



Let us give thanks!

Augustine Project News

Changing lives two at a time through literacy tutoring, compassion & caring.

November 2010

Volume I, Number I

We share in the joys of learning.

The season of Thanksgiving is the ideal time for the Augustine Project in Charlotte to publish its first newsletter because there is so much for which we are grateful.

As Director of Augustine, I consider my role to be a blessing for me. I have seen how the vision and cooperation of our board and other supporters have demonstrated the power of a shared mission and **our mission is critical.**

Research tells us that children who fall behind in primary grades do not catch up without explicit instruction. 74% of children who are behind in reading in third grade are still behind in ninth grade. Our volunteers use their training and materials to help close the gaps for low income children and teens.

Our mission is to increase the reading, writing, and spelling skills of low income children and teens who struggle with literacy skills. The Project trains and supports volunteer tutors who provide free, long-term, one-on-one instruction using the principals of multi-sensory learning based on the Orton-Gillingham approach and Wilson Reading System® materials. To learn more about the Project, visit our website at www.augustineproject.org

Our own assessment and those of the schools show improvement in areas such as word recognition, spelling, fluency and comprehension.

We give thanks, then, for our remarkable Augustine volunteer tutors who:

- ◆ See their child twice a week with prescriptive lessons based on that child's needs in spelling, reading and writing.
- ◆ Complete a two week training workshop in multi-sensory learning based on Orton-Gillingham and Wilson Reading System® materials.
- ◆ Commit to provide at least 60 prescriptive one-on-one lessons to a low income child struggling with literacy skills.
- ◆ Continue to serve beyond giving the 60 lessons as

tutors and supporters of Augustine.

As an Augustine student begins to work with her tutor, she sees progress in learning to read, spell and write. Sharing the moment when she wants to read — because now she can — is a life changing opportunity for both pupil and tutor.

Literacy skills are survival skills and a path to a brighter future. Augustine invites you to join us in our unique mission.

Candace Armstrong

Project Director

For more information, or to refer a student, contact
Candace Armstrong:
armstrong4300@bellsouth.net
704-332-7746

Augustine Has Empowered Tutor and Student

Cynthia Buck is an Augustine volunteer. She shares her insights and rewards as a tutor for her student, William.

I met William two years ago through a partnership with his school and my church. He was in the 3rd grade and was a quiet child, but he impressed me with his hard work and his willingness to please.

Reading was a huge struggle for him. When he saw some familiar letters he just guessed, and often he was wrong. I felt inadequate and doubted he was deriving any real benefit from my tutoring. I wanted to do more.

I made the decision to take the Augustine training in August 2009. The intense but excellent training prepared me to try

again with William and I began to tutor him 2 or 3 days a week after school.

Since I was teaching him literacy skills in a prescribed sequence, I "knew what he knew," (or at least what he was supposed to know). Now I knew when to help him and when to allow him to work things out.

Now a 5th grader, William is closing the gap between his reading level and where he needs to be.

He is more talkative and delights me with his curiosity about the world around him. His word attack skills continue to develop, and he still works hard and wants to improve.

As his mother, who is very supportive of the tutoring, says, "We are making progress." She is deeply pleased that someone has taken an interest in her child.

My favorite moment with William came as we read his book

together. He often tries to bargain for fewer pages to read. This particular time he found that he had become very interested and asked if he could read more. He was as surprised as I!

The Augustine Project has given me the tools to help William, and I hope to continue with him. In spite of his difficulties, he has not given up.

I value our relationship and hope that it will keep him in school. Although reading may never be his favorite activity, I strive to help him not only learn to read, but to read to learn.



Cynthia Buck
Augustine Tutor





Augustine Project

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2010—2011

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*Wishing you  
a happy holiday  
season!*

## Coming in February!

### Learn More About Augustine Training: “What Distinguishes an Augustine Tutor?”

Please join literacy facilitators, leaders of faith-based CMS volunteer groups and others to learn how an Augustine lesson plan incorporates the five essential components of effective reading instruction.

Augustine volunteers tutor their students twice a week throughout the school year with a scripted 10-point lesson based on the principles of Orton-Gillingham and using Wilson Reading System® materials.

Our training incorporates multi-sensory learning strategies that are effective in developing phonological awareness, phonics, vocabulary, fluency and comprehension.

**Please plan to join us for a morning coffee session in February.  
We'll be discussing our training and demonstrating tutoring strategies.**

**For more details, contact Candace Armstrong, Project Director:**

**armstrong4300@bellsouth.net or 704-332-7746**

## Augustine Tutor Placements

Currently, the Augustine Project has placed 35 tutors, serving 37 students. CMS locations include:

*Bruns Avenue Elementary*

*Lansdowne Elementary*

*Rama Road Elementary*

*Cotswold Elementary*

*McAlpine Elementary*

*Randolph Middle*

*Crestdale Middle*

*Mallard Creek Elementary*

*Selwyn Elementary*

*Devonshire Elementary*

*Merry Oaks Elementary*

*Sharon Elementary*

*Elizabeth Traditional Elementary*

*Olde Providence*

*Smithfield Elementary*

*Hornets Nest Elementary*

*Park Road Montessori Elementary*

*Westerly Hills Elementary*

**Augustine tutors also meet students in libraries and other community-based sites,  
such as First Tee of Charlotte Learning Academy.**

**For more information about the Project and volunteer opportunities,  
or to refer a student, contact Candace Armstrong, Project Director  
armstrong4300@bellsouth.net or 704-332-7746**

## Thank You for Your Past and Future Support

We continue to build this vital community project with the generous support of the Jesse Ball DuPont Fund, as well as St. Peter's Episcopal Church, St. Peter's Hospital Foundation, and individual contributors.

We appreciate the support of IVIZE managing partner Tom Pagani and his staff for printing our training manuals for the past six years.

We offer special thanks to St. Martin's Episcopal Church and to Elizabeth Traditional Elementary School for hosting our tutor training and practicum.

Finally, thank you to School Specialty and EPS Publishing representative Cynthia Holley, for her support.

To join in supporting our work, please make your check payable to *St. Peter's Episcopal Church* and note *Augustine Project* in the memo line of your check. You may mail your contribution to:

**Augustine Project**

**St. Peter's Episcopal Church**

**115 West 7th Street, Charlotte, NC 28202**