

READ Between The Wines 2019

READ Between The Wines, The READ Center's yearly celebration of adult literacy for students, volunteers, staff, and supporters, took place on Wednesday, September 25th, during National Adult Literacy and Family Education Week. The program featured a compelling message from Mayor Levar Stoney and presentations from students. After Mayor Stoney spoke about the importance of adult literacy, students took the stage to share their stories.

Program Manager Nausha Brown Chavez led group interviews, where students spoke about their experiences with their teachers, classmates, and more. Several shared success stories and how improved literacy skills have empowered them. Some memorable quotes from students include:

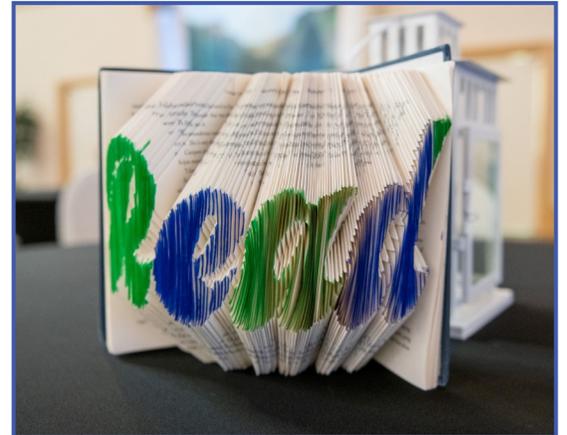
"My goal is to help those people who cannot help themselves."

"God gives his hardest battles to his strongest soldiers. I guess I'm one of those soldiers."

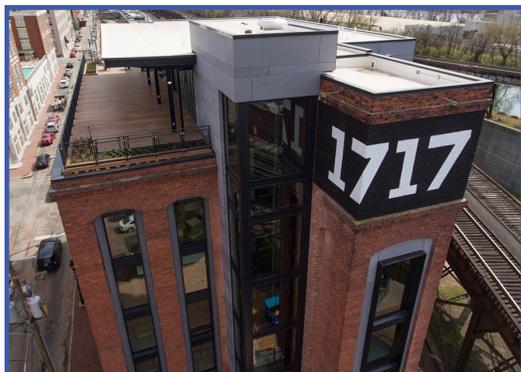
"I thank [my teacher] Don for everything he did showing me how to read. I am real happy here."

In addition to the group interviews, students had the opportunity to present pieces they had read in class or written themselves. Several also took the time to tell the audience about their personal journey, from their decision to join READ to how it has impacted their lives for the better.

A special thank you goes out to our host, The Renaissance, and sponsors Sands Anderson, AP Group, Heritage Wealth Advisors, The John Daylor Team, and Sycom for helping make the evening happen.



READ Center Chosen for Nonprofit Accelerator



READ joins four other organizations in Capital One's first ever accelerator program for nonprofits, Grow @1717. The 12 week program provides mentoring, strategy assessments, professional development, and other services to nonprofit leaders in Richmond.

For READ, the accelerator program provides an exciting opportunity to continue positive growth. Through networking with other Richmond nonprofits and gaining knowledge from workshops and pro bono services, READ will walk away with tangible solutions and new strategies to support the mission of changing lives through adult literacy.

Donor Spotlight



**WELLS
FARGO**

The READ Center is a proud grant recipient!



READ welcomed 25 new tutors to our community in the year's first tutor training, led by teacher Leslie Harper.



A Home for READ

READ Continues to look for new space

The search for READ's new home is underway. The READ Center staff, with the help and support of experienced community volunteers, are reviewing sites and are trying to find just the right one for students, volunteers and staff. The ideal location will have room for three classrooms, a computer lab, space for one-to-one tutor pairs to work with access to the READ library and resources, and offices for staff members.

The READ Center developed a checklist of items that were important for a new location. In addition to program needs, easy access to the bus line is important for students. Also important for student and tutors is access to on-site/street parking.

READ remains committed to meeting students where they are and will continue to operate satellite classes in the Richmond metro area. The new site will allow READ to reach more students and provide more programs, including technology classes.

Financial Literacy in the Community

In August, Program Manager Nausha Brown Chavez led financial literacy classes for incoming freshmen at Virginia Union University. Students learned how they can best steward their finances with topics including budgeting, retirement programs, and debt.

“The students were very interactive and energetic. They came with good questions and suggestions for others who had questions,” Nausha said.

The READ Center originally developed the financial literacy curriculum for READ students and updated it for VUU students. Financial literacy is an essential tool for college students and adults alike. Whether they are preparing to enter the workforce, balancing their budgets, saving for a house, or planning their retirement, students in these classes are given tools to handle their money so that they can reach their goals.



Members of VUU’s marching band attend one of the financial literacy classes after practice.

READ is committed to providing literacy classes to all who need them. Your support has been vital to the success of this new program, and with your help these classes can continue to serve our community. READ is working with local organizations to provide more financial literacy classes. As dates are finalized, they will be added to our calendar.

“It’s hard for me to believe that I would have ever accomplished my goals. I am a recovering addict who has been clean for 7 years. I know that I didn’t do it by myself—it was the grace of God. It’s a wonderful, wonderful feeling. Now I know that if I continue all my hard work, I will be able to take my GED and pass it, so that I can further my education. My goal is to become a great nurse.”

-READ student Isabelle



Your Support Shapes Stories

Some READ students never finished middle school. Some have their GED certification. Some need to upskill so they can advance in their jobs. Some want to be able to read to their grandchildren.

No matter what the reason is, our students have amazing stories of why they came to The READ Center, stories like Isabelle, who dropped out of school at age 14. Years later, after becoming a student at READ, she has achieved several reading, writing, and math goals on the way to her ultimate goal of becoming a nurse.

Your support shapes our students’ stories. A gift to READ means adults like Isabelle can follow and achieve their dreams. Thank you for your commitment to providing skills that can pave the way to better stories and better futures. To read more about Isabelle and other students, visit READ’s blog on readcenter.org.

Student Spotlight: Dequane



It was a happy day for READ student Dequane when he achieved one of his personal goals: he passed his driver's test! Congratulations, Dequane, for a job well done and for all your hard work.



November 27-29: Thanksgiving Holiday— No Classes

November 28-29: Thanksgiving Holiday— Office Closed

December 12: Last Day of Fall Classes

December 13-31: Winter Break— No Classes

December 23-25: Office Closed

January 1: New Year's Day— Office Closed

January 3: First Day of Spring Classes



Target Circle

We are honored and excited to announce that we have been chosen to participate in a special charitable giving campaign, sponsored and funded by Target. And you have the chance to help direct a portion of Target's donation to us!

Now through January 5, vote for us through the Target Circle program to help determine how Target's donation will be divided up. Find out more about Target Circle here:

www.target.com/circle

We're asking our supporters to help us make the most of this incredible opportunity. Every vote counts to help us receive a portion of the available Target funds as we continue our mission to change lives through adult literacy.

Don't forget, as you earn more votes, you can keep voting multiple times during the campaign!

Thank you for your support, and we encourage you to share your support for us (and your thanks to Target) on social media throughout the duration of the voting!

Save The Dates

DECEMBER 3, 2019

GIVING TUESDAY

Make a difference for adults in greater Richmond. Donate to The READ Center.

The Great Richmond



Mark your calendars for the fourth annual Great Richmond Trivia Bee! Join us on Wednesday, April 29, 2020 for an exciting evening of food, fun, and facts as we raise money for The READ Center.

If you are interested in sponsoring the event or registering teams, contact Erin Hillert at erin@readcenter.org