FALL 2015

I can read.

New beginnings are always exciting! With a new logo, new Board members and a growing staff, we look to the upcoming year with hope and a focus to our mission and a new message of: I CAN.

I is for Inspiring children and families to be lifelong readers. In 2015, Read for Literacy touched the lives of more than 29,400 children, adults and families and provided literacy outreach of books and author/illustrator visits to more than 15,260 additional students. Our lines of service were bursting as the love of books came to life!

C is for CLAIRE: Celebrating Life, Authors, Illustrators and Reading Excellence. Our community is one that loves the library and loves books. The Claire’s Day Book Festival, honoring Claire Lynsey Rubini is a celebration of this pairing. This hands-on children’s day continues to grow yearly and promises something for everyone, including writings, illustrations and poetry expressions all used to help children and families discover and engage in literacy. Mark your calendar for May 21 at the Maumee Library.

A is for Access. Families who live at or below poverty do not possess many of the resources that are essential to succeed. In the year ahead we will use donations to provide books, supplies, parent notes, and activity guides; and share information about community resources that will make our students and families successful in life.

N is for Nearly. Nearly 26% of third graders in Lucas County are not proficient in reading, and more than 39,000 adults are reading below the fourth grade level. We are challenged by these staggering numbers. However the time is now to move from I can’t to, I can and at the same time make reading magical!

In the weeks ahead, as you are making your holiday and New Year’s gift decisions, we invite you to read, give or volunteer with Read for Literacy.

As you pick up a book to read - a child sees you reading - and will want to read too! Take time for reading and when you can, read together.

When you make a donation to Read for Literacy we will use your gift wisely. There are many reasons to give, and when you do, our students will be provided with the tools they need to read! When you say yes, to volunteering, we will match you with an adult or student who is eager to learn.

With your help, I CAN READ will be a reality for our students.
Family Reading

“...An extraordinary program is what we need,” said Diana Bush, Senior Director of Operations and Jeanette Hrovatich, Executive Director.

With these words in mind, Read for Literacy expanded adult and children programs into a literacy model that serves the entire family. We wanted to afford families the opportunity to meet with other families who are struggling with low-literacy and low self-esteem, so that learning could take place in a welcoming environment.

We are an inclusive community partnership that strives to educate children to become strong, confident readers. Read for Literacy offers literacy tutoring to these adults, because everyone should have an opportunity to learn.

Following a year of programming in South Toledo and Sylvania, we are happy to share that 80% of the students showed an increase in overall literacy skills, 50% increased reading scores and 70% increased writing skills. At these new levels, students were able to set realistic goals, interpret conversations, recognize common idioms and request information in simple sentence structure! It has been both inspirational and informative to sit with these families and to see the relationships begin to flourish and literacy confidence build.

Volunteers are the heart of Read for Literacy & Claire’s Day. In the next 100 days, we will work to recruit, train and place 100 new volunteers for Adult Literacy, English Language Learners and Creating Young Readers Elementary and Preschool Programs. If you can give 1–2 hours per week sharing your love of reading with another person— we need you!

All materials provided! Flexible schedules.

Call Nikyle Fitzgerald, Volunteer Coordinator at 419.242.7323 ext. 12 and he will work to get you started!

CREATING YOUNG READERS

STEM & Literacy

More and more research is being conducted on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math) and its correlation to reading. Strong readers are able to look at textbook materials, newspaper articles, online information and literature to make decisions, comprehend material and excel in the classroom. Those that struggle with reading may need some additional hands-on opportunities too.

At Read for Literacy we have worked to create Take Home Activity Sheets that are sent home with books that children can keep for their at-home libraries. These activities are simple enough that students and families can be engaged in inquiry.

Try to use these simple steps:
1. Read the book together.
2. Ask questions.
3. Encourage having the child retell the story.
4. Make predictions and suggest answers and explanations.
5. Investigate, observe and experiment.
6. Read other books.

An extraordinary program to help families flourish and literacy confidence build.

Following a year of programming in South Toledo and Sylvania, we are happy to share that 80% of the students showed an increase in overall literacy skills, 50% increased reading scores and 70% increased writing skills. At these new levels, students were able to set realistic goals, interpret conversations, recognize common idioms and request information in simple sentence structure! It has been both inspirational and informative to sit with these families and to see the relationships begin to flourish and literacy confidence build.

Volunteers are the heart of Read for Literacy & Claire’s Day. In the next 100 days, we will work to recruit, train and place 100 new volunteers for Adult Literacy, English Language Learners and Creating Young Readers Elementary and Preschool Programs. If you can give 1–2 hours per week sharing your love of reading with another person— we need you!

All materials provided! Flexible schedules.

Call Nikyle Fitzgerald, Volunteer Coordinator at 419.242.7323 ext. 12 and he will work to get you started!

CREATING A CULTURE

Taking the LEAD in the reading culture

Volunteers are the heart of Read for Literacy & Claire’s Day. In the next 100 days, we will work to recruit, train and place 100 new volunteers for Adult Literacy, English Language Learners and Creating Young Readers Elementary and Preschool Programs. If you can give 1–2 hours per week sharing your love of reading with another person— we need you!

All materials provided! Flexible schedules.

Call Nikyle Fitzgerald, Volunteer Coordinator at 419.242.7323 ext. 12 and he will work to get you started!

Adult Basic and English Language Learner Program

Every day adults contact Read for Literacy for help. Many struggle with reading and writing, however they have vast knowledge and life experiences in other areas. For more than 30 years we have relied on volunteers to provide basic literacy tutoring to these adults, because everyone should have an opportunity to learn.

Our tutors help an individual or small groups of learners improve their reading, writing, and/or math skills to reach a variety of goals: reading the newspaper, obtaining employment, helping a child with homework. In some cases the students are learning English for the first time. No matter the skill level, we work to make the perfect tutor to student match.

Our tutors complete 12 hours of training (divided into two sessions) where they will learn to craft goal-oriented lessons using authentic materials geared toward their learners’ goals, strengths, and skills. They are then placed with a willing adult or in a small group setting of 2-4 adults who have all been assessed on the same level of literacy competency.

While there are many rewarding adult basic and English Language Learner programs in our community, Read for Literacy is proud that it is the student who is setting their goals and working with our trained tutors to achieve them.

To learn more about volunteering with our Adult Basic Education and English Language Learner programs, please call Cindy or Maira at 419.242.7323.

FROM SOUTH KOREA TO TOLEDO

My name is MJ, I am 39 years old. I moved to United States from South Korea 7 years ago. Most of my friends are Koreans. It was hard to make American friends because of my shyness or nothing in common.

So I decided to join Read for Literacy. Mary Jo became my English teacher; she is a down to earth, funny and intelligent person. We meet once a week at a coffee shop in a friendly atmosphere and talk about almost everything.

Our time together is so special to me. Our meetings make me more confident in my English and my attitude. I can now go to post office, bank and my son’s school which was not easy before Read for Literacy.

Thank you, Moonjung Choi
A believer in impossible things

Alice in Wonderland told the Queen that “There’s no use in trying since one can’t believe impossible things.”

“The Queen responded, “I dare say you haven’t had much practice. When I was younger, I always did it for half an hour. Why, sometimes I’ve even believed six impossible things before breakfast.” I’ve felt like both Alice and the Queen in my journey to honor and celebrate my daughter Claire.

At times Claire’s Day seemed like an impossible thing.

Then, I met many queens who helped not only establish the organization, but to grow it into what has become Ohio’s largest children’s book festival.

These volunteers lent their time, energy and passion to breathe life into something that has flourished even beyond my expectations.

Claire’s Day now involves the school visit outreach program, whereas 25 area schools host our participating authors and illustrators at their schools. Children who might not have the opportunity to attend the book festival are given the chance to learn from our guest writers and artists.

The C.A.R.E. (Claire’s Awards for Reading Excellence) Awards, given to children nominated as the most improved readers in their schools has grown from just over 20 children recognized in 2002, to more than 700 in 2015. Each child nominated receives a certificate and a coupon to choose a book to claim as their own from the collection presented by Barnes & Noble.

If you haven’t yet been to Claire’s Night, a fun reception for grownups prior to the day event, consider joining us this year. All proceeds support our programming.

As we have merged with Read for Literacy, what seemed impossible at one point, the continuation of our organization beyond my direct involvement, has become a reality.

Now as I venture into the world of children’s literature in my role as book author, writing about other individuals who dared to dream impossible things, Claire’s Day is now in the hands of the Queens of literacy and literary experiences in Toledo.

And I’ve become a believer in impossible things.

Julie Rubini
FOUNDER, CLAIRE’S DAY

Volunteer Spotlight

“You can find magic wherever you look. Sit back and relax, all you need is a book.”

DR. SEUSS

Volunteer Spotlight

Claire Rubini 
CLAIRE’S DAY VOLUNTEER

DID YOU KNOW

65% OF CHILDREN ENTERING KINDERGARTEN IN LUCAS COUNTY ARE NOT READY FOR READING.

36 MILLION ADULTS IN THE US CAN’T READ BETTER THAN THE AVERAGE 3RD GRADER

95% OF THE PRESCHOOL CHILDREN INCREASED THEIR VOCABULARY SKILLS

85% INCREASED THEIR ABILITY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CLASSROOM

36% INCREASED THEIR RHYMING SKILLS
Want to solve clues, take a few photos and have a blast with family and friends? If you do, then Read for Literacy’s Amazing Race Photo Scavenger Hunt, Dinner and Auction is for you!

Join us on Saturday, April 9 from 4:00 to 9:30 pm at The Pinnacle in Maumee, Ohio. You and three additional team members will enjoy driving around town taking photos and then return to The Pinnacle for dinner, music, and an amazing auction. This event is so much fun and the entire family is welcome.

For more details, visit our website at readforliteracy.org or call Cheryl at 419.242.7323 ext. 18. We’d love to see you at the Race!

### Upcoming Events

**NOVEMBER 15-DECEMBER 31, 2015**
- Read for Literacy Holiday Campaign
- 100 Volunteers in 100 days!

**DECEMBER 1, 2015**
#GivingTuesdayNWO
Make an online gift in honor of Read for Literacy

**APRIL 9, 2016**
4:00 pm – 9:30 pm
The Amazing Race Photo Scavenger Hunt Dinner & Auction

**MAY 20, 2016**
6:30 pm – 9:00 pm
Claire’s Night
Secrets on the Maumee Main Library

**MAY 21, 2016**
9:00 am to 4:30 pm
Claire’s Day Festival
Maumee Branch Library

---

### Wish List

- Back packs for adult students
- Stamps
- Pens, pencils, notebook paper
- Large print or simple crossword puzzles
- Coloring books
- Crayons & washable markers
- Flashcards (words, letters, math)
- Bus tokens
- Children’s books
- Newbery and Caldecott Awards winning books

---

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**
Stephen Dobey, Chair
Bob Howell, Vice Chair
Adele M. Jasion, Treasurer
Adrienne Green, Secretary
Shaun McInewson, Asst. Sec.

**TRUSTEES**
Myung Armstrong
Maria Bailey
Julia R. Bates
Earlame Bond
Buckey Brewer
Gary Conigan
Brian Craig
Pat Lora
Todd Roman
Constance Snyder
Cari Sweeney
Lala Waggoner
Mark Wada
Joe Walsigian
Cheryl Wolff

**EMERITUS DIRECTORS**
William Block, Jr.
B. Gary McBride
Brad Rubini
Julie K. Rubini
Clyde Scoles

---

**OUR MISSION**
To provide a range of literacy services and trainings that enable children, adults and families the opportunity to achieve success.

Read for Literacy Purpose
- To inspire children and families to be lifelong readers through exposure to a variety of literacy opportunities and experiences.
- To provide programs that Celebrate Life, Authors, Illustrators and Reading Excellence while honoring the memory of Claire Lynsey Rubini.
- To recruit, train and place volunteers to act as Reader Friends and Tutors on a one to one basis with individuals who require literacy assistance.
- To serve as the leading advocate for literacy in our community and work cooperatively with other literacy projects.

---

**Facilities**
- 325 North Michigan
  Toledo, Ohio 43604
- 419.242.7323

---

**Staff**
- Arlana Alexander, M.Ed
  Coordinator Children’s Literacy
- Diana Bush
  Senior Director, Operations
- Cynthia Carson, PhD
  Director of Adult Education
- Vickie Egan, M.Ed
  Director of Creating Young Readers
- Nylake Fitzgerald II
  Volunteer Coordinator
- Marc Fuller
  Administrative Coordinator
- Marie Galvan
  Coordinator English Language Learners
- Jeannette Hrovatich
  Executive Director
- Cheryl Rothschild
  Director of Events & Outreach
- Kristin Zike
  Coordinator Claire’s Day