

Vermont Reading Partners

Affiliate of ProLiteracy

Student-Tutor Newsletter August, 2014

A Message from the President

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June Gutbier, Program Coordinator As we look ahead to fall and to 2015 - we prefer 2015 to the dreaded word, "winter" - we can't help but appreciate the many years of dedicated service provided by our tutors and board members, as well as the outstanding financial support of our donors. In addition, there is the Zion Episcopal Church which has generously provided VRP with longstanding office space. This enduring advocacy enables Vermont Reading Partners to celebrate our 30th anniversary. In addition to this hallmark anniversary, we will see a change in our office space with a move to the Manchester Community Library sometime in early 2015. As part of our changes, we would appreciate the Email address of our newsletter readers as we continue to "go green" in an attempt to reduce the unnecessary use of paper.

Looking back on this year, in fiscal year 2014 we provided 2,233 volunteer hours - that's just under 280 eight-hour work days or approximately 55 eight hour work weeks of volunteer service. We had 34 tutors serving 37 adult students, 21 one-on-one school program students, one after school homework club program, three classroom assistants serving four classrooms. This was also a year when we had multiple tutors serving more than one school student with one-on one partnering. Through the generosity of Berkshire Bank, Vermont Reading Partners was able to provide new books to all students in January and purchased new books for students in our School Program at the end of the school year.

Last Fall's tutor training class brought us eight new tutors. Eighteen tutors attended the spring Tutorshare Gathering at Gringo Jack's where there was a lively exchange of ideas, success stories, and internet resource sites while enjoying appetizers.

Vermont Reading Partner's Garden Party was held on Thursday, August 7 at the home of Donna and Gordon Calder. It was a lovely evening. Thank you to the Calders.

The May Craft Fair at Manchester Elementary Middle School was again a very successful event with 41 talented artisans offering a multitude of fine items. The Third Annual Craft Fair will be held May 2, 2015, at MEMS and we hope you'll save the date. It's the perfect place to find a unique Father's or Mother's Day gift, an outstanding graduation or wedding present or just the precise item for yourself that you didn't even know you needed.

In addition, Vermont Reading Partners will be holding a fundraising spelling bee in the fall of 2015. We look forward to participation by teams from area high schools - students and/or staff - businesses, elected officials and other organizations. Additional details will be forthcoming, but we can say that this will not be your traditional spelling bee.

We also look forward to assisting the Manchester Lions Club in September with the Maple Leaf Half Marathon and Walk—a sure sign of fall - and in December with the Elf Express.

Announcing VRP's Annual Tutor Training Workshop

Tuesdays and Thursdays, September 30, October 2, 7, and 9 at the Martha Canfield Library, Arlington, VT from 1–4:30 p.m. each day. Candidates are expected to attend all workshop days. The goal of the workshop is to train volunteers to work in VRP's literacy programs that offer help to adults, families and school age children in a school setting. Call 802-362-2323 or e-mail vrp2323@sover.net for more information or to register.

Craft Fair Redux

"Great job on VRP's part - excellent coverage in the media and so well organized." Robyn Madison—Birdsong Arts

"Thank you so much for all of your hard work organizing the show! Thanks for using my pictures for Facebook and also on the video advertisement. I had a lot of customers say they saw my work on the internet and came to check it out. Please send me the show info for the next year as I will plan to do it again." Stacie Mincher Designs.

"All of the vendors were top quality and a nice variety." - Buddy Bandanas

"Attendance will grow in future years as more people know about the show. I heard several positive comments about the variety and quality of artists." - Sarah Rosedahl





GOT BOOKS!

Vermont Reading Partners have "Got Books." Our Bookshare Program distributes approximately 3000 gently used community donated books a year to children throughout Bennington County and surrounding towns. Here are some facts about this program: volunteers deliver books to the Mark Skinner Library in Manchester, His Pantry at the Sacred Heart St. Francis Food Shelf and The Kitchen Cupboard, Bennington, Bennington's Interfaith Council's Food Shelf, the Bennington Farmers Market, Winchester's store in Pownal, Stewart's Shops in Manchester, Mach's Market in Pawlet, and Nichols Store in Danby. We also deliver to Oak Hill Child Center in Pownal, Sunrise Family Resource Center, and WIC in Bennington. These three Bookshares are in-house where books are available only to the families who participate in their services. VRP also distributes books annually at the Northshire Day Care Wellness Fair in Manchester and the Head Start Literacy Fair at the Dana Thompson Recreation Park in Manchester. We also hold Bookshares at all VRP events.

As a volunteer, it is good to know that VRP is making books available to children. Everyone wins—donors when they clear out their unused books knowing they will go to a deserving child, the book site because books bring folks into the store, and Vermont Reading Partners because we know how vital it is for children to own their own books. The biggest winner is the child.

We are always looking for gently used children's books, toddler to young adult. If you find yourself with books that you think VRP can use, please contact us at 362-2323 or e-mail to vrp2323@sovernet. We will gladly facilitate book pickup.

Submitted by Cindy Krautheim, Board Member, Tutor, and Bookshare Volunteer.

Thanks to our Donors and Volunteers, July, 1, 2013 - June 30, 2014

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Community/Business/ Grants

Berkshire Bank Green Mt. Girls Manchester Lions Club Northshire Bookstore The Haft Yackel Fund

Tutor Training Space

Martha Canfield Library, Arlington

Office Space

Zion Episcopal Church, Manchester

Tutoring Space

First Baptist Church, Manchester First Congregational Church, Manchester St. James Episcopal Church, Arlington St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Bennington Second Congregational Church, Bennington

Board Meeting Space

Spiral Press Café Conference Room

Volunteer Tutors

Dick Bailey **Bonnie Barnes** Elaine Beckwith Betsey Belvin John and Deborah Cave Gail Dexter Danielle Fogarty Jacqueline Haft Ellen Hogan **Karen Tibbetts** Jackie Kelly Jill Kiernan Cindy Krautheim Elizabeth Luca Debra Lyneis Donna Madison Jane Marino Karen Mayberry Ken and Jane Moriarty Pam Nalefski Janet Neuschafer Lynette Novick Valerie Oakland Kate Orme Norma Peebles Linell Pike Suzanne Rose Curt Russell Pam Seegraber Barbara Shimaitis Julie Snow Frances Stelz Sharon Stewart

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Manchester Journal Vermont News Guide

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Craft Fair Sponsors

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Craft Fair Assistance

Manchester Boy Scout Troop 333 **MEMS Facilities Staff**

GNAT for assistance with the video press release.