



# Project Read

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[www.projectreadky.org](http://www.projectreadky.org)

*...changing lives through literacy*

Volume 17

Number 1

July 2019

## Tutors Help Launch Project Read's 2020 Fundraising Campaign

Perhaps the most validating evidence that Project Read serves a vital role in Madison County is that not only do the tutors volunteer their time each week but many tutors also support Project Read financially.

At the 2019 Tutor Appreciation Reception, Marjorie Farris (our most tenured tutor) challenged the Executive Board to raise \$50,000 by March 2020. To show her sincerity for this challenge, Marjorie launched the campaign by handing Treasurer Jack Dyer her check for \$1,000. Other tutors have followed with donations as well. Many tutors, along with Marjorie, are regular donors.



Marjorie Farris kicks off the Fundraising Campaign by challenging the Board as well as donors and by making the first \$1,000 donation to the campaign.

Why are the tutors supportive of Project Read? They experience weekly how their work is improving the lives of their students. Project Read changes lives through literacy!

**You** can be an important part of the Project Read program by participating in the fundraising campaign simply by sending your donation in the enclosed convenient reply envelope.

## In Memoriam

Project Read remembers with gratitude former tutor Fred Sweet, who was nearly 95 years old at his passing on February 2, 2019. Fred tutored adult learners in Madison County for at least 15 years. Because he was knowledgeable, patient, and kind, he was able to assist local adults who needed help with improving their reading and writing skills. Project Read is indeed lucky to have had such a faithful volunteer helping to further its mission.

## Student Now Teaches Spanish to her Tutor by Marjorie Farris

What goes around, comes around; and that is true when I think of my tutoring students over the years. In about 2003 just as I was beginning my tenure as director of Project Read, I was shopping when I observed three women talking among themselves about some item they were buying. I realized that they weren't speaking English, and I thought it might be Spanish. In my efforts to open Project Read to new students, I approached them and asked if they were interested in learning English. Not only were they interested, they were eager to begin immediately.

The three women included the mother, Maria, and her two daughters, Ana and Maricruz. The next morning, Maricruz appeared at the Project Read office. She showed me a map that she was using to find the places she wanted to see. Ana lived in Tennessee, and Maria was living with various daughters and felt that she was too old to learn another language. Maricruz, however, began with gusto. She was accompanied by her tiny daughter, who slept in her carrier while her mother studied English.

Now, in 2019, Maricruz is one of my best friends, and I've watched her children grow and have seen the progress that Maricruz and her husband have made in becoming legal residents of the United States. Her son, who was a toddler in a stroller when we first met, will graduate high school next year; and her daughter, who was born the night before my daughter was married, is a lovely young girl in middle school.

Earlier this summer, as I tutored two other Mexican women, I decided I needed to learn Spanish--Maricruz, who is now quite fluent in English, has become my tutor. On Friday evenings, she comes to my home, often with her mother and her daughter in tow, and tries valiantly to teach me Spanish. I have a whole new respect for how hard it must be for internationals, who are coming to the U. S. to begin lives here, to learn our very difficult language.

With Maricruz's help, I am determined to learn enough Spanish to be able to converse with my Spanish-speaking students. I want to make my "tutor" proud!

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or on our website: [projectreadky.org](http://projectreadky.org)

*Project Read  
Providing literacy tutoring in  
Madison County since 1985*

## Second Annual Tutor Appreciation Reception

Recently Project Read's Governing Board hosted the Second Annual Tutor Appreciation Reception. Each year, volunteer tutors are recognized for their selfless efforts in helping adult learners in Madison County improve their reading and math skills and/or their English-speaking skills. For the second consecutive year, County Judge Executive Reagan Taylor and his wife Kelly have shown their support for Project Read's mission by attending. Judge Taylor's positive message to the tutors encouraged them to continue making Madison County a more literate community.

The event was held in the spacious Community Room at Central Bank in downtown Richmond where tutors gave moving testimonials about their experiences in helping adults learn to read. Other tutors who work with English-Second-Language learners spoke of the sense of goodwill they create when they teach their students to speak English. Everyone present expressed a strong sense of camaraderie which made the event a definite success.



Tutor Greg Gillum shared his tutoring experiences.

### Community Partners Support Project Read

As a non-profit organization committed to adult literacy, Project Read is financially dependent on grant funding and the support of local businesses, organizations, and individuals. Project Read Governing Board Chairperson Dr. Janna Vice and Executive Director Brenda Thomas recently met with several local groups to inform them of Project Read's mission. They shared information about ways to support this mission and the positive impact improved literacy has on the individual, his/her family, and the community.

Project Read extends gratitude to the EKU Retirees Association, the Richmond Kiwanis Club, and the Madison County Retired Teachers Association for their gracious hospitality and their generous financial support.

Statistics tell us low-literacy adults struggle to find jobs and often have to settle for wages 50 percent less than their more literate peers. A less literate workforce has a negative economic impact on the entire community—a compelling reason to educate our community partners about Project Read and its ability to help transform lives.

Project Read is grateful for the continued support of our community partners.

### Project Read

- Provides the only free adult-literacy program in Madison County/Richmond area
- Is a community-supported volunteer organization—with a 7-member volunteer governing board and more than 20 volunteer professional tutors
- Helps close the gap for adult learners who dropped out of school and
- Provides basic literacy and math skills, including English as a second language, to adults from more than 7 international countries.

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\*From December 2018, through June 2019

**O**ne adult learner described being unable to read as "like being blind."

**Thank You, Donors,  
 for your support !**

**PROLITERACY  
 Worldwide**



**To contribute, please send your  
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 2150 Lexington Road, Suite H,  
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