

READ Partners with The Market @ 25th to Provide Financial Literacy Classes

In January, The READ Center provided classes on check writing and the basics of budgeting to employees of the forthcoming **The Market @ 25th** in Richmond's East End. Beginning in April, financial literacy classes will be offered at The Market and open to employees and the community. Topics include banking and budgeting, understanding credit scores, identity theft, computer security, and paying off debt.

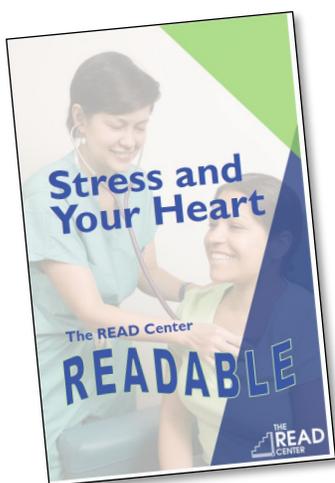
The financial literacy curriculum was developed last year in partnership with **Union Bank & Trust** and presented to READ students in a pilot program. READ staff presented the curriculum at the **Virginia Literacy Foundation** conference in October 2018. It will be published online so that everyone has access to the resource. The financial literacy curriculum can be taught as stand alone topics



The Market @ 25th employees attend financial literacy class.

and scaled up or down to meet audience literacy levels. *If you know a community group interested in providing basic financial literacy classes for its clients or program participants, contact READ at frontdesk@readcenter.org.*

READ Creates *Readables* to Build Health Literacy



Low literacy is a significant barrier to navigating the healthcare system. Imagine struggling to complete medical questionnaires and understanding prescription information if you can't read well. While READ students largely understand the illnesses and health issues they face and how they are being treated by medical professionals, they do not have the literacy skills to read all the medical information they are given.

Thanks to the **Jenkins Foundation**, READ piloted a health literacy program last year during which students expressed interest in learning more about diabetes, heart disease, and nutrition and exercise. READ integrated their feedback and this year is sharing information on these topics.

READ's education staff created **Readables**, themed-booklets that include a reading passage and activities to practice comprehension, writing, spelling, and critical thinking. The first Readable was published in February for Heart

Health month. A presentation or event related to the health topic is also held each semester. For example, in late February, the **Capital One Café in Carytown** hosted READ students and tutors to discuss organization and money management to help reduce stress and improve heart health.

Save the Date!

Year-End Student Celebration Saturday, July 27, 2019

Join READ as we recognize students for their accomplishments and commitment this academic year.



READ community gathers at Year-End Celebration in 2018.

READ Between the Wines Wednesday, September 25, 2019

READ recognizes National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week with a spirited celebration of adult literacy. This is a great opportunity to bring a friend and introduce them to READ's mission to change lives through literacy.

READ Students Enjoy Biographies on Ashe and Lincoln

Learning is most effective when the subject matter is interesting to students. With READ students drawn to biographies, February offers a wonderful chance to read about important historic figures. In celebration of Black History Month, students read about Arthur Ashe, and in honor of President's Day, they read about Abraham Lincoln.

As a Richmond native and local hero, it was especially fitting to recognize Arthur Ashe's accomplishments as a humanitarian and civil rights leader. His statue on Monument Avenue, in which he is shown with books in one hand and a racquet in the other, illustrates Ashe's view on the importance of both sport and education. Coincidentally, Ashe's significance was further highlighted in the local news as Richmond City Council voted to rename the Boulevard "Arthur Ashe Boulevard."

The Great Richmond

T R I V I A
BEE

Wednesday, April 24, 7-9pm

at The Hippodrome in Jackson Ward

The 3rd Annual Great Richmond Trivia Bee returns on April 24! 55 teams have registered to compete in Richmond's own live game show. Only one team will win bragging rights and the coveted Trivia Bee trophy for the year. But everyone who competes can feel good knowing they are supporting adult literacy in Richmond.

While team registrations are sold out, you can still purchase tickets to join our audience and play along!

Visit www.readcenter.org/trivia-bee to purchase tickets or buy a Bee Keeper sponsorship to place an ad in the program.

Thank You to Our Generous 2019 Trivia Bee Sponsors:

Queen Bee Sponsor

The logo for UNION, featuring the word "UNION" in a bold, black, sans-serif font. Above the letter "I" is a stylized green graphic consisting of three parallel diagonal lines.

Swarm Sponsor

The logo for Columbia Gas, featuring the words "Columbia Gas" in a blue, serif font. A stylized sunburst graphic is positioned above the letter "a" in "Gas".

Hive Sponsors

Crouch Family Giving Fund
In Memory of Robert H. Newton, Sr.

Friends of Adult Literacy
RSM US LLP

Honey Bee Sponsors

CapTech
Sands Anderson PC

Virginia Union University Hosts Northside READ Classes



Leslie Harper teaches one of the READ classes held at VUU's Ellison Hall.

In January, The READ Center began holding classes at Virginia Union University, a historically black university established in 1865 located in Richmond's Northside. Being on VUU's campus offers READ students a sense of college life as they take classes in Ellison Hall and are moving around with VUU students.

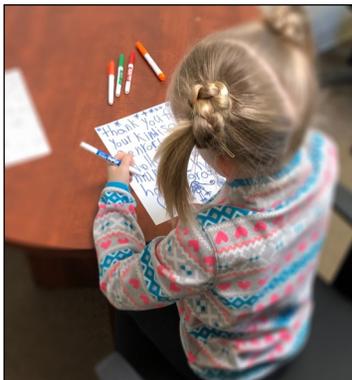
We are grateful to Maurice Campbell, VUU's Senior Vice President of Corporate and External Affairs, for working with READ to advance the education of READ students. **Thank you Virginia Union University!**

Thank You for Joining Lizzy in Supporting READ!

Thank you for joining Lizzy, READ's youngest donor, in contributing to our annual fund.

Thanks to your generosity, we raised nearly \$23,000 in response to READ's annual appeal.

Because of YOU, students are able to build their reading, writing, math, and digital skills so they can accomplish their goals, such as getting a driver's license, supporting their children's education, improving their self-sufficiency, and finding or getting a better job. READ could not do all it does for its students without you.



Lizzy writes a thank you note.

The A-B-Cs of Donor Advised Funds

What are Donor Advised Funds (DAF)? DAFs date back to the 1930s, but in the last decade have gained more popularity in the philanthropic community. DAF assets totaled \$110 Billion in 2017. A DAF is a giving vehicle established at a public charity or sponsoring organization charity, that allows donors to make a charitable contribution, receive an immediate tax deduction and recommend grants from the fund over time. Simply put, a DAF is an investment account dedicated solely to one's charitable giving.

How does a DAF work? A donor contributes to a DAF and receives an immediate tax deduction. The assets now legally belong to the DAF's sponsoring organization. The donor can assume the role of the DAF advisor and the sponsoring organizations tend to allow the DAF advisor to recommend how the assets are invested, recommend donation decisions, and choose successor advisor(s) if the DAF outlives the donor.

What are the benefits of DAFs? 1.) DAFs provide the donor with increased giving potential. Assets in a DAF are invested tax-free, enabling the donor to grant more to a charity in the long run. 2.) DAFs allow donors flexibility in distributing grants. Unlike foundations, which require minimum annual donations, DAFs can bunch their grants into one year or pause for several years before giving again. 3.) Most sponsoring organizations can accept donations of cash and non-cash assets such as appreciated securities, property and complex assets.

DAFs provide a mechanism for other charitable giving tactics as well. For instance, the DAF can facilitate giving anonymously. The DAF can also facilitate donating appreciated securities or other property to a smaller charity that doesn't have the means of handling the donation directly. The donor-advised fund can function as a less expensive and less time-consuming alternative to a private grantmaking foundation, providing a means for the whole family to engage in the process of charitable giving, while allowing for the tax-free growth of a family's charitable legacy.

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Leave a Legacy of Literacy

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. You don't need a large income or vast estate, just the thoughtful intention of continuing your commitment to The READ Center.

You can support READ through deferred gifts, such as bequests, charitable trusts, retirement assets, or life insurance.

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

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

You can continue to change lives through literacy for generations to come.

Support READ While You Shop



You shop. Amazon gives.

AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon (same products, prices, and shopping features as Amazon.com) that will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice. If you are an Amazon shopper, please shop through <https://smile.amazon.com> and select The READ Center as your charity.



Are you a Kroger shopper? If so, you can support READ with through the Community Rewards program. All you need to do is to enroll in Community Rewards using your Kroger customer card. You can enroll at www.kroger.com. The READ Center's code is QU678.

Tutor Spotlight

Each year more than 130 volunteers donate their time to support READ students. Learn more about our tutors in the monthly Tutor Spotlight at readcenter.org.

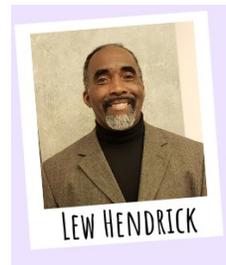


What's your favorite memory of volunteering with READ? At the end of my first class, the group I had been working with had been reading a continuing story. It was the last class and everyone was so excited to find out how it ended they just wanted to keep reading and not work on any of the exercises.



What motivates you to work with READ? I love our students—they are some of the most dedicated individuals I have ever met. There is a core group of students with some who have come and gone—but they are so cohesive and are so helpful, caring and encouraging to one

another. What motivates me is not only the students' needs but their dedication to come every week—some for years and years.



If you could encourage someone else to volunteer with READ, what would you say? I would say that it is a blessing for both the student and the tutor. Also, I would remind them that reading is fundamental to all aspects of life.

Virginia Literacy Foundation Awards READ Center Matching Grant

You can help READ students make literacy progress today! For 2018-2019, the Virginia Literacy Foundation awarded The READ Center a \$7,500 challenge grant to support its adult literacy work in Richmond. This funding provides READ students with access to the online literacy app, IXL.

The IXL app allows students to build digital skills while practicing reading and math lessons. Access to IXL also provides additional opportunities for students to work on their literacy skills beyond the classroom. The app has been helpful to students who face health barriers and cannot make it to class or who want to get in extra practice.

With the challenge grant, VLF matches donations -- up to a total of \$7,500-- made by individual donors, corporations, and foundations. Donations may be in the form of cash gifts, in-kind contributions, or volunteer time. Donate today to take part in the challenge!