

Augustine Literacy Project® News



Winston-Salem, NC May 2014

Tutor one child ... change two lives.



Should Success Lead to More?

During the last seven years, we have experienced significant growth and maturity in our local Augustine Project®. We have tripled our numbers and now serve over 115 children in over 20 locations. Our tutors are recognized as the best-trained, most responsible, and dedicated literacy volunteers in our community. In many ways, our story is astonishing.

But here is reality: OVER HALF of WSFCS 3rd graders—more than 2,000—are not reading at grade level. Given these numbers, we must find ways to innovate and to open access for all those who need the Orton-Gillingham approach to succeed.

At the board level, we are wrestling to shape that innovation for maximum benefit. Is the right answer to simply get bigger, or are there other components we should add that will yield bigger results in our community? Where are the gaps that most need filling to make a profound difference in reading rates for the children of Forsyth County? Are we the right group to fill them?

In the coming months, we will keep you informed regarding new directions. We will never give up our core program—one-to-one tutoring for low-income children who need a great tutor—but we believe we are called to do more. If we want to radically alter the reading, writing, and spelling abilities of children and teens in our community, again we must think outside the box to find ways to help ALL those who are not reading well enough to succeed.

—Henri Brown, *Augustine Director*



The Gift of Great Imagination

Many Augustine students, such as Tishara, have great imaginations. When asked to write a story, “The Rolling Pumpkin,” Tishara’s imagination soared. She animated her pumpkin, wove a great tale, and later discovered that she had won the Griffith School Writing Contest.

Tishara’s prize was a Saturday trip to Barnes & Noble to select a book. It was Tishara’s first trip to a bookstore. Martha Apple, Tishara’s Augustine tutor, reported that Tishara was so amazed by the vast number of book choices that she had difficulty selecting her prize.

Martha is overjoyed that Tishara is being recognized for her talents. “Tishara is very creative. She’s eager to learn



and to demonstrate what she has learned. She’s a joy,” Martha said.

Congratulations to both Tishara and Martha on their excellent progress together!

Bonnie and David Link Quilt Award



Several years ago, master quilter Dale Link created a special, personalized lap quilt for several Augustine students. This act of generosity grew into an award, “The Bonnie and David Link Quilt Award,” given in memory of Dale’s two children.

The award is given to exemplary Augustine students who model the tenacity, positive attitude, and spirit of our project. Each winner has worked with an Augustine tutor for more than one year.

We are deeply grateful to Dale for her continuing energy and generosity toward our Augustine students. These beautiful handmade quilts will be treasured for a lifetime. I know this year’s winners will be as overjoyed as previous winners have been. Again, thank you, Dale!



Gifts Large and Small

New tutor Abby Catoe brought her student a small book to celebrate his birthday. He was thrilled both to receive the book and to have a special memento from his tutor. At their next lesson, Abby says that her student reciprocated her gift giving. Her student said, “I have something special for you so you will always remember me.” Then, Abby reports, “he reached into his pocket and bestowed me with the tab of a zipper!” Abby made a necklace with the zipper pull, and she wears it as her favorite piece of jewelry. “Always around my neck now,” she reports.

What greater gift could there be than the true friendship of a child?



Augustine Tutors Win “Volunteer of the Year” ... Again!



Congratulations to Pat Helm at South Fork Elementary and Jim Davis at Old Town Elementary, both 2012-2013 Volunteer of the Year winners at the schools where they tutored. They join others such as Carson Howard, Woody Clinard, and Nancy Dennis, who also have won this honor. Like all our Augustine tutors, they go way beyond the commitment of normal volunteers. Hooray for all our tutors, and special congratulations to Jim and Pat!



WS Augustine Provides Local Scholarships for National OG Conference

The WS Augustine Literacy Project® provided scholarships for one Augustine tutor, three WSFCS curriculum coordinators, and seven WSFCS classroom teachers to attend the 2014 national Orton-Gillingham Conference, held at Triad Academy at Summit School. Attendee and Griffith teacher Sandy Matthews expressed deep thanks for this unique opportunity, saying, “What a joy and a blessing it was to hear so many qualified people speak and share, ... encourage and inspire each of us.” She concluded, “I know the Orton-Gillingham approach truly works. I see it at our school, and I am so deeply grateful to those special

tutors who give up their time, love, and expertise to help our children. From my heart to yours, a deep and grateful thank-you to each of you.”

This year’s conference, “The Power of Orton-Gillingham: Inclusive, Effective, Universal,” featured nationally known presenters such as Ron Yoshimoto, Barbara Wilson, and Diana Hanbury King. Teachers, tutors, administrators, psychologists, speech therapists, and parents all benefited from the remarkable sessions offered during the conference.

Augustine tutors gather with WSFCS teachers at the 2014 National AOGPE Conference.



Augustine Donors

March 15, 2013 – April 15, 2014

- Anonymous (6 total)
- Anonymous (1), *in honor of parents*
- Anonymous (1), *in honor of Joe Curran*
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- Jannie M. Gray
- Carrie Beth and John Guglielmi, *in honor of Chiquita Guglielmi*
- Chiquita and John Guglielmi, *in honor of all Augustine tutors, giving of their time and talent to make a difference in the life of a child.*
- Nicholas A. Guglielmi
- Susie and Scott Halsey, *in honor of Susan Uphoff*
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Happily, Our Staff Grows

In December 2013, wonderful, energetic Kris Cox agreed to increase her responsibilities with the project, taking on the role of Assistant Director as well as Tutor Coach. Last year, Kris made 232 visits to our tutors in the field. She is amazing.

With the growth of our tutor pool, we also needed an additional part-time person to help Kris as a Tutor Mentor. We found the perfect person: Taryn Butler.

Taryn began as an Augustine tutor in 2011. Since then, she has worked as a tutor, a volunteer coach in our trainings, and an effective mentor to new tutors. We are delighted that Taryn has joined the Augustine team!



At left: Kris Cox prepares for Tutor Lunch Bunch.

Below: Taryn Butler, tutor mentor, works with her student.



It's all smiles for Jennifer Grosswald and her student.



Deb Howard and her student are quite a pair.

Literate Girls Update

Our second grant from the Women's Fund of Winston-Salem will end in June 2014. While we committed to serve 45 girls, we actually served over 70 girls during the grant period. We also created a bilingual informational piece highlighting the warning signs of reading difficulties in girls. This piece was distributed in public libraries,

pediatricians' offices, and other locations where parents of girls gather.

We deeply appreciate our partnership with the Women's Fund and look forward to future collaborations.

Become an Augustine Tutor

UPCOMING TRAININGS:

September 15-26 (full training)

October 6-10 (abbreviated training)

Space is limited. Tutors are accepted as they register on a first-come, first-served basis.

Don't miss your opportunity to tutor one child and change two lives.



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Taryn Butler, *Tutor Mentor*

Yes! I would like to help the Augustine Literacy Project® provide free literacy tutoring to low-income children in our community.

Attached please find my tax-deductible contribution in the amount of \$ _____
Augustine Angel: \$1,000 Patron: \$500 Sponsor: \$250 Donor: \$100 Friend: \$50 Other

Name: _____
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My gift is in honor in memory of : _____

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*Please make check out to St. Paul's Episcopal Church with "AUGUSTINE" on the memo line.
Mail to Augustine Literacy Project, 520 Summit Street, Winston-Salem, NC 27101*

From Our Board Chair, Pam Bowton:

Augustine Lessons Are Like Snowflakes

In my seven years of tutoring, I've experienced extraordinary joy working with many students. In the beginning, I thought the reading journey would be the same for each student. But this is hardly reality. I am continually struck by the different challenges and strengths of each new student. One student zips from lesson to lesson, building on skills, just as I imagined. However, I notice when he reads, he stumbles on the first word of new sentences, weakly transitioning from one sentence to the next. Fluency becomes his goal. Another student, mired in a struggle with automatic word recognition of common sight words, DOES NOT zip from lesson to lesson. He says he wants to be like the other students in his class. An older student confuses when to use short and long vowel sounds in a word and cannot break words into syllables. In lesson after lesson, my students teach me what they need.



I have the perfect toolbox for each student: the ALP lesson. Our lessons are like snowflakes, patterned but each unique. In limitless ways, every tutor can individualize lessons to target each student's specific needs. We speed through lessons, we slow lessons down, and we review old lessons. We repetitively weave problem areas into lessons, using games, poems, skywriting, whisper phones, sand tracing, and iPad "painting."

I believe that every child deserves the opportunity to learn to read and to acquire a joy of reading. With ALP tutors, students can flourish in an environment of trust, where making mistakes is OK and encouragement is always offered. I stand in awe of our passionate tutors and the Augustine Literacy Project.

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