



# REACH

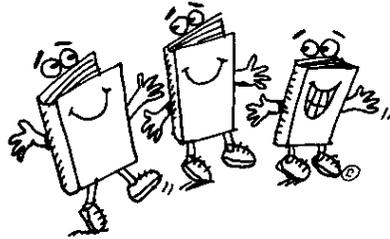
Reading Enriches All Children

## WINTER 2017 VOLUNTEER CONNECTION



"An alarming number of children—about 67 percent nationwide and more than 80 percent of those from low-income families—are not proficient readers by the end of third

The Campaign for  
**GRADE-LEVEL  
READING**



grade. This has significant and long-term consequences not only for each of those children but for their communities, and for our nation as a whole. If left unchecked, this problem will undermine efforts to end intergenerational poverty, close the achievement gap, and reduce high school dropout rates. Far fewer of the next generation will be prepared to succeed in a global economy, participate in higher education, or enter military and civilian service." -Ralph Smith, *The Campaign for Grade Level Reading*

Reading proficiency by third grade is the most important predictor of high school graduation and career success. Yet every year, more than 80 percent of low-income children miss this crucial milestone.

Find out more by copying & pasting this link: <https://youtu.be/52KuhCpiOUE>

This is why REACH programs are so crucial. Our read-aloud volunteers (nearly 230 individuals) go out across Southeastern Virginia 8-10 times a week to read at various homeless & domestic violence shelters, in addition to community centers located within low income areas. When you read-aloud to children, you're helping to shape young minds! Children who love to read, learn to lead. With your help, it's going to be a great year at REACH thanks to all of our amazing volunteers and supporters!

### SAVE THE DATES!

FEB 8th  
REACH Open House  
MARCH 4th  
Dr. Seuss Birthday  
Celebration and Read-  
Aloud at ODU  
MAY 9th  
#GIVELocal757

### MARCH is "March into Literacy" Month!

*Why not honor one  
of your favorite  
teachers by giving  
the gift of literacy to  
at-risk children?*

Donate now at  
[www.reachreads.org](http://www.reachreads.org)



REACH is a proud Partner Agency of:



**DESIGNATE REACH!**  
CFC #28672  
CVC # 05034

## A Birthday Bash for Dr. Seuss!

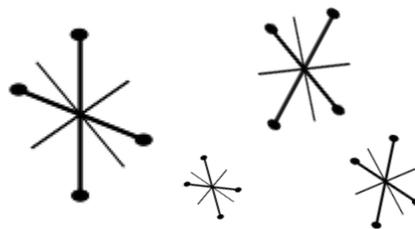


We need just a couple more read-aloud volunteers to come out and help REACH celebrate Dr. Seuss' birthday and "Read Across America Day" at Old Dominion University on **Saturday, March 4th from 10am - Noon**. This event is free and open to the public, so kids of all ages will be coming to hear REACH read Dr. Seuss adventures in a little nook of the Gordon Art Gallery across from the campus Bookstore.

If you are interested in reading and have a background check on file at REACH, please email Leslie at [volunteer@reachreads.org](mailto:volunteer@reachreads.org).



# VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



## **IN THEIR OWN WORDS...GETTING TO KNOW CHRIS LUEBBERS**

Anyone who knows Chris, knows he answers the call to volunteer whenever there's a need. He is a read-aloud volunteer, serves on the REACH board of directors and is currently REACH's board treasurer. When Chris isn't jumping in to volunteer for REACH, he works with the Marketing Group at Norfolk Southern.

### **HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN VOLUNTEERING WITH REACH?**

About 7 years. I started working with REACH when I joined one of its Read Aloud groups, going into area shelters and reading to at-risk children as well as participating in REACH's fundraising efforts. Two years ago I joined the REACH Board of Directors and am currently the organization's Treasurer.

### **WHAT DREW YOU TO VOLUNTEER FOR REACH?**

Being an avid reader myself as a child, I appreciate the benefits reading can bring to a person's life. First and foremost, the REACH Read Alouds provide an enjoyable respite for the children from their day-to-day life. Second, I believe that providing a solid education to a child is the best way to promote the social and economic health of our community. Encouraging a child to read encourages them to learn, which in turn allows them to contribute back as adults.

### **WHAT IS THE GREATEST BENEFIT ABOUT BEING A READ-ALoud VOLUNTEER?**

A smile on my face from watching the kids be kids. The interaction and their desire to read rather than be read to lets me know I have spent my time wisely.

**THANK YOU CHRIS, FOR ALL YOU DO!**

**We would love to see you!**  
**REACH OPEN HOUSE**

**February 8th**  
**11:30am - 3:00pm**

**Join us for**  
**light refreshments**  
**and learn more**  
**about REACH!**



Join us Wednesday, February 8th from 11:30am - 3:00pm for our February Open House! Visit the cozy REACH book nook, enjoy light refreshments and learn more about the work REACH is doing across Hampton Roads!

**Hope you'll make**  
**plans to join us!**



## SHOP FOR A CAUSE!

Did you know that rewards programs are a simple and easy way to support REACH?

You can help through shopping on Amazon and at your local Kroger! Here's how:



- Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases simply by choosing "Reading Enriches All Children" (REACH) as your charitable organization.
- AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service.

Support REACH by starting your shopping at:  
[smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)

You can also support REACH by simply linking your Kroger Rewards Card (or phone if you don't use a card). Each time you make a qualifying purchase a Kroger using your card, a portion of the sale will be donated to REACH at no cost to you! So easy!

To get started, visit this link: <https://www.kroger.com/topic/kroger-community-rewards-3>

Be sure to type in "Reading Enriches All Children" to find us!



Do you enjoy planning events? REACH is currently seeking spirited volunteers who would like have some fun while enjoying the opportunity to serve on the Fundraising & Marketing Committee! This amazing team of volunteers oversees development and implementation of fundraisers/events for REACH! For more information, please contact Leslie at [volunteer@reachreads](mailto:volunteer@reachreads) or by calling 627-4722.