

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

If you wish to become a Book Buddies volunteer, please phone or write:

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For further information please consult:

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BOOK BUDDIES

Building a
Community
of Readers

Charlottesville City Schools
University of Virginia McGuffey Reading Center
Community Volunteers

THE VOLUNTEERS

The volunteers are men and women of all ages who have an interest in literacy and want to make a difference in the community. They come from a wide variety of occupations, including architects, realtors, rock musicians, insurance agents, homemakers, writers, and teachers. Tutoring starts in September and continues throughout the school year. Some local businesses provide release time to allow employees to participate.

VOLUNTEER DATA

- ◆ Now in its twelfth year, Book Buddies has 135 tutors, including community volunteers and University of Virginia America Reads Work-Study students.
- ◆ Ninety-eight volunteer tutors are returning this year.
- ◆ Of those returning, 71% are tutoring for their third year or more, and seventeen have tutored for eight or more years.

STUDENT DATA

- ◆ Thus far, approximately 1,600 children have been served in grades one and two.
- ◆ All Book Buddies students learn to read and a very high percentage end up reading on grade level.

SCHOOLS

The Book Buddies program takes place in five Charlottesville elementary schools. Volunteers are assigned to each school based on need. The five schools are Burnley-Moran, Clark, Greenbrier, Jackson-Via, and Venable.

BOOK BUDDIES PROGRAM

Book Buddies is a one-on-one tutorial program that supports reading instruction in the classroom. It enlists trained volunteers to provide instruction to first and second-grade children who need extra help to learn to read and write. This program is a collaboration of the Charlottesville City Schools, the University of Virginia, and the Charlottesville community to ensure that every child learns to read before entering third grade. The program is funded by the school division but community groups and individuals provide extra support through in-kind and financial contributions.

Volunteers are trained to become effective tutors in a two-hour group session in September and another building-level session in January. They are further trained individually and supported throughout the year by reading specialists at each school, many of whom are graduates or current graduate students of the University of Virginia's McGuffey Reading Center.

Tutors volunteer twice a week, at a regularly scheduled hour during the school day, and work with the same child throughout the year. Individualized lesson plans are written by the reading coordinator in the school for each tutoring session. The four-part lesson is comprised of reading familiar material, word study, writing for sounds, and introduction of new books. A published manual is made available to volunteers.

RECOGNITION

Book Buddies has attracted widespread national attention at major reading conferences, and in national and international professional journals. It has been replicated throughout Virginia and in communities across the nation. The Virginia State Reading Association awarded Book Buddies its 1997 Literacy Award.