, and showing off how smart they are. We've already chosen great new categories for this year's game, and we can't wait to see you there.

Where will it be held?

at The Hippodrome again, in Jackson Ward

Sounds fun. What categories are in play?

We like to keep that a surprise! It's a good idea to choose teammates with different strengths. You can expect to get quizzed on a variety of topics.

How much is it to register a team?

The base cost to register a team is \$500. Sponsorship opportunities are available. Visit our website (www.readcenter.org/trivia-bee) for more information.

What do we win?

Bragging rights, a beautiful trophy for a year, and the good feeling of knowing you've supported adult literacy in RVA.



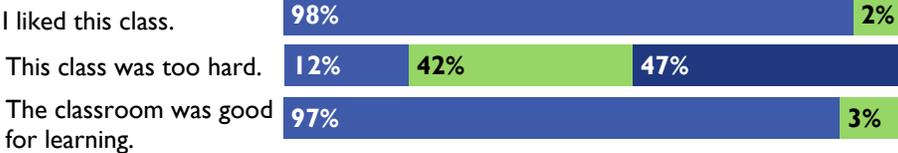
Will you be the team to challenge the PBS Nerds (2017 winners) to become Trivia Bee champions?

READ Reviews: Student Feedback

The READ Center just wrapped up its first semester of the 2017-2018 school year. We asked our students how they thought things were going. We're off to a good start, and we'll use our students' feedback to enhance our programs moving forward.

Agree Sometimes Disagree

CLASS



TEACHER



TUTOR



Meet Marie:



"I think the READ Center fulfills its name for me. I came from Gambia with no English. The READ Center helps me with reading. I could not read before, but now I can read confidently. I'm so grateful for the teachers and the tutors, everyone who comes here to help."

Watch Marie share her story on YouTube. Visit youtu.be/LpAjOLP0s0E.

READ in the News

- The READ Center is one of a select group of organizations that will be featured in Henrico Citizen's Henricopedia Magazine in February.
- Images from READ Between the Wines will be showcased in the Richmond Times-Dispatch's Social Seen in the next few weeks.

Stay tuned!

Thank you for your Support

The following business donors contributed to READ for the first time this fiscal year:

James River Insurance
Lilly Pulitzer
Midas of Richmond
Sands Anderson, PC
Short Pump Town Center

Did You Know?

Businesses comprised 6% of READ's funding last year. If you give to READ, your company may match it and double your impact! Some organizations match volunteer time as well. Check with your Human Resources Department for more information.

Jingling and Mingling

Volunteers, Teachers, and Staff Come Together to Celebrate the Holidays



New Facebook Group for Tutors:

Are you a current or past READ Center tutor? Join our new Facebook Group—the Tutor Space. It's a closed group where tutors can share ideas, ask questions, and stay in touch with staff. Visit www.facebook.com/groups/READTutorSpace, answer a few short questions, and click on Request to Join. An admin will approve your membership, and you're online!

READ our Blog:

Did you know we have a blog? We post weekly about READ Center news, student and tutor stories, ways to support The READ Center, and more. Find it on our website at www.readcenter.org/blog.