

# READ..The News

Sharing the joy of reading for over 40 years

Vol. 8, Issue 1/February-March 2008

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READ ... *The News* is published  
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donors and friends of READ.

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## From the Desk of the Director



What a winter wonderland we have experienced this year here in our community. If perhaps you are not one of those people who enjoy the cold and snow, what a great season you have had with more days to spend inside with the warm comforts of a great book.

The benefit of reading for academics is evident and I am sure we can all agree that reading is the number one reason for academic success. According to a recent report from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), *reading for pleasure* correlates strongly with academic achievement. Individuals who engage in reading for pleasure are better readers and writers than nonreaders. Children and teenagers who engage in reading for pleasure on a daily or weekly basis score better on reading and writing tests than infrequent readers. This certainly makes sense, if you enjoy reading, you will read better.

In addition to educational knowledge, reading affects our country's culture, economy and civic lives. The NEA report also indicates that readers are more likely to engage in positive civic and individual activities such as attending sports and cultural activities, exercising and volunteering. Readers also tend to vote more often than someone who does not read on a regular basis.

The startling findings of this same report indicate that Americans are reading less. While reading scores of elementary age children have increased, reading scores of middle school and high school students have declined, and the decline has been greater among males than females. One in



five U.S. workers read at a lower level than his or her job requires.

The role of organizations such as READ is more important than ever before. All children of every age need to learn and understand that reading is necessary to live successful lives. Children need to be surrounded by reading role models – teachers, parents, grandparents, friends, peers, worship leaders, instructors, coaches, mentors – together WE must all provide opportunities to read not only for academic reasons but for pleasure, and we need to continually recognize the importance it brings to the world in which we live. Why??? — William Fusselman said it best: “Today a reader, tomorrow a leader.”

March is national reading month. Let us all celebrate with not only a good book, but by bringing attention to all the reasons that reading is important in our lives today, tomorrow and for a lifetime.

Carol Lechel  
Director



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# What's Happening at READ



## Lunch at Longfellow

Last year in January, READ initiated a new program to help recruit more male volunteers. Through a unique partnership with Longfellow Elementary School in the City of Saginaw, 12 men were recruited and helped create a new literacy program called "Lunch at Longfellow".

While the major emphasis of the program is literacy, reading improvement and the importance of reading for a lifetime, mentors also stress character building, positive role modeling, enhancement of self esteem and the importance of staying in school and graduating. The initial program not only exceeded expectations but doubled in size this fall. This year the male mentor program includes 28 adult business associates, community leaders and recently retired educators who mentor an entire class of 29 fourth and fifth grade boys. The students are divided into 7 teams and each week enjoy lunch and literacy activities with one of their adult team mentors. Thanks to a recent grant to READ from Mentor Michigan, a program of the Michigan Community Service Commission, the adult and student teams this winter are each reading a book together that they selected from books purchased with grant funds. Pictured here are just a few of the teams taking part in the book selection process while celebrating Michigan and National Mentor Month in January.



**The 6<sup>th</sup> annual Book Fair** held on November 29 at the Downtown Citizens Bank building was once again a wonderful shopping success. Special thanks to all who visited during the day, Citizens Bank and to our friends, Mary James and Meredith McArdle, owners of the local Children's Book Company for hosting the event with a sampling of books and gifts from their local bookstore. Benefits from the Book Fair resulted in the purchase of \$500 in books for our volunteer lending library. Be sure to use the coupon below to visit the Children's Book Company located inside the Antique Warehouse, 1122 Tittabawassee Road sometime soon.

## The Children's Book Company

# 20% Off

any one item

1122 Tittabawassee Road  
Located inside the Antique Warehouse  
Expires 8-31-08

# Mentoring Moments

What Mentoring with READ students means to us:

- M**aking reading fun
- E**ncouraging a love of books
- N**urturing
- T**aking time to care
- O**vercoming the child's fear of failure
- R**einforcing success
- I**nstilling good reading habits
- N**ot criticizing
- G**iving of ourselves to aid children in reaching their full potential

- Harold & Elinor Saunders,  
Mentors- Chester Miller Elementary

## WELCOME New Volunteers

Becky Chanin	Troy Newberry
Sonya Cribbs	Bonnie Prestin
Cheryl Crook	Annette Preston
Brian Cross	Laura Shepherd
Tricia Douglas	Maureen Skayhan
Kati Fox	Dutra
Carita Howard	Amy Sporman
Shannon Lienau	Meghan Stoddard
Charita Little	Gregory Talicska
Ana McCollum	Matthew Tarrant
Heather Miller	Nic Taylor
Corey Mitchell	Rebecca Thompson
Pamela Moran	Ron Voigt
Joyce Neiderquill	Kathy Waggoner

### \*All READ Volunteers\*

## Save the Date!

YOU are invited to attend the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner as the guests of honor, on: **Wednesday, May 14** from 5:30 pm – 7 pm at Peace Lutheran Church. This year promises to be one you will not want to miss. Look for more details in April.



# Books



## for

# Breakfast

Saturday, March 8, 2008

9am – 11:30 am

940 E. Genesee - between Janes and Thompson St.  
(Hunger Solution Center – home of Hidden Harvest & East Side Soup Kitchen)

**Bring your children, grandchildren and friends!**

\$3.00 per person (under one yr. free)

For advance tickets call the READ Office at 755-8402 or visit Independent Bank at 3601 State Street (at the corner of State & Mackinaw). Tickets also available at the door.

Admission to this event includes a pancake breakfast and literacy activities to encourage and promote Family Reading Time:



- ◆ ALL You Can Eat Pancakes
- ◆ Costume Character Visits
- ◆ Free New Book for Every Child
- ◆ Storytelling
- ◆ Literacy Activities
- ▶ Bring a canned goods donation and receive one raffle ticket for each can for a chance to win great books!  
(Donations to benefit Hidden Harvest and the East Side Soup Kitchen)

Literacy Activity Sponsors include:

Cops 'N Kids  
Mid Michigan Children's Museum

Public Libraries of Saginaw  
Saginaw County – Birth to 5 Program

**Special thanks to the Harvey Randall Wickes Foundation for the generous support of this event.**

The READ Association of Saginaw County is a local non-profit organization whose mission is to help students improve their reading skills and discover the joy of reading. For more information, call 989-755-8402 or visit our website: [www.READinSaginaw.org](http://www.READinSaginaw.org)

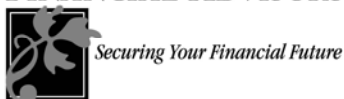


# Thank You... Book Collection Sponsors

We extend our sincere thanks to the businesses that supported our 2007-2008 Business Campaign with their generous gift in helping fund the local matching dollars needed to participate in the Reading is Fundamental (RIF) federal program. These generous donations together with RIF funding and the opportunity to purchase books at very reasonable and reduced prices, allowed READ to purchase over \$15,000 in books! New books are great motivators to keep children reading!



**GARDEY FINANCIAL ADVISORS**



# Bee for Literacy



The third annual Bee for Literacy event will be held on Wednesday, May 7 at the Horizons Conference Center. The luncheon program is from 11:30 am to 1 pm at the Horizon Conference Center. Ticket price is \$15. This is a fun, educational and entertaining event so mark your calendars. Come and cheer on the READ Spelling Team! Tickets or team information are available by calling Carol Likam, Altrusa member at 583-4084. Proceeds from the event support many worthwhile literacy projects in our community.

March is National Reading Month and READ's Annual Bookmark Campaign. Volunteers, look for the insert in this newsletter, and please pass it on!

**"Today a reader, tomorrow a leader."**  
- W. Fusselman

**Looking  
for  
something  
to do in  
Saginaw?**

Visit the Saginaw Events  
Calendar:

[www.gosaginaw.com](http://www.gosaginaw.com)

This new community events  
calendar is brought to you  
by the Public Libraries of  
Saginaw.



**SHARE YOUR  
GOOD  
WORK**



Help us promote READ and show your support by wearing READ logo wear. READ t-shirts are available in the office for purchase in red, blue or green colors. Sizes S – XL, just \$10, \$12 for XXL. OR, bring your own clothing item and have the READ embroidery logo added to your selection for \$10. Clothing items may be brought to the Books for Breakfast event or dropped off to the office by March 13. Items will be ready for pick up or delivery two weeks later.

## We Value Your Support

I/We would like to make a donation in support of the READ Association of Saginaw County:

Amount Enclosed:  \$25  \$50  \$100  Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please list name(s) as you would like to be acknowledged)

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

This Gift is made:  In Memory of  In Honor of  In Celebration of \_\_\_\_\_  
Person(s)/Occasion

Send acknowledgement to: Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to: READ Association Mail to: READ Association 100 S. Jefferson Ave. Ste. 401, Saginaw, MI 48607

**4 READ Association of Saginaw County**



# Thanks for Sharing!

Special thanks to the following individuals and organizations who have contributed to the READ Association during the period of November 14, 2007 through February 20, 2008.

## SPONSOR-A-CHILD

JoAnn Baker  
Nick & Jennifer Barris  
Philip & Sue Beilfuss  
Bronner's CHRISTmas  
Wonderland  
Barbara Nash Ewend  
Mark & Anne Flegenheimer  
Thoms & Helen Fry  
Elizabeth E. Grills  
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David & Leslie Hersh

Mike & Sarah Jury  
K. P. Karunakaran, M.D.  
Meredith Corporation  
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Dr. Roslyn McQueen  
Therese-Marie Oeming  
Saginaw County League of  
Catholic Women  
Lawrence H. Sims  
UAW Local 467

## ENDOWMENT

Nick & Jennifer Barris  
Jackie Bartasius  
Pam Gates  
Trish Burns  
Joseph & Carol DeFrancesco  
Barron & Eve Hirsch  
Greg & Kim Johnson  
R. Paul & SaraJane Larsen

Carol R. Lechel  
Matthew Lechel  
Catherine Martinez  
John & Dottie Mull  
Dolli Niederstadt  
Elinor & Harold Saunders  
Marie & Jim Stuart  
Betty Van Ochten

## IN-KIND

Central Property Development  
The Children's Book Company  
Easy Printing Center  
Princing & Ewend  
The Saginaw News

## BOOKMARK

Robert W. Lakey  
Fred & Marie Pendleton  
Kim Robins  
John & Susie Rush

## SPONSOR-A-CENTER


Charles and Adeline Barth Charitable Foundation  
The Alden and Vada Dow Family Foundations  
Fordney Club  
The Strobel Family Foundation

## GRANT

Capital Region Community Foundation—  
Mentor Michigan Grant  
The Edward & Erna Ederer Family Foundation Fund

## 2007-08 BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP CAMPAIGN

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The Rehmann Group

 CHRONICLE SPONSORS  
Saginaw Bay Underwriters  
Scientific Brake & Equipment Co.

## GENERAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Anonymous  
Dr. Reynold & Jeanine Baumstark  
Nancy B. Bow  
Dave & Sheri Case  
Catholic Federal Credit Union  
Citizens Bank—Popcorn Poppers  
Community State Bank Community Care Fund  
GoodSearch.com  
Patricia L. Grant & late Robert W. Grant Jr.  
Robert & Elizabeth Hare  
Hemlock Lions Club  
David & Cindy Houghtaling  
Karen L. Lange  
Ruth C. Marsh  
Dorothy K. Mull  
Residential Appraisal Services  
Burriss & Kathie Smith  
Leslie & Marion Tincknell

## IN CELEBRATION OF

Children

## IN HONOR OF

Elinor Saunders  
S.H.S. Class of '47

## IN MEMORY OF

Blanche G. Berger  
Gene & Stella Gase  
Pamela Gates  
Ruben Kueffner  
Berneeta Pedlow  
Dorothy Burns

## FROM

Tom & Sue Wagner

## FROM

Zella M. Wallace  
S.H.S. Class of '47 Reunion

## FROM

Jim & Sue Kessler  
Sandy Gase  
Bob & Jean Lyon  
Jan & Guy Merriam  
Harold & Elinor Saunders  
Nancy Blair  
Clif & Jean Compton  
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Greta & Bill Engelman  
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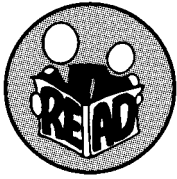


Thanks to these individuals who designated  
2007-2008 United Way contributions to the  
READ Association:

Anonymous  
Linda Babechenko  
Michele Bell  
Kathy M. Bogar  
Susie Edmond  
Mary Margaret Fletcher  
Kimberly Johnson  
Richard P. King  
William Koepke Jr.  
Darlene Niederstadt

Mary Patnode  
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**READ Association of Saginaw County**  
**100 S. Jefferson, Suite 401**  
**Saginaw, Michigan 48607**

*The READ Association of Saginaw County is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization whose mission is to help students improve their reading skills and discover the joy of reading.*

**“To read is to empower  
 To empower is to write  
 To write is to influence  
 To influence is to change  
 To change is to live.”**

*- Jane Evershed*



### *Upcoming READ Events:*

#### **Books for Breakfast**

**Saturday, March 8, 2008, 9am–11:30am at the Hunger Solution Center**

#### **Volunteer Appreciation Dinner**

**Wednesday, May 14, 2008, 5:30pm–7pm at Peace Lutheran Church**

### **Think Independent.**

As a community bank, Independent Bank values what’s important to the communities we serve.

SAGINAW OFFICES

989.799.0070	4850 Bay Road
989.799.0156	5470 Gratiot Road
989.799.0720	3601 State St.
989.799.1673	1445 N. Center Road
989.777.1661	5500 Dixie Highway
989.797.2551	3550 Tittabawassee Road
989.797.4634	SVSU The Doan Center, 7400 Bay Road



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