



Vermont Reading Partners

A Volunteer Literacy Program

Affiliate of ProLiteracy

March, 2014

Student -Tutor Newsletter

Elf Express

As we close in on our 30th anniversary - coming up in 2015 - we look forward to an exciting 2014! First, a review of our last event in December, 2013, when it was our pleasure to assist the Manchester Lions Club with the Elf Express. The Zion Church generously donated their living room space to approximately 15 volunteers to put together just over 1,250 gift bags given to all ticketed children at this fun event. Our sincere thanks to Zion for donating their space and to the many tutors who helped put the gift bags together. On December 21st and 22nd we cared for the coffee/hot chocolate table for the Lions at the Elf Express. Everyone had a good time at both activities. Special thanks to Dick Bailey and the Rose family for participating on both days.

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Zion Episcopal Church living room space where VRP Board Members and Tutors put together Elf Bags for children who rode the Elf Express.

Annual Pot Luck Party

On January 12, 2014, we held our popular annual pot luck lunch honoring students and tutors at the Barrows House in Dorset. Approximately 40 attendees enjoyed great food and excellent company. Holiday books were presented. This year's holiday books were provided through the generosity of The Berkshire Bank Foundation. In addition, each tutor received a stem of flowers in honor of their extraordinary volunteer tutoring.



Left, The McDermott Family with tutor Norma Peebles and *Captain Underpants!*

Right, The Dowd family with ESOL student Lina, from Columbia, South America. Lina's tutor is Curt Russell.



Reach Your Goal in Reading Hockey Fundraiser

Our annual hockey game was played on Sunday, February 9, 2014, at Riley Rink. The faceoff between the Green Mountain Boys and Vermont Law Enforcement Hockey Club was an exciting matchup. The event included a chuck-a-puck contest between periods and a Bookshare table. Thank you to the following sponsors who made the match possible: The Perfect Wife Restaurant & Tavern, Spiral Press Café, Green Mountain Boys, Stewart's Shops, The Manchester Journal, Vermont Law Enforcement Hockey Club, Vermont News Guide, Bistro Henry, The Aspen at Manchester, The Bank of Bennington, Express Copy, Dorset Union Store, Kilburn's Convenience Store, State Farm Insurance Companies, Finn and Stone Insurance, Mulligan's Pub and Restaurant, r k Miles, Inc., The Richard's Group, Sonny's Blue Benn Diner, GSK Climate Control, Red Mountain Construction, Al Ducci's Italian Pantry, Bob's Diner, East Dorset General Store, and Gringo Jack's. In addition, our thanks to the staff at the Riley Rink Concession for their generous contribution, to David Fitzgerald, and all those at the rink who make this event a success.

20/20 Education Review

To help envision the future of Manchester's business community, a group of interested citizens formed a Business Incubator group that is called Manchester 20/20. By committee, the group will explore all aspects of community life. VRP's Suzanne Rose is part of the education committee who originally looked at possibly bringing a satellite campus or college to town. Jen Hyatt, committee chair and dean of students at BBA said after doing research and endless discussions, it was decided that bringing a school may not be economically sustainable since there is a lot of access to higher education close to Manchester. However, the group has continued to look at ways to create better knowledge about educational opportunities that are already in town such as the Tutorial Center and also create an interactive website to help learners connect with teachers. (Thank you to the Manchester Journal for parts of this article.)

Save the Date
May 3, 2014

Second Annual Craft Fair Extraordinaire

May 3, 2014, is the date for our second annual craft fair. It will be held at MEMS from 10:00 to 4:00. We look forward to the return of many of our artisans from last year and the addition of new artisans in the expanded space. For that, Mother's Day, Father's Day, graduation, spring/summer birthday gift, VRP's craft fair is the place to come.

Bookshares

In 1999, Vermont Reading Partners opened its first Bookshare location at the Wayside Country Store in West Arlington. Suzanne Meyers, then a member of the Board, noticed that adults sat around the store's community table, reading their papers and discussing world events. If children were in the group, they were left to amuse themselves. She was inspired to provide a shelf of books for children to read while their parents were busy. The owners of the store and the VRP Board agreed; the Bookshare idea was born. Since then, Bookshare sites have popped up all over. When community members donate gently-used books to VRP, the organization distributes them to Bookshare locations. Each site has a "keeper" who makes sure books are shelved. Books are available for children in early childhood through early teens, and VRP encourages children to take as many books home as they want. Bookshares also appear at all VRP events and have become a valuable service that VRP provides to the community.

Bookshare Locations: Mach's Market, Pawlet; Mark Skinner Library, Manchester; Nichols Store, Danby; Shaftsbury Country Store; Stewart's Shops, Manchester; Winchester's, Pownal.

Agency Bookshares: Bennington Area Food Shelves; Bennington Farmer's Market; Oak Hill Child Center, Pownal; Sunrise Family Resource Center, Bennington; and **WIC** –Women, Infants, and Children Nutrition Program, Bennington.

Stewart's Shops



Mach's Market



Nichol's Store



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