



2011 Annual Report

(July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011)

A Partnership of the Alexandria Faith Community, the City, the Community and ACPS

Mission: To provide the foundation for future learning success by helping ensure all first and second graders in the Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) can read at or above grade level by the end of second grade.

Message from Board Chairman – *James S. Roberts*

We want to share some exciting news. The 2010-2011 program year was marked by significant progress toward our goal of all children in Alexandria reading at or above grade level by the end of second grade. We had gains in many areas, and we are pleased to summarize those accomplishments for you.

We continue to build on our efforts to recruit and maintain the volunteer base that we rely on. Through a strong effort we increased the number of volunteers from 125 to 174 and we were able to do a better job of placing, communicating, and providing support for their efforts in the schools. A measure of the dedication and enjoyment that our volunteers bring to tutoring is that a good number have served multiple years, and many have already signed up to tutor again next year. For that, we are thankful.

In the Book Buddies based program, targeted to first grade students in 12 schools, we tutored 142 students; this customized and easy-to-use approach resulted in 85 percent of the students attaining benchmark proficiency by the end of the year.

In the Reading Readiness program oriented to kindergarten students, we expanded to include two schools and worked with 28 students; by the end of the year, almost all had mastered the "Concept of Word" instruction, and were poised for further progress in first grade.

One of the most exciting accomplishments was the formation of an Early Literacy Roundtable. Because of the number of Alexandria organizations having an interest or commitment to early literacy, there was a need for broad understanding of what the respective organizations did and how they approached reading. Many responded to an invitation to participate and a growing number indicate strong interest. Through this, we expect to explore joint activity or undertake common opportunities that will help build a broad base for literacy among early learners in Alexandria.

We participated in the first community wide fundraising effort, Spring2Action (sponsored by ACT for Alexandria) and were highly gratified at the response. We were able raise a considerable amount, but the real story was the level of participation. Over 90 donors made use of this opportunity to provide financial support for the program. There were awards for those organizations

(continued on back page)

'Ya Never Know – *Wilma Goldstein*

My work for ATC started this past winter when I answered an ad in "The Washington Post" the day after seeing the documentary "Waiting for Superman." How painful it was to see that so much of what was once considered the world's best education system had fallen to such depths. I quickly filled out my ATC application and in a few days reported to a first grade class at James K. Polk School as part of ACPS/ATC's Book Buddies program which is coordinated by the wonderful Andrea Leidolf and Beth Sanderson who write the lesson plans and provide the materials tailored to each child's reading needs.

For a short time I tutored a lively little girl who moved and transferred to another school. Then came my pal Harry, a good-natured, somber little boy who told me he wanted to become a better reader. Since six year olds have the attention span of a gnat, one of the first things we did was create a contract agreeing that if Harry's reading improved and he did his best to pay attention during our sessions a surprise was in his future. As we continued to meet I noticed Harry's reading was improving and he was laughing and even giggling. We were working hard and exchanging a lot of high fives.

Sometime in April Harry tested at grade level for the first time. Hooray! So, how do I think this happened?

In February ATC gave us gift books for each of our kids. They suggested we read them with the children and then they were theirs to take home. I mentioned to Andrea that I thought the books were quite challenging for first grade. (Of course my memory of first grade books was a series of short sentences all having one syllable words like "see Spot run," so what did I know?) She told me most tutors had sent the books home. Harry and I kept going for a while as I noticed he was reading three and four syllable words and remembering them from one session to the next. Soon the book went home and we were back to our regular lessons. Amazing! Harry was now reading everything with greater ease and speed

(continued on next page)

(continued from previous page)



"Kids Helping Kids," a teen-run nonprofit, raised \$5,000 for ATC with their lemonade stands and fundraising during the community-wide Spring2Action on-line fundraising event in early May. From left are Gwen Mullen, executive director of ATC; Ben Luce, Lauren Zapko, and Tommy May, co-chairs of Kids Helping Kids, and Doris Ablard, Board member of ATC.

Thanks... Alexandria City Public Schools

Special thanks to the **administrators in the ACPS central office**, especially **Cathy David, Kris Clark and Margee Walsh**, for their critical support, on-going leadership, and continuing endorsement of ATC's program. We welcome Cathy David as a new member of ATC's Board of Directors upon her recent retirement.

We are grateful for the working relationship and true partnership we share with the dedicated **teachers, school principals, Suzanne Lank**, Reading Curriculum Specialist, and **Beth Sanderson and Andrea Leidolf**, ACPS staff members, with masters' degrees in reading from UVA's Curry School of Education. Beth and Andrea coordinate our Book Buddies based program and write the lesson plans and provide the materials tailored to each child's reading needs for each volunteer to use.

We are fortunate to have reading specialists serve as **Book Buddies Coordinators at each school**: John Adams – **Phil Rodrigues**; Charles Barrett – **Cordelia Lawson & Anna Tush**; Cora Kelly – **Susan Garito**; Patrick Henry – **Tiffany James**; Jefferson-Houston School for Arts and Academics – **Brandy Loomis**; MacArthur – **Terry Wilson**; Maury – **Rachel Blumenthal**; Mt. Vernon Community School – **Andrea Drone**; James K. Polk – **Arlene Mascarenhas**; William Ramsay – **Ann Marie Harris-White**; Samuel Tucker – **Amy Krehnbrink**; Lyles-Crouch Traditional Academy - **Karrie Kay**. **Beverly Woolard** is Volunteer Coordinator of ATC's traditional tutoring program at Lyles-Crouch.

and it was shortly thereafter his test scores showed improvement.

I had another "aha" moment when I selected for Harry his next ATC gift book from Hooray for Books. It was a beautiful English to Spanish color picture dictionary and as we read it I could tell that Harry was more fluent in Spanish than English. So it is possible that from the beginning Harry had to do the time-consuming conversion of each English word into Spanish, which was his first language. Sometimes it's hard to know what goes on in the mind of a young child and they can't always express themselves fully. While this "recipe" to challenge may not work for every child and tutor, I thought it was worth a try and I think we are pleased with the results for Harry.

'Ya never know!

We'd also like to thank...

- **Hooray for Books**, for facilitating ATC's Gift Books program.
- **James Larimer family**, for donating several hundred gently used books which were distributed to the children ATC tutors for their own libraries.
- **Jennifer Kim**, former tutor, for helping to produce ATC's Annual Report.
- **Troy Seals**, former tutor, for putting ATC's annual volunteer tutor survey on-line and tabulating the results.
- **Katharine Smeallie**, tutor, for establishing and managing a pilot Reading Readiness program for kindergartners at George Mason & Patrick Henry.
- **Mark SooHoo**, former tutor, for maintaining our fully interactive and comprehensive website.
- **Susan Thomas**, OPMH office staff, and **Bob Clark**, Business Administrator, for their above and beyond support of ATC operations.

Student Progress Report

All ATC tutored students improved their literacy skills this past year. **In the cohort of 142 first graders in the research based and proven Book Buddies program, 85% passed (reached or exceeded the benchmark) on Virginia's spring 2011 PALS* test.** (*Phonological Awareness and Literacy Screening)

All kindergartners tutored in "Concept of Word" in two pilot Reading Readiness programs improved their understanding of where an individual word begins and ends. When they finally get it, it can be like a "light bulb going on" breakthrough moment for them. At George Mason, all 14 children tutored reached their spring 2011 literacy benchmark on the PALS test; at Patrick Henry, 13 of the 14 children tutored reached their literacy benchmark.

During the 2010–2011 program year, 183 ACPS students were tutored one-on-one in reading by ATC volunteers: 142 mostly first graders were in the Book Buddies program, 13 received traditional tutoring guided by the classroom teacher, and 28 kindergarteners were in pilot reading readiness programs. They were tutored by 174 volunteers from the following congregations, businesses, community groups, City employees and individuals from the community at large:

Alfred Street Baptist Church* • Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church* • Christ Church (Episcopal) • Emmanuel Episcopal Church* • Fairlington United Methodist Church • First Baptist Church • Good Shepherd Lutheran Church • Grace Episcopal Church* • Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill (Episcopal)* • Old Presbyterian Meeting House* • St. Clement's Church • St Mary's Catholic Church* • St. Paul's Episcopal Church* • Alexandria Tutoring Consortium Board & Staff • City of Alexandria Employees • CNA • Goodwin House Alexandria • IDA • Inova Alexandria Hospital • United Way Worldwide
 * These congregations also provided a donation.

Tutors had this to say about their tutoring:

"As an ATC tutor for over 10 years, I can tell you that this program makes a difference in kids' lives!" *Anita*

"It is a wonderful experience." *Jermaine*

"A great program for children who need extra help with reading."
Ann

"I thoroughly enjoy tutoring. It is a fabulous program." *Jan*

"Commit a few hours a week to help a child learn to read and change two lives." *Mary Ann*

"Sometimes challenging – always gratifying."
Nancy

"When I was a first grade teacher, I hugely valued one on one time with a student. Now as a tutor, I'm grateful I'm able to give that gift." *Ann*

"ATC does a great job for some Alexandria kids who really need a hand - what a pleasure to be able to help." *Susan*

"One tutor – one child. I am sure we can 'move the needle' in Alexandria if we had more tutors. Let's all find a friend to volunteer with us next year." *Michael*


One teacher said this about the tutors with whom she worked

"My tutors are excellent and seem to be making a difference with the children...They are consistent and I am seeing positive results in the classroom...Bravo, Bravo, Bravo! The word 'tutor' is a symphony to my ears. Thank you." *Pat*

Please e-mail Executive Director Gwen Mullen at atc@opmh.org with any corrections to the tutor or donor lists. Thank you.

Doris Ablard	Wilma Goldstein	Nancy Pera
Charles Ablard	Margaret Goodman	Lee Ann Peyton
Debbie Ackerman	Marian Greenspan	David Phillips
David Allen	Claire Gregory	Beverly Pierce
Allen Anderson*	Ann Gregory	Joan Polson
Debbie B.Anderson	Ann Griffen	Michael Porterfield
John Anderson	Carolyn Griglione	Ann Principato
Priscilla Andre-Colton	Kathy Guzman	Angela Raish
Emily Asmus	Patricia Hagan	Kristine Rier
Fatima Ast	Janet Hall	Beth Roberts
Robin Austin	Julia Hall*	James S. Roberts
Anne Bailey	Vance Hall*	Mary Ann Roberts
Laura Barbour	Rebecca Harmon	Wilma Roberts
Kathy Barsness	Anita Hattiangadi	Cynthia Roscoe
Pat Bates	Ann Herlin	Debbie Routt
Peggy Baucum	Jennifer Hollings	Thomas Ruland
Kathryn Bedell	Jane Irwin	Mary Ann Ryan
Andrew Biache	Diana Jarrett*	Anne Sally
Benny Blackley	Martha Johnston	Jackie Saxton
Bonnie Bortel	Reginald Jones	Lisa Schumaier
Loretta Britten*	Yolanda P. Jones	Valerie Scruggs
Doris Brown	Catherine Keefe	Joanne Sedor
Alice A. Brown	Catherine Keeley	Fran Shea
Kelly Bucceri	Louise Kenny*	Mary Sloper
Charles Buki	Joan Lamb	Katharine Smeallie
Susan Burkhead	Allison Langham	Betty Smith
Virginia Buth	Brenda Lepke	Darah Smith
Elaine Bukiewicz	Sally Lindsay	Michele Smith*
Jan Campbell*	Patricia Long	Suzanne Smith
Pearl Cano	Nancy Macklin	Valoris Smith
Tim Cardwell	Janice Magnuson	Phyllis C. Spinck
Shejal Carpenter	JoAnne Maldonado*	Debi Steinbacher
Brandon Champion	Joseph Malloy	Patricia Sugrue
James Clark	Sue Maslanka	Patricia Sullivan
Adam Clemens	Christopher Mazza	Ted Sullivan
John Clifford	Sue McAdoo	Norma Taliaferro
Jackie Cohan	Jim McClary	Sue Tate
Katherine Cook	Helen McIlvaine	Heather Thompson
Laura Cook	Sue Mclver	Larry Thompson
Ruth Corlett	Karen Meyers	Dawn Titafi
Catherine Davis	Arnold Miller	Diane Tracey
Deborah Dawson	Carolyn Miller	Rita Trenga
Michelle Davis	Jermaine Mincey	Susan Tuttle
Deborah Dawson	Marjorie Morgan	Joan Vogel
Sue Dodge	Barbara Morris	Doug Wade
Bill Dols	Helen Morris	Meredith Wade*
Ann Donofrio-Benson	Richard Morton	Sissy Walker
Julie C. Duke	Elsie Mosqueda	Mary Ann Warner
Rob Dunn	Gwen Mullen	Velda Weathers
Banna Dunn	Christine Myers	Martha Weaver
Randy Einbinder	Kathy Nerger	Gail Weigl
Timothy Elmore	Janet Nez*	Marianne Weitz
Sarah Esser	Kathleen Noe	Phyllis Welch
Jeanette Feldman	Faith Olson	Dawnel White
Christy Finn	Suzanne O'Neil	Claire Wiles*
Audrey Fleming	Veronica Pace	Holly Wilmot
Esther Georgatos	Trish Palasik	Leah Wilson
Linda Giordano	Monica Parry	Karen Wires
Sharon Goffe	Robert Pasley	Linda Woodhouse
	Eloise Payne	Stephanie Wright
	Helen Pepper	Leslie Young*

Many Thanks ...

Babar the King	\$10,000 and above
Alexandria City Public Schools	ATC volunteers donated 2,762 hours of their time tutoring ACPS kindergarteners and first graders in reading. Valued in Virginia at \$22.03 an hour, their hours tutored added up to \$60,854
The Wizard of Oz	\$ 5,000 and above
Kid's Helping Kids, Inc	Ivakota Association, Inc.
The Maple Tree Fund	 in-kind
Cat in the Hat	\$ 2,500 and above
Winnie the Pooh	\$1,000 and above
Alexandria Rotary Foundation	
The Snowy Day	\$ 500 and above
ARTI & AAJV Julie C. Duke Gwen & John Mullen	Betty & Bill Livingston James S. & Beth Roberts Beth & Len Sanderson
Danny and the Dinosaur	\$ 250 & above
Dodo & Charley Ablard Lisa D. Collis Garcia Family Fund Ann E. Herlin Lynn Gumowski & Jim Laychak	Steve and Deborah Mathis Jim & Libby McClary Monica Parry Margaret Whitesides
Cinderella	\$ 100 and above
Anonymous (3) Deborah E. Bigelow Barbara Brenman Brookville-Seminary Valley Civic Association, Inc. Sandy & Bob Calhoun Mr. & Mrs. Doug Cochrane Michael & Christina Connelly Mary C. Davis Donald & Judith Dahmann Bill Dols Robert & Banna Dunn Timothy and Judith Elmore Frank H. Fannon IV Sharon H. Goffe Vance and Julia Hall Anita Hattiangadi Viloo Hattiangadi	Carolyn Heasley Ellen Kelly Holland Reginald Jones Catherine & James Kelley Louise Kenny Dorothy B. Koopman Rob Krupicka Sally G. Murray Scott & Chris Newsham Eloise T. Payne Nancy Rawlings Alice Reid and Bill Richardson Steve Rideout Mary Ann Roberts Norm & Carolann Sharp Fran Shea Peter & Katharine Smeallie Kurt & Debra Steinbacher Heather Thompson Susan Tuttle Malik Williams Donna V. Crammer & John O. Woods, Jr.

Mother Goose	Up to \$ 99
David Albright & Ulrike Weinrich Richard J. Anderson Anonymous (5) Robin L. Austin Nancy Hall Berens Margene Berry Charles L. Bidwell & Rebecca C. Mullen Mary Ann Borrelli Cynthia Boyer Anisha Burke Burke & Herbert Bank & Trust Co. Susan Burkhead Jan & Hugh Campbell Bob & Joan Chase William E. Clayton Briana L. Colescott Ted & Kathryn Colescott Priscilla Andre-Colton Cutler & Debbie Dawson Margaret M. Devine Toby Eckert & Amy Kavelman Sarah Esser Audrey A. Fleming Esther P. Georgatos Linda M. Giordano Wilma Goldstein Margaret Goodman Sheryl K. Gorsuch Robert T. Goss Ann B. Gregory Janet O. Hall Barbara Harslem David Heiden Nancy N. Hipp Carol Hopson Martha F. Johnston Jennifer Hollings Susan Horne Sunita Joshi Cheryl S. Juneau Catherine H. Keeley Jeff & Rebecca Lenn Michael & Rosanna Levine	Tim and Beth Lovaine Nancy Macklin Harriett G. McCune Helen Mcilvaine Joyce Ann Mercer Arnold S. Miller Carolyn Miller Judith H. Miller Robert H. Miller Jasmine & Stephen Milone Jermaine Mincey Helen Morris & Michael Gaw Margaret G. Morrison Tony & Pat Norwood Suzanne N. O'Neill Winifrede B. Ottinger Robert Pasley Beverly Lang Pierce Joan Polson John Porter Michael Porterfield Marsha Rhea & David Pace Mamta Sampemane Margaret W. Shawley Dan & Helenmarie Shipp Teresa Skubel Pat Sullivan Tom & Pat Sugrue Norma & Richard Taliaferro Jack Taylor's Alexandria Toyota-Scion Catherine E. Theisen Lawrence H. Thompson Diana L. Tracey Grace Unangst Linda J. Vilardo Tracy Viselli Joan F. Vogel Meredith & Doug Wade Sissy & Derek Walker Martha Weaver Andrew J. Weinstein Melynda Wilcox Harrison B. Williams Linda Rose Woodhouse Susan Yowell

Message from Executive Director, Gwen Mullen

Donations Have Been Made in Honor of:

- Susan Anderson by Richard Anderson
- Rev. William Dols and Gordon Peyton by Deborah & Steve Mathis
- Mark Eaton and Brooksie Koopman by Michael & Christina Connelly
- Lynel by Anita Hattiangade
- Jasmine Milone by Barbara Harslem
- Randy and Carol Roberts and Tuzie and Lee Richardson by James S. Roberts

In Memory of:

- Martha A. Geida by James S. Roberts



Comments from donors made during the May Spring2ACtion on line fundraiser included:

"Reading opens entirely new worlds!" Donald

"Keep up the great work! A mind wasted is a terrible thing." Noorjehan

"So little effort for the volunteer, yet so rewarding!" Martha

They offer critical one-on-one attention to the kids that need it most. Thank you! Charles

Thanks for making a difference in the lives of the kids in Alexandria! Margaret

"Early Warning! Why Reading Proficiently by the End of Third Grade Matters"

A special report from the Casey Foundation noted that children who are not proficient readers by the end of third grade are "on the dropout track"¹ because they will not have the necessary skills to engage in language and higher learning activities in 4th grade and beyond. Most children are *learning to read* through the 3rd grade. By the end of third grade they must have the skills *to read to learn*.² The fact is that "up to half of the printed fourth-grade curriculum is incomprehensible to students who read below that grade level."³

25% of third graders in the Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) did not reach reading proficiency on Virginia's 2011 PALS' test.⁴ According to the Casey report, those 262 children are now on the dropout track. The National Research Council states that "academic success, as defined by high school graduation, can be predicted with reasonable accuracy by knowing someone's reading skill at the end of third grade."⁵

To help ensure all Alexandria's children have an equal opportunity to reach their potential and graduate from high school ready for further education, work and to become responsible contributing citizens, we invite City employees, civic associations, community organizations, churches, businesses and individuals to join with the City, ACPS and community programs focused on teaching children to read to think creatively and to let us know how they, individually or as part of a group, can help increase the percentage of children who are able to read proficiently by the end of third grade.

You can help through the Alexandria Tutoring Consortium

A. By volunteering to tutor once or twice a week during the school day

1. kindergarteners in "Concept of Word" so they are *ready to learn* to read when they enter first grade or
2. first graders selected for the Book Buddies program. Each tutor is provided with training, lesson plans and materials tailored to each child's reading needs. To learn more and to register, please go to www.alexandriatutors.org or call me at 703-549-6670 ext. 119 if you have questions.

B. By helping put books into every child's home by

1. Donating new or gently used books to be distributed to ACPS children to develop their own libraries.
2. Volunteering to work with a neighborhood school and the nearest public library to help them facilitate plans for ensuring all children and their families have library cards.

Please e-mail me at atc@opmh.org if you can help with any of the above requests and if you have other ideas for helping ensure all ACPS children can read proficiently by the end of third grade. Thanks, *Gwen*

¹ Fiester, Leila, A KIDS COUNT special report from the Annie E. Casey Foundation "Early Warning! Why Reading by the End of Third Grade Matters", 2010, p 7. ^{2, 3} Ibid, p 9.

⁴ Go to VDOE, School Report Card, School Division Report Card

⁵ A KIDS COUNT special report, p 9

(Chairman's Message -- continued from front page)

that had the most contributors, and we finished just "out of the prize money" in fourth place.

Our Board and Gwen Mullen, Executive Director, continue to seek ways for continuous improvement in program management, outreach to partners, measuring effectiveness, and supporting volunteers. Our progress is measured not just in reading proficiency or expanded programs, but also in how we do business.

In short, this has been a year of program accomplishment. We do not intend to rest on that, however, and are dedicated to continued growth. This annual report cites what we have done, but also serves to alert those with whom we work and rely upon our desire to keep this effort up. We thank you for your contributions and support. And we are pleased to provide this progress report.



Read to Succeed

Old Presbyterian Meeting House
323 S. Fairfax Street
Alexandria, VA 22314
www.alexandriatutors.org

ATC Board of Directors

Mr. James S. Roberts, Chair; Retired

The Rev. Ann Herlin, Vice-Chair; Assoc. Pastor,
Old Presbyterian Meeting House

Mr. James McClary, Secretary; Substitute Teacher,
MacArthur Elementary School

Ms. Lynn Gumowski, Treasurer; Corporate Accountant

Ms. Doris Ablard, Early Childhood Consultant

Mr. Robert Goss, Retired; President, Ramsay PTA

Ms. Ellen Kelly Holland, Education Media and
Communications Director, US Dept. of Education

Mr. Peter Smeallie

President, Research Opportunities Management

Ms. Margaret Whitesides

Director, Enterprise Community Investment, Inc.

Staff

Ms. Gwen C. Mullen, Executive Director

Alexandria's children need your help!

If you have a love of children and a love of reading,
we invite you to tutor with ATC.

More information and an on-line application are
available at www.alexandriatutors.org or call
703-549-6670, ext. 119

NON-PROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE
PAID
ALEXANDRIA, VA
PERMIT NO. 237