



AUGUSTINE LITERACY PROJECT®

Charlotte

Fall 2017

Dear Friends,

All children deserve the chance to be successful in school, and yet a significant number of children struggle to acquire basic reading skills that open the door to subsequent learning. We now know that reading well by third grade is critically important, a powerful indicator of high school graduation and future success.

Unfortunately, over 60% of our CMS 3rd graders are not reading on grade level. For low income children, that figure is over 75%. The good news is that with early, intensive intervention poor readers can be taught the foundational skills necessary to becoming fluent, successful readers. In an effort to identify research-based practices that move the needle on reading, Read Charlotte (www.readcharlotte.org) found that high quality structured one-on-one tutoring can help struggling readers grow over 4 times more than other interventions.

This is exactly the kind of intervention Augustine tutors provide to economically disadvantaged students in 16 Charlotte-Mecklenburg schools. Our tutors complete 42+ hours of training in a research-based method of instruction that is multi-sensory, direct, explicit and systematic. Tutors meet with their students twice each week and stay with the child until tutoring is no longer needed. Augustine is the only program offering this level of training to tutors and long-term literacy support to students.

Thank you, Augustine donors, tutors, school and community partners, for supporting our work and helping us serve more struggling readers each year. 2017 was another year of growth for ALP: in January, we held our largest training class, hosted by Brookstone Schools, and in May, we celebrated Augustine tutors who, together, provided 5,375 hours of individualized instruction to 154 struggling readers in high-poverty schools.

Over the summer, Augustine developed a curriculum for multi-sensory sight word instruction that was implemented by Freedom School Partners and reached 450+ rising first- through third-graders.

And this fall, ALP completed two tutor training classes, welcoming 31 new tutors to our ranks. ALP Site Coordinators are supporting tutors in 10 Charlotte-Mecklenburg partner schools in addition to 6 other schools. Please see the back page for a list of the schools we serve.

As we head into 2018, we look forward to welcoming our 11th partner school, Billingsville Elementary. This new partnership is made possible by Crossroads Corporation. If you are interested in tutoring at Billingsville or elsewhere, please see www.alpcharlotte.org for an application. And please spread the word!

The growth of Augustine Literacy Project is exciting because it means more struggling readers are developing the foundational reading skills that will help set them on a path to success.

Please consider helping us continue this important work. By investing in ALP, you are investing in the future of our community. This December, Augustine supporters created a **\$20,000 matching pool**: new or increased donations will be matched, up to \$20,000! If you have questions about your giving history, please email Eleanor Moore at emoore@alpcharlotte.org.

Thank you for helping us serve Charlotte's most vulnerable students with highly trained volunteer literacy tutors. This season, please partner with us again and give the best gift of all - hope for a better future through the gift of reading.

Happy Holidays, Alison



Alison Houser
ALP-Charlotte Executive Director

▲ Changing Lives, Two (or more!) at a Time: Spotlight on Augustine Tutor, Carol Gray-Adler

"I have been so lucky to work with so many great tutors," says Sarah Yancey, the vibrant first-grade teacher at Huntingtowne Farms Elementary School who spoke at Augustine's Rise and Read fundraiser this past spring. This season we are shining the spotlight on one of the extraordinary tutors who has helped Ms. Yancey form this impression: Carol Gray-Adler. Ms. Yancey, an Augustine Literacy Project supporter, exudes enthusiasm as she recounts Ms. Gray-Adler's many virtues, "Carol Gray-Adler is such a dedicated, kind, encouraging tutor for Augustine Literacy Project! She worked with one of my students last year, and constantly made him feel more confident as a reader. He was able to grow many reading levels thanks to her hard work with him."

Carol first heard about the Augustine Literacy Project (ALP) through the Women's Leadership Network in connection with her employment at Belk. Having a passion for education as a way out of poverty and hearing all the great things that Nancy De Luna of Communities in Schools had to say about ALP at Montclair Elementary, Carol knew she wanted to be an Augustine tutor.



Carol Gray-Adler & a happy ALP student

When Carol retired from Belk in 2014, becoming a tutor was on the "top of the list" of things to do. Currently, Carol is tutoring two students at Huntingtowne Farms Elementary, bringing her total number of students tutored to four. Having already completed her 60 hour commitment, Carol is motivated to keep tutoring because of the feelings of happiness and hope she receives after working with a student. She says, "When I work with my students, I am happy that I have helped them gain skills

for a lifetime. You can't really ask for anything better." Carol's Augustine students keep her motivated with their smiles and pictures. Carol also appreciates the warm reception she has received from the teachers at Huntingtowne Farms Elementary over the years.

Not only does Carol go above and beyond within Augustine, Carol is an active volunteer at Classroom Central and as a Guardian-Ad-Litum for children in the foster care system. Through her community volunteer work, Carol impacts the lives of children and changes the trajectory of their lives. Thank you, Carol, for living up to our motto, *Tutor One Child, Change Two (or Three, or Four) Lives*.

**Augustine Announces
\$20,000 Matching Pool
From ALP Supporters!**



NOW is the best time to give! A loyal group of ALP-Charlotte supporters will match \$ for \$, new donations and increases over last year, up to \$20,000! For example, if you gave \$250 last year, and this year, you give \$300, your \$50 increase will be matched. This match will close December 31, 2017, so please send in your donation today.

*If you have questions about your giving history, please contact
Eleanor Moore • emoore@alpcharlotte.org • 704-749-6162*

By the Numbers...

Our 2016-2017 School Year:

13,351

Volunteer Hours devoted to lesson preparation, instruction and training

5,375

Tutoring Sessions valued at a market rate of \$279,000+

154

Low-Income Students Served in 20 Charlotte-area schools

99%

Students improved in knowledge of letters and digraphs

97%

Students improved in sight word reading

1.7

Grade Levels (average) of Reading Growth in decoding and word attack, 93% of students showed growth

90%

Tutors Returned for the 2017-18 school year!

Local Grant Awarded



In May 2017, the Davidson College Non-Profit Sector class, designed and taught by Dr. Ken Menkhaus, awarded the Augustine Literacy Project-Charlotte a Davidson College 2017 Learning by Giving Grant in the amount of \$5,100. The funds come from the Learning by Giving Foundation, founded by Doris Buffett, older sister of Warren Buffett. The Foundation helps undergraduates understand the process, rigors and importance of philanthropy through accredited courses in which funds are distributed directly to local community organizations.

▲ Giving Tuesday: November 14-28



Giving Tuesday encourages charitable activities that support nonprofit organizations and falls on the Tuesday immediately following Thanksgiving. In 2016, ALP-Charlotte raised over \$15,000 during the Giving Tuesday campaign. Any donation we receive **November 14-28 will be eligible for matching funds** from #GivingTuesdayCLT.

"It is one thing to tell a child to have big dreams, that she can be anything she wants to be, but you [Augustine tutors] are actually equipping her with practical skills that are a first step toward attainable goals. And maybe most importantly, you are giving her hope for the future – a future where she has the opportunity to achieve and contribute."

– **Dee O'Dell**, Co-Chair of the Charlotte Mecklenburg Opportunity Task Force
Augustine Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon, May 2017.



Dee O'Dell (center), with ALP Executive Director Alison Houser (left) and ALP-Charlotte Board Member Sally Davis (right)



September 2017 Tutor Training Graduates and Coaches



October 2017 Tutor Training Graduates and Coaches

▲ Fall Training: Welcome Recent Training Graduates!

We welcome 31 new tutors to the Augustine family! Tutors from our fall classes are serving students at the following elementary schools: Blythe, Bruns, Elizabeth Traditional, Huntingtowne Farms, Montclair, Oakhurst STEAM, Rama Road, Sedgefield, Sterling and Winding Springs.

The best part of training is our practicum, where trainees assess students and deliver four ALP lessons under the supervision of a coach. Thank you to the following Augustine tutors who coached our new tutors this fall:

Carol Gray-Adler
Anne Bayliss
Cynthia Buck
Megan Forrest

Eleanor Hahn
Kelly Halmrast
Jennie Hawes
Linda Hefner

Fran Huske
Julie Lavoie
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Become a Tutor or Refer a Friend!

Applications are available online at alpcharlotte.org

WINTER 2018 TRAINING SESSION:

January 29, 30, 31 &
February 1, 2, 6, 8 (7 days)

Get Rowdy for Reading



▲ We Had A Party For Literacy!

Over 200 people helped raise over \$15,000 for the **Augustine Literacy Project-Charlotte** at our November 4, 2017 Get Rowdy for Reading fundraiser at NoDa Brewing. Thank you to Linda Hefner, Silent Auction Chair and ALP Tutor, and Ambika Spinazzola, Event Chair and ALP Board Member, for their leadership and hard work.

Everyone loved the friendly, casual atmosphere and live music from Grievous Angels and Amigo. The Silent Auction was a huge success, thanks to all our friends and participating businesses. NoDa Brewing donated \$1 of every pint, and we raffled off a Carolina Panthers lithographed football. Above all else, we made new friends and enjoyed spending time with our incredible, raving Augustine fans!



◀ *Marion Idol, ALP-Charlotte Site Coordinator (2nd from right), socializes with teachers from ALP partner school, Elizabeth Traditional Elementary.*



▲ *Chubby Checker got down, dancing with the Grievous Angels.*

▼ *The Cork Pull was a huge hit! Thank you to our generous wine donors from The Rosewood and points beyond.*



▲ *Harris Holt, ALP-Charlotte Board Member, and business partner/wife, Lyn, checked out items at the Silent Auction.*



◀ *ALP-Charlotte Board Chair, Kelly Keeling, and Executive Director, Alison Houser, showcase Augustine Bears for Kids, the brainchild of ALP Tutor Ellen Carlisle and friends.*

Thank you to our Silent Auction in-kind donors!

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|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
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| Carol Gray-Adler | Carolina Panthers |
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We continue to build this vital community project with the generous support of **St. Peter's Episcopal Church.**

We offer special thanks to St. Martin's Episcopal Church and First Baptist Charlotte for hosting our tutor training classes, and the following elementary schools for serving as practicum sites:

Brookstone Schools, Bruns Elementary, Elizabeth Traditional Elementary and Oakhurst STEAM Academy.

We are pleased to thank the following Community Partners and acknowledge their generous support:

Supporters listed in **bold** have provided \$10,000+ (or equivalent in-kind) this year.

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Park Road Montessori
Rama Road Elementary*
Sedgefield Elementary*
Sharon Elementary
Sterling Elementary*
Winding Springs Elementary*

*ALP Partner School

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Our Mission

To improve the reading, writing and spelling skills of low income students who struggle with literacy by providing free, long-term one-on-one instruction from highly trained volunteer tutors.

Contribute

We rely heavily on individual contributions and appreciate all donations. ALP is not a religious program, and all donations are tax-deductible gifts to a restricted fund. Donate using the enclosed card, or online: alpcharlotte.org

For more information, contact us:

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