



Dear Friends,

The Augustine Literacy Project-Charlotte is growing by leaps and bounds. Thanks to your generosity Augustine has doubled the number of students receiving intensive literacy tutoring over the past two years. We are also developing an ambitious monitoring and evaluation plan with the help of the Urban Institute at UNC-Charlotte. ALP-Charlotte is now in 19 schools, where 100% of the children we serve are low-income.



*Kelly Reed Keeling,
ALP-Charlotte Board Chair*

A couple of weeks ago, I was fortunate to meet a 1st grade Augustine student, Shante. It was heart-wrenching to hear him try to say a list of words. One could see him concentrating, and watch him getting frustrated. But then, a miracle happened! His Augustine tutor gave him subtle hand signals to cue him to use skills she had taught him. The child seemed reluctant, at first, but then he tapped out syllables as he enunciated the words carefully. He smiled. Success! Our volunteers and staff have what it takes to move the needle for these children. Every day our tutors are helping children form new skills that will last a lifetime.

I remain passionate about the Augustine Literacy Project for two reasons: 1) Augustine literacy tutoring works, and 2) Augustine tutoring makes a tangible difference in a child's future. The one-on-one, sequential, multi-sensory methodology helps struggling readers learn to read. Moreover, early literacy opens the door for future success, increasing the likelihood of a child making good choices in adolescence, completing high school, and becoming a productive citizen.

Each Augustine volunteer tutor commits to 42 hours of training and 60 hours of pro bono tutoring. In spite of the time commitment, our tutor training sessions remain filled to capacity with a waiting list. If you know someone who would like to join this cadre of highly trained volunteers, or simply learn more about the Augustine Literacy Project-Charlotte, I encourage you to read below about our April 21st Informational Coffee.

Furthermore, I hope you will consider making a donation to fuel our growth. Your donation allows Augustine Literacy Project-Charlotte to serve more young struggling readers and to help change the trajectory of their lives.

Thank you for your continued support,

Kelly Reed Keeling



It's Tutor Recruitment Season!

Demand from principals and teachers for additional highly-trained Augustine tutors always exceeds the supply. Help ALP meet the need by spreading the word about these upcoming opportunities:

ALP Informational Coffee
Thursday, April 21 • 10-11am
Rama Road Elementary School



This session is for prospective tutors and anyone interested in learning more about our work to improve the reading, writing and spelling skills of low-income children who struggle with literacy. **Please RSVP to: jheath@augustine.st-peters.org**

▲ Changing Lives, Two At A Time: Spotlight on Augustine Tutor, Linda Hefner

We're shining the spotlight on Linda Hefner, an Augustine tutor since 2015 at Sedgefield Elementary School, where she also attended as a student a few years back! A volunteer at Sedgefield since 2004, Linda learned of ALP when it first started in Charlotte. The timing wasn't right for her involvement then, but she kept thinking and reading about it as she continued to volunteer in the school. In February 2015, Linda applied for the training program and was thrilled to get into the class! Linda said she knew "ALP would give me the tools to figure out how to better help a child to read."

Linda was assigned to her student, Peter,* during the training practicum and has been working with him ever since. Peter has a challenging set of circumstances as a child experiencing homelessness. Since Linda and Peter began working together last February, Peter and his family have lived in six different hotels, with a period at his grandmother's house that, sadly, didn't last long. "I could talk about Peter for hours," Linda said, clearly devoted to this child. His environment negatively impacts his ability to learn. When Linda was first paired with him, Peter was behind in every area of schoolwork. She says that she has seen big improvements in his reading since they began their lessons. The consistency and structure provided by the twice-weekly Augustine sessions give Peter a stability that he is lacking elsewhere in his life.



Peter and Linda work their way through a controlled reader.

Peter is also benefiting from the advocacy Linda provides. She keeps in close contact with his teacher as well as the school's Family Advocate and the Communities in Schools staff member who arranges weekly counseling for Peter. Linda is not just Peter's Augustine tutor, she is his cheerleader and all-around support person!

Linda credits Microsoft founder, Bill Gates, with providing great inspiration to her, when he said, "The ticket out of poverty is education." "I can't fix Peter's life," Linda says, "but with the tools Augustine has given me, I can help him read and write – and that can never be taken away from him."

**The name of her student has been changed to protect his privacy.*

Fall 2016 Tutor Training Classes

Session I: September 12 - 16, 20 and 22 (7 days)
Session II: October 17 - 21, 25 and 27 (7 days)

Each session is from 9am-3pm. Tutors learn ALP's research-based approach to reading instruction, receive all tutoring materials, and participate in a supervised practicum. *For more information, please visit our website and attend the ALP Informational Coffee!*

▲ Winter Tutor Training Class

In February, we trained tutors for our newest partner school, Winding Springs Elementary, and for Bruns Academy, Rama Road and Brookstone Schools. Welcome to the ALP family! We appreciate your dedication to helping a struggling reader transform into a Power Reader.



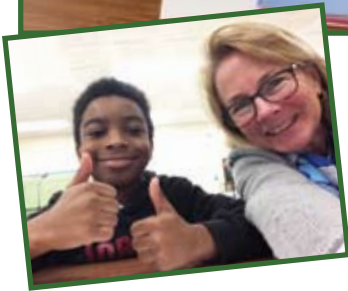
▲ Tutor Success Stories: Way to Go!

Rama Road tutor, **Katie Garvey**, reported a breakthrough with her student on "b/d" confusion:

"Over the past year, I've been doing everything in the world with Darryl to help him distinguish "b" from "d," including forming his fists to imitate the letters and then fitting his fists into each of the written letters as we learned in our training. Nothing seemed to last - each time I'd see him he was back to guessing again. A couple of weeks ago, I had him form the fists and then traced his fists onto a piece of paper to make bubble letters, so that he could clearly see that his fists were forming the letters "b" and "d." Well, lo and behold, the light bulb finally came on, and he 'got' it. It's still a thrill to see him pull out his fists whenever a b- or d- word comes along."

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Augustine tutor, **Sara Moreau**, began working with her Montclair Elementary first-grader, Maria, in mid-November. Maria dramatically improved her sight word reading, increasing from 14 correct words to 58 correct.



Thank You!

To Our Speakers at Lunch Bunch:

Our Volunteers' Monthly Continuing Education Program

Wendy Munce

Orton-Gillingham certified ALP tutor and private tutor "Do You Have Syllable Anxiety?" (Many of us said, "Yes!" as this program had record attendance!)

April Whitlock

Founder & CEO of Fundanoodle "Play the Write Way: Tools & Strategies for Improving Handwriting"

Paul Hanneman

Former Program Director at Urban Ministries, and current formation partner at St. Peter's Episcopal Church "Characteristics of the Poverty Mindset"

SAVE THESE DATES!

Thursday, April 21

10-11am

Informational Coffee for Prospective Tutors

*Rama Road Elementary
1035 Rama Road Charlotte, NC 28211*

Learn if ALP tutoring is a fit for you! Please invite your friends and neighbors.

Month of May

Book Drive

ALP is joining forces with Simplicity Organizers and Freedom School Partners (FSP) to host a book drive to benefit students at Montclair and Rama Road Elementary Schools. Please drop off new or gently used books in the lobbies of these schools during the month of May. Let's send students home with LOTS of good books for summer reading!

May 14-20

Barnes & Noble Fundraiser

Shop at any Barnes & Noble store across the US, as well as online, and ALP will receive a portion of proceeds from your purchases. *Please use our voucher number at checkout: 11804853* Visit our ALP tables at the Arboretum and Morrison locations on **Saturday, May 14**. Buy books for Father's Day, graduation gifts and beach reads!

Wednesday, June 1

12-1pm

Annual Appreciation Luncheon

*St. Peter's Episcopal Church
115 W. 7th Street
Charlotte, NC 28202*

Board and Staff

Kelly Keeling, *Board Chair*

Sally Davis, *Secretary*

Eric Clark, *Treasurer*

Jenny Beaumont

Bonnie Fleming

Josephine Hicks

Harris Holt

Anjali Markey

Valerie Roberts

Sue Schreiber

Mary Davis Smart

Michelle Spak

Ann Temple

Alison Houser, *Director*

Eleanor Hahn, *Site Coordinator*

Jess Heath, *Administrative Assistant*

Marion Idol, *Site Coordinator*

Colleen Kopchick, *Site Coordinator*

Eleanor Moore, *Program Assistant*

Schools We Serve

Blythe Elementary

Brookstone Schools

Bruns Academy*

Cornelius Elementary

Elizabeth Traditional Elementary*

Greenway Park Elementary

Huntingtowne Farms Elementary*

Montclair Elementary*

Myers Park Traditional School

Park Road Montessori

Rama Road Elementary*

Sedgefield Elementary*

Shamrock Gardens Elementary

Sharon Elementary

Trinity Episcopal School

Walter G. Byers Elementary

Westerly Hills Elementary

Winding Springs Elementary*

Winterfield Elementary

**Partner schools*

Contact Us

For more information about volunteering, to refer a student, or to request a speaker:

augustine.st-peters.org

Email Jess Heath:

jheath@augustine.st-peters.org

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:

augustine.st-peters.org

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.

AUGUSTINE LITERACY PROJECT

– CHARLOTTE®

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Charlotte, NC 28202

704.749.6162

augustine.st-peters.org



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