



# Reading Excites All Learners

2014-2015 Testimonials

**When** I first started tutoring at Caln Elementary as part of the REAL program, I knew that it was something that might do a bit of incremental good in helping students increase their reading skills. I quickly learned that it would impact my life and theirs quite profoundly. Simply put, I have done a great deal of volunteer work and **this opportunity has been among the most satisfying** because you can watch children learn, blossom and gain confidence right before your eyes.

I would return to work from tutoring (I am an executive recruiter at Vanguard) on Tuesdays around noon. My friends and co-workers would say that **I was just beaming when I got back to the office.** While I like to think that I am a pretty happy person, they said this was different. Why? From my view, it is because with guidance from the amazing leaders at Partners in Outreach we are truly making a difference in the lives of children. Test results validate the measurable increases in reading levels, but it goes beyond the metrics. I watched the two children that I came to love through this program gain trust, self-confidence and a better foundation for a brighter future.

Being a REAL volunteer is certainly gratifying but it is also fun and you may even learn some things too. My second grade guy taught me a ton about birds and suggested that I may want to watch MINDCRAFT so that I could get even smarter. My beautiful little girl student shared stories about her Caribbean heritage and taught me about fruits that I had no idea even existed. I am so excited to return to a school in the fall and meet some new and wonderful little friends! **-Bindi, Real Tutor**

Since **I'm retired** - now and absolutely LOVE kids, I decided to volunteer with the REAL program. I raised a very successful daughter on my own who is grown now, but I have **no teaching background** with children and am out of the loop as far as elementary education goes these days.

So I acquired 2 second grade boys to read with, Logan and Michael. Logan was very enthusiastic and chatty with me, but I could barely get a word out of Michael. He is an excellent reader, but any time I'd try to strike up a conversation, he'd just keep responding, "I don't know." This went on for a few months and was a bit of a frustration to me, but then suddenly out of the blue, he started joking with me and telling me how **this reading program was his favorite subject!** By the end, he volunteered again that our sessions were his favorite subject and that he was going miss it! I was thrilled! What a fulfilling way to spend my retirement! I also started playing hangman with the boys instead of just straight reading, which they really enjoyed. I'll have to find some other word games to play with my new kids in September. I was a bit worried because the other REAL volunteers I came in contact with, seemed to have an education or teaching background and were up on the students' reading levels, etc. and I did not, but it seemed to work out okay. My boys were both excellent readers and seemed to enjoyed our sessions, as did I and I'm anxious to meet my two new little readers again in Sept!

Thanks again to you and the others who volunteer your time to administer this program. I performed administration work my entire 42 year career and its **SOOO nice to finally be able to do hands on volunteering with something I love** for a change **-Cathie, REAL Tutor**

**"I am honored to have witnessed first hand what a difference (REAL) has made with my students."** *-2nd grade teacher*

**Outside of raising my own children, being a REAL tutor has been the most rewarding experience of my life."**

CG, REAL Tutor

**"As a retired speech/language therapist, I was looking for a way to stay involved with education and REAL came to my rescue! What a great experience- wonderful people, well organized and the data shows that we really made a difference ! And don't forget the children-I think we all got much more than we put in."** *-Jayne, REAL Tutor*