

Number 7 July 2007



Carol Marshall



Welcome to Carol and Mario



Mario Galindo

Carol Marshall is our new AmeriCorps member who is serving as our Families for Literacy (FFL) Assistant. She is a familiar face to many in READ/OC because she has been associated with the program for 12 years as a tutor, a general volunteer, a contractor as our EL-Civics program Coordinator where she jumped right in to fill an unexpected void, and as a long-serving member of the Recognition Activities Committee of the Friends of READ/Orange County. You ask, what is an AmeriCorps member? Answer, see the article that follows.

Mario Galindo is our new Tutor Support Coordinator. He is responsible for all of the diverse training sessions that READ/OC provides to tutors, both new and veteran: local community Information Meetings for potential new tutors, the Tutor Training Workshops, and the In-Service training workshops. As Tutor Support Coordinator, he is responsible for regular contact with all of our tutors and is the person to go to if you have questions, problems, concerns, or if you want to share a story about your learner's success. Mario will also be writing a regular Tutor Tips article for this newsletter that will deal with some basic tutoring techniques, problem areas, and opportunities.

AmeriCorps

AmeriCorps is a network of local, state and national service programs that connects more than 70,000 Americans each year in intensive service to meet our country's critical needs in health, education, public safety, and the environment. This national corps of capable, committed individuals serves more than 2,000 nonprofits, public agencies, faith-based, and community organizations. Since 1994, more than 400,000 men and women have provided needed assistance to millions of Americans across the nation. AmeriCorps opens the door for citizens to serve in a variety of ways. Through their service, and the volunteers they mobilize, members address critical needs in communities throughout America, including local literacy programs such as ours.

More Telling

If your tutoring experience is as good as you hoped it would be, please tell everyone!

If your tutoring experience does not meet your expectations, please tell us, right away!

A thought to Ponder

Before success comes into anyone's life they are sure to meet with much defeat. When defeat overtakes a person the easiest and most logical thing to do is to quit. That is exactly what the majority of people do. (Napoleon Hill.) We know that our Adult Learners, Tutors and General Volunteers are in the minority that keeps on going in the face of defeat and we salute you.

A Commitment to Literacy



Viju Rangaswamy and her daughters are the faces (along with tutor, Craig Ruhl) that you will be seeing on the new “Leave a legacy - teach someone to read” posters and program brochures. Viju joined our ESL program component in 2002, as a new mom with a toddler, to help her young daughter develop the pre-reading and language skills necessary to better prepare her for school. Her strong educational background qualified her to volunteer and take a Staff contractor position as an FFL Specialist where she assisted with the training of FFL tutors and stayed until the birth of her second child. Viju has never let go of her commitment to literacy and READ/OC, and even now, as the busy mother of two young daughters, she continues to volunteer to help on special jobs like our Program Orientation video. Thank you Viju, Ankitha, and Anjali.

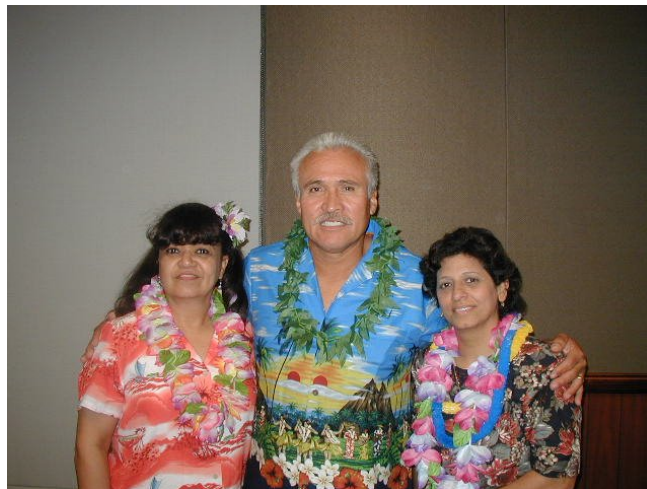


LEARNER ACHIEVEMENTS



Henry Huffman Institute Graduates

READ/Orange County would like to congratulate Rudy Borboa, Samia Demian and Teresa Miro for graduating from the Henry Huffman Leadership Institute. The institute was created in 2000 in memory of Henry Huffman, an adult learner who devoted his life to spreading awareness of literacy. It is a leadership development program for adult learners in the state of California. Learners who complete this dynamic 6 month program are enabled to become better role models for their families, assume leadership roles at work, participate in community activities and decision making, and advocate for resources for adult learners. Congratulations Rudy, Samia and Teresa!



Shown are Teresa, Rudy and Samia

More Achievements

Beth Malone would like to share that her learner, Effat, brings homework and questions that she doesn't understand, takes notes to use at home, is prepared with a topic for an LEA , and practices her sight words at home. Progress toward her goals comes from her commitment.

Janet Reeves' learner, George, has reached his goal of attaining a new job. He has received an offer for new employment and is currently waiting for all of the screenings (drug and security) to be completed. Please join us in congratulating George on his achievement of this goal.

Share your learner's successes in your Monthly Report.



Tutor Tips



Learner's Goals and Progress

Questions and concerns about the perceived lack of a learner's progress are occasionally heard from concerned tutors. If you're unsure about your learner's progress, pull out their written goals and discuss them at your next tutoring session. Often you will find that measurable progress *is* indeed being made towards one or more goals. Breaking down a major goal into steps complete with dates and specifics (*remember SMART goals?*) helps you, the tutor, to more easily recognize progress. More importantly, it helps your learner recognize their own progress towards their goals—and completion of a goal every few months is critical. Completing a short-term goal is a success that builds confidence and increases skills.

If you have any questions about setting Specific, Measurable, Action-based, Realistic, Time-bound goals, please call the office today.

MORE READ/OC PROGRAM NEWS



Monthly Report Contest

Beginning August 5th, an ongoing Monthly Report Contest starts. A drawing will be held each month from all reports submitted by tutors by the Monthly Report submission deadline. Reports for the previous month are due by the 5th day of the following month and can be submitted electronically on the READ/OC website, mailed or faxed to us. The name of each tutor who submitted a report by the deadline will be placed in a drawing jar. The random drawing from all reports submitted will be held three business days after the 5th to allow time for mailed reports to reach us. The winner of each month's drawing will receive a \$10 Starbuck's Gift Card and an announcement will be put in the Newsletter. All entries will be retained for a Quarterly Drawing, where the winner will receive a \$25 Starbuck's Gift Card. You have four chances to win a Starbuck's Gift Card if you submit a Monthly Report for each of the three months in a quarter.

We find it necessary to offer this extra incentive to hopefully motivate the 65% of our valued and well-intentioned tutors who forget to submit a Monthly Report. We thank, and are grateful to the 35% of the tutors, who do faithfully turn in their Monthly Reports each month. The reports are an essential flow of information to us about the progress that you and your learner are making towards achievement of their goals. Every report is read by the Tutor Support person and your comments or questions are answered by the responsible Staff person. Our written Team goal is 65% tutor submission of Monthly Reports by July 2008 and 95% in two years - by July 2009.



Wanted – a person who is a very regular Starbucks customer and who knows his/her local store manager well and who would like to help our Outreach Coordinator develop a partnership relationship with this big supporter of literacy programs. Contact Bob West at 949-709-2309.