

THE READER

Newsletter for the Learn to Read Community
Summer 2019



Learn to Read
Changing adult lives through literacy

Message from the Executive Director

Everyone has a story. If it were written down, we all would feel a sense of loss if someone could not read it. Alberto Manguel, in his book The History of Reading says, **"All writing depends on the generosity of the reader."** Our stories are dependent on being received by those around us. Learn to Read's efforts help ensure we can all connect with each other and share our stories by ensuring all of us, even as adults, can read.

I am humbled that my story is now linked with the story of Learn to Read and its students, particularly as we celebrate our 50th anniversary. It is also a privilege to follow the chapter written by Judy Bradshaw. I met Judy a couple of years ago and was in awe of how she grew the organization. It is slightly unnerving to follow that level of success, but my career in non-profit program management and resource development makes me confident that my own unique experiences prepare me to write my own chapter in Learn to Read's ongoing success story.

As I begin, I am grateful for the "A-Team" staff here that will allow me to focus on the long-term sustainability of the organization. With this team, we will work on the following priorities:

- Diversify our funding with \$300,000 in new funding from individual donors and establish a \$1 million endowment that we will continue to grow over time.
- Continue to prioritize serving adults with the greatest literacy development needs through volunteer based, one-on-one tutoring and instructor led classes while expanding services to benefit students at all levels in areas of career development, vocational licensing, financial literacy and family literacy.
- Continue our efforts to support adults currently incarcerated and expand that effort to support their continued learning as they transition back into the community.

Along with me, YOU are the one who will be the key to our students' successes. Enlarging Learn to Read's volunteer base and creating a new, wider, circle of individual financial supporters are a must. Your volunteering, donations, and referrals are crucial.

As we move forward and over some difficult passages, I plan to keep the words of our student, Ms. Gillespie, in my mind as motivation. **'Doing this class is like trying to hit a target on the wall with darts. You try to hit the target. You miss the bullseye. But you keep trying. It will pay off!'**

Thank you all for what you have done and will continue to do for our students.

Sincerely,

Marcus Haile, CFRE, MPA
Executive Director

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JULY 2018—JUNE 2019

FISCAL YEAR SUMMARY

- **512:** Number of students served—Instructional
- **882:** Number of students served (instruction and testing)
- **20,004:** Total instructional hours completed by students
- **12:** LTR Graduates
- **70:** Educational Functioning Level gains by students
- **72:** Number of volunteers
- **3,081:** Total hours donated by volunteers

CONTACT US

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Learn to Read Jacksonville Celebrates 50 Years of Success



The balloons and bows decorating the auditorium were a sign that this was a special occasion. For the students and volunteer tutors of Learn to Read Jacksonville attending the annual Celebration of Success, they knew part of it was a celebration of their accomplishments. But they also knew there was more to it than that. This year there was added cause for celebration as Learn to Read celebrated 50 years of improving adult literacy throughout Northeast Florida. As Board Vice President Stephen Reinel said, "We are celebrating you and 50 years of changing the lives of tens of thousands of local residents one word at a time."

In addition to the awards and recognition for the students and volunteers, there were pictures and memorabilia on display going all the way back to 1969.

Over 100 students, volunteers, family members, staff, community partners, and board members attended. The evening included remarks from local education and literacy advocates including Dale Moe, a retired Navy Veteran, who said to the students specifically, **"Each one of you are an inspiration to your sphere of influence. You have demonstrated the personal drive and initiative to change your human condition for the better. Your community now sees you as an inspiration of hope."**

Students, volunteers, and their families captured the special occasion with photos. The annual event celebrates a year of hard work and accomplishment. One of our students, Mildred, who has made great progress since summer 2018 explained, **"I was looking for a place to learn and to grow and to pursue my dreams. I can read better and understand what I read, as well as, solve math problems I couldn't do before. It takes hard work and motivation on my part, and Learn to Read provides the teachers, classes, and kindness to help people at no cost. I am so grateful and thankful for Learn to Read."**

Judy Bradshaw, former LTR executive director, and Ken Horton, a long-time teacher and adult education volunteer, were honored with a framed photo collage of special LTR memories for their retirements.

Marcus Haile, LTR's executive director, reviewed the organization's accomplishments for the year. Marcus shared the outcomes of the year, including serving a record number of over 600 students. He encouraged the students by saying, **"We are all in your corner and here for you whenever you need us."**

CONGRATULATIONS 2018-2019 LEARN TO READ GRADUATES



Rahmet Ahmed

Junett Jones

Ashti Asaad

Crystal Luna-Rodriguez

Nicolas Denegri

Crystal Moffatt

Daija Evans

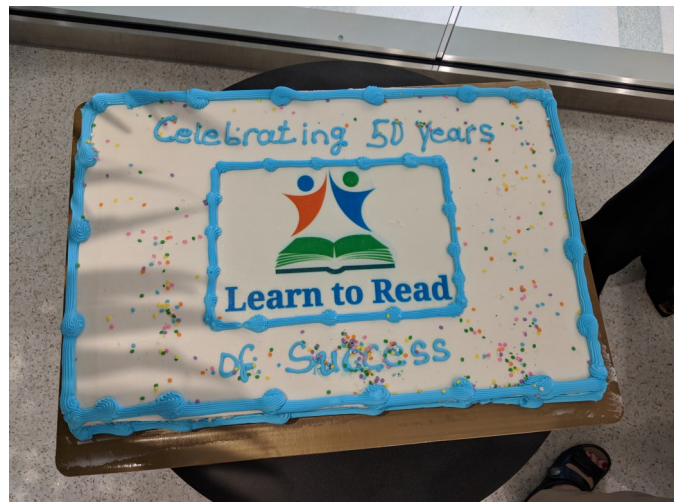
LaCarla Shurman

Monise Jean-Charles

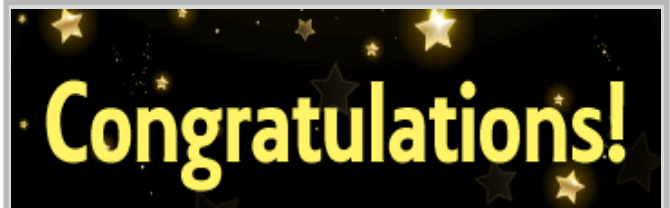
Willie Thomas

Whitney Johnson

Aaron Werner



CELEBRATION OF SUCCESS 2019



AWARDS

Students

Midge Taylor Award—Rosa Taylor

Midge Taylor Award—Crystal Luna-Rodriquez

New Horizons Award—Rahmet Ahmed

Family Literacy Award— Mildred Hernandez

Ernest Hill Sr. Memorial Award—Tony Williams

Sharon Jaskula Award—Amir Cornwell

Mose Meide Hope Scholarship—Willie Thomas

Tutors

Rookie of the Year: Nicole Norman

Linda M Leonardi Award: Douglas Saulsberry

President's Award: Michael Britton-Kelly

Champion's Award: Lutricia Hundley



Gale Keeley and Katherine Braswell



Oscar Brown and Raymond Scarlett



Evelyn Mew and
Kiwana Russ



Douglas Saulsberry



Kimberly Henderson and Rufus Scott



How Can You Support Learn to Read? Back to School Supply Drive

- Pencils (#2) and Cap Erasers
- Loose Leaf Wide-Ruled Notebook Paper
- Composition Books (no spiral wire)
- Paper Pocket Folders for Home-work (without 3 prongs/no metal parts)
- Dry Eraser markers and erasers
- Shopping bags, or any bags to hold student supplies
- Disinfecting wipes

*Thank you for your generous support!
Please contact us at 904-238-9000 to
arrange drop-off or pick-up.*



Become a Volunteer

Fill out a Registration Form today!

[http://www.learntoreadjax.org/?
page_id=1703](http://www.learntoreadjax.org/?page_id=1703)

Our volunteers:

- Tutor adult students (age 16 and above) who read below a 9th grade level
- Work one-on-one with a student, teach/assist in a small group class, or assist in the computer lab
- Help a student build reading, language, and/or math skills
- Receive online and in person training, curriculum, materials, and support
- Must be at least 18 years of age and pass a background screening
- Commit to at least 6 months of volunteering, approximately 1 hour a week
- Work during varied times and locations across Duval County

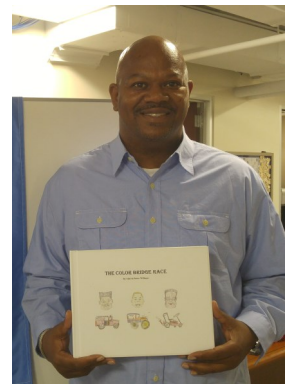
Join the team to change adult lives through literacy!

STUDENT AND TUTOR STORY

"Bridges to Dreams"

A Story about Marvin and Kim

"As a child, I struggled in school and didn't get the basics. Now, I was at a place in life that I could go back and learn the things that I missed." In May 2017, Marvin began as a Learn to Read student in the small group class and computer lab that provide self-guided and individualized instruction. Jessica, his teacher at the time, says, **"from the very beginning he knew what he wanted and was very focused!"** By August of that year, he had progressed far enough in class that he was connected with a tutor to provide weekly one-on-one instruction. This support helps students with their personal learning goals.



Around the same time Marvin was beginning his small group studies, Kim visited her neighborhood Barnes & Noble where Learn to Read staff were providing information on becoming a volunteer tutor. She signed up right away, went through the training, and was then connected with Marvin to begin tutoring. When she met Marvin, she remembers feeling like there was a deeper motivation driving him. **"I remember being surprised in the most wonderful way. I had expected he would be interested in more standard academic goals, which he was, but when he also started talking about the idea for his book, I realized this was someone who has lots of insights to share and that this was going to be a really great journey for both of us. I didn't know what the book was about, and he just said he wanted to 'share a message'. I became very curious!"**



Marvin shared his dream of specifically writing a children's book. The story he wrote and illustrated is about a group of friends participating in a race through Jacksonville over many of the city's

colorful bridges. Through the course of the race, the children learn something. Marvin shared how he came upon the idea for the book and what he wanted children to learn from it saying that at the time, **"I was regularly taking my godson to school during the week. Through many of our conversations, I realized I wanted to help show the kids that you can compete and still be friends. I wanted the story to be a lesson for them to learn from."**

This past January, Marvin, completed 150 hours of instruction and increased his reading and writing score by almost three full grade levels. And, he finished writing and illustrating his book which he has titled "The Color Bridge Race." The story is a fun journey through Jacksonville that engages children in learning about Jacksonville's colorful bridges while also learning about friendly competition. Marvin credits this project and the skills he's developed during his time with Learn to Read in building his confidence as well as his skills, **"Once your confidence builds up, you feel like you can do anything from that point on."**

KEN HORTON

MARY J BROGAN AWARD RECIPIENT



Congratulations to Ken Horton, long-time teacher and volunteer of Learn to Read.

Ken was awarded *The Mary J Brogan Award* at the 2019 Florida Literacy Conference.

The Mary J Brogan Award recognizes a Florida resident whose support of literacy exhibits the highest standards of excellence, dedication, leadership, creativity and accomplishment. Ken's contributions to Learn to Read over the past decade have been amazing! Congratulations, Ken!

Ken officially retired in March, but he continues to volunteer at Learn to Read.

STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

FINANCIAL WORKSHOPS

Thank you to Wells Fargo and the Florida Literacy Coalition for their support of Learn to Read's Financial Literacy workshops! Three workshops were conducted by Wells Fargo volunteers. Our students learned important lessons on Money Management, Smart Shopping, Credit Cards, and Protection from Fraud.

ADULT EDUCATION PHONE APPS

As part of the XPRIZE Communities Competition, Learn to Read is joining ProLiteracy and getting adult education apps in the hands of our students. We are rolling out innovative apps to help students improve reading and math skills. The apps are fun, engaging, and educational! Ask your teacher about downloading the app to your phone.

WELCOME NEWEST TUTORS

Your weekly tutoring is helping your student acquire and practice new skills, gain confidence, and achieve dreams. Thank you!

Brian Blanchard

Chanel Andrews

Dane Margol

Jill Gray

Joe Sproul

Justin Scherba

Khameeka Burrell

Kim Hill

Laurie Jason

Mark Robinson

Rebecca Whitley

Tia Davis

We always want to hear student and tutor stories. Send any stories to volunteers@learntoreadjax.org. Please consider sending a picture too.

TUTOR RESOURCES

ProLiteracy Tutor Training

ProLiteracy tutor training has a new online platform and has expanded to include twelve modules. Modules include: alphabets and word study, fluency, vocabulary, math/numeracy, reading comprehension strategies, goal setting, lesson planning, writing, and more. Use your same login credentials. If you were trained before Jan 2019, contact LTR at 904-238-9000 for ProLiteracy Online Course Instructions. LTR can email them to you.

Partners in Reading – San Jose Public Library

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCKEZxGu-wMvQ-pYXbB7qGTw>

This site has videos that demonstrate a tutor working with a student. Topics include: first meeting with your student, phonemic awareness, decoding, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension.

News for You

News for You offers easy-to-read news stories that help your students practice their reading and comprehension skills. LTR has copies in our office if you would like to use them in your lessons.

Check out our Learn to Read Google site that can point you in the direction of free instructional materials!

<https://sites.google.com/view/learntoreadvolunteers>

LEARN TO READ

OUR MISSION

To increase literacy awareness and improve adult literacy in Jacksonville through a volunteer-based program.

OUR HISTORY

Learn to Read Jacksonville is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving adult literacy in Jacksonville, Florida since 1969. Learn to Read (LTR) provides reading, writing, and math instruction at no cost to adults 16 years of age or older who are generally below a 6th grade reading level. Through grants and community support, LTR delivers over 20,000 hours of small group instruction, computer-assisted instruction, and one-on-one tutoring to more than 500 students each year.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS AND PARTNERS

Sponsors

United Way of NE Florida

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The Jim Moran Foundation

The Donald C. McGraw Foundation

Florida Department of Education

I.R. Bowen and Katherine H. Bowen Fund at
The Community Foundation for NE Florida

Women's Giving Alliance at The
Community Foundation for NE Florida

Dollar General Foundation

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BBVA Foundation

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Peggy and Steve Bacalis

William and Nancy Thompson

TPC Red Coat Charity Committee

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The Bethel Church

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Center for Adult Learning

Florida Literacy Coalition

ProLiteracy

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