

# ReadingNotes

A publication for Stanislaus Literacy Center and ReadingWorks Adult Literacy  
*Bringing Reading to Lives*

## ReadingWorks makes goals attainable

Stanislaus Literacy Center and its ReadingWorks Adult Literacy program didn't just serve 1400 adults who needed help with reading, math, English or a GED, but this non-profit agency also helped adults achieve goals, improve skills as well as receive a GED. Here is a breakdown of what was accomplished by the adult learners in each program.

### ReadingWorks Adult Literacy

**184 adults** with low reading skills (below a 7th grade level) were helped by **180 volunteer tutors**. 89% made a significant gain in reading scores and 89% also achieved a goal. Some of the goals achieved by most of the students included:

- Learning the alphabet
- Reading a book, newspaper or magazine
- Learning to type
- Getting a library card
- Sending a letter or email

### ReadingWorks Learning Center

**592 adults** attended the learning center now located at 1230 13th St. Ste. D in Modesto or one of four GED classes offered in family resource

centers. Here are the results achieved by our students:

87% made a significant gain in reading or math and 56 received their



GED and another 14 passed part of the test. Some of the goals achieved by students included:

- Improving math or reading skills
- Using the computer
- Passing all or part of the GED

### Family Literacy Program

**248 adults and 150 children** were served with a program to help them improve English reading and writing skills and to increase family literacy in the home.

76% made a significant gain in reading.

A significant number of family literacy parents met the following goals:

- Helping children with homework

Stanislaus Literacy Center, a non-profit corporation, in partnership with the community — business, education and government — teaches adults and their families basic education skills — helps parents become their child's first and best teacher and prepares a more productive workforce.

*Bringing Reading to Lives*

**Raising her three grandsons was the motivation Stephanie Lee needed to improve her reading.**

## Stephanie Lee chosen as Shining Star

Stephanie Lee was chosen as this year's "Shining Star Student" at the SLC Wine, Jazz and Movie Event at the State Theatre on Sept. 30.

Because of a learning disability, Stephanie Lee never learned to read very well. She said she charmed her teachers and because she was a good athlete, she was passed from grade to grade.

"I always maneuvered my way through situations without being able to read. It's hard being able to function in society, though, and not be able to read.."

There were three things which motivated Lee to seek help with her reading. The most powerful of the motivations were her three grandsons, ages 6, 7 and 8. "When my oldest baby kept asking me why I couldn't read better, I knew I needed to get help. I also couldn't help him with his homework and he'd say, 'You should know this, you are grown, how come you don't know this?'" Another issue with her grandsons was her middle grandson who was struggling in school and Lee recognized the signs of a learning disability having experienced it herself. She proactively went to the school to express her concerns and when the teacher didn't respond in a way she found appropriate, she was successful in getting her grandson moved to a different teacher. This teacher has worked well for him and he's now reading at grade level with extra tutoring help after school.

"I thank God for my grandchildren, because if I didn't have these grandbabies, I don't think I would have tried so hard to learn to read. I would have given up, but they keep me motivated," Lee said.

The second motivation for Lee was wanting to obtain a GED. "The only kind of work I've ever been able to do because of my reading disability is manual labor and now my body is worn

out from it," she said. She explained how she would get temporary jobs in warehouses doing heavy lifting and have a friend or co-worker fill out her paperwork. It was the only job she could do without reading, she said. "I really want to be able to read well enough to pass my GED and then be able to go on to college. I tell my grandsons all the time that education and knowledge are power. You can go anywhere in this world and be anything you want to be so get all the education you possibly can." Lee is well on her way to



Stephanie Lee receiving certificate of recognition from Co. Supervisor, Dick Monteith

this goal. When she started being tutored three years ago, her reading level was about 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. She's now reading at a 9<sup>th</sup> grade level. The third motivation for Lee was reading her Bible. She said she had a friend at church who gave her the Bible on tape which helped but she wanted to be able to read it for herself.

"Now I can ready my Bible and I'm also able to fill out forms at the school or the doctor. I use to always have to ask for help, but now I can do it myself. It's such a joy also to be able to read the mail when it comes too," Lee said.

Lee has now spoken numerous times for the Stanislaus Literacy Center and United Way to advocate for literacy and has ended up recruiting many new volunteer tutors. She is serving on a United Way Impact Council which will decide which programs are funded and monitor their progress.

**You can go anywhere in this world and be anything you want to be so get all the education you possibly can."**  
—Stephanie Lee

## ReadingWorks makes a difference (continued from page one)

- Sharing a book with their child
- Interacting with their child's school
- Learning the alphabet
- Reading a book, newspaper or magazine

### ReadingWorks English Classes

English is also taught in Oakdale where **40 adults** were taught English speaking, reading and writing skills by 14 volunteers. The following goals were met by most of the students

- Read a book, newspaper or magazine
- Share a book with their child
- Access community resources

### ReadingWorks in the Jail

In the jail, there were **305 inmates who were tutored** with the following results:

96% had a significant gain in reading or math and 84% completed a level. There were 66 who received their GED.

### Digital Connectors

This youth leadership, service and technology program graduated eight youth who are still impacting this community.

### **ReadingWorks Locations 2010-11 Literacy**

Modesto Library  
1500 I St.; Modesto CA  
209-558-4505

### **GED Preparation**

ReadingWorks Learning Center  
1230 13th St. Ste. D; Modesto, CA  
209-548-9266

### **Other GED classes:**

Parent Resource Center  
811 5th St. Modesto, CA

North Modesto Resource Center  
2020 Standiford Ste. C1; Modesto, CA

Turlock Family Resource Center  
352 E. Olive Ste. A; Turlock, CA

Redwood Family Center  
1030 California Ave.; Modesto, CA

### **English and Family Literacy Classes**

Marshall Community Center  
420 Chicago Ave., Modesto, CA

Maddux Youth Center  
615 Sierra Dr., Modesto, CA

St. Mary's Catholic Church  
1225 Olive St., Oakdale, CA

Bret Harte Elementary School  
909 Glenn Ave., Modesto, CA

Robertson Rd. Elementary School  
1821 Robertson Rd., Modesto, CA

Rio Altura Elementary School  
2400 Stanislaus St., Rivertbank, CA

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**Check out our website at  
[www.readingworks.net](http://www.readingworks.net)**



## Wine, Jazz and Movie Event nets over \$10K

This year's Wine, Jazz and Movie event netted over \$10,000 for literacy. The event's Title Sponsor was Save Mart Cares. Other sponsors who donated at least \$1,000 included Rabobank, John T. Cunningham of Ameriprise Financial, and Valley First Credit Union. In-kind sponsors of at least \$250 included Modesto Bee, Hilmar Cheese Co., EJ Gallo Winery, Sally Gerbo Designs, Bordona Home Furnishings, Stuart David Home Furnishings and Gold Coast Protection. Other sponsors were the Cardoza Family Foundation, MID and MOCSE Credit Union.

The movie this year was *Precious* which highlighted the life of an illiterate adult. Stephanie Lee received the Shining Star Award (see story on page 2).



## Bequest will help expand outreach to youth

Paula Steinbach was a teacher who loved working with children having never had children of her own. When she died, she decided to leave a portion of her estate to programs which would continue her legacy of education of children.

For this reason, Paula Steinbach left a bequest to Stanislaus Literacy Center which will help

expand its programming into the area of youth.

"Youth literacy is an area where we have wanted to do more but never had the means," Karen William, executive director said. "I think bequests are a wonderful way to have an impact after your death and I'm grateful to this woman for her foresight and generosity."

### Leave a Literacy Legacy

Call Karen Williams at 522-0656 if you need more information on how to bequeath your love of reading.

A story of a woman who bequeathed her love of reading to the next generation.

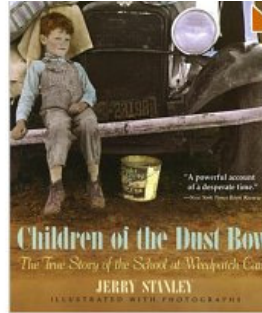
## Spotlights on Reading – A Reader’s Theater event

On Jan. 14 and 15, a new fundraising event for Stanislaus Literacy Center will be unveiled. It is planned as an annual Reader’s Theater event titled “Spotlights on Reading.”

This year’s event will feature the true story experienced and chronicled by Jerry Stanley in his book titled “Children of the Dust Bowl.”

It is the story of how Jerry Stanley was moved by the need of migrant children for their own school due to the discrimination they were experiencing in Kern County.

This one man was able to spearhead a movement to build a school with donated supplies and labor that was

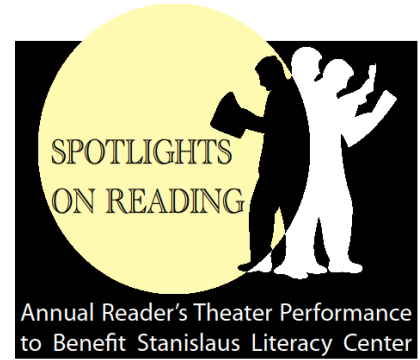


instrumental in providing education and training so these

children became employed and successful adults.

“One of our volunteer tutors, Kimberly Ogden, thought this story would inspire others to volunteer as tutors and wrote the script and pulled together key people such as the former head of MJC’s Drama Department, Jim Johnson, to provide this performance,” Executive Director Karen Williams said.

Tickets are available by calling 522-0656 or online at [www.readingworks.net/](http://www.readingworks.net/) events.



**Jan. 14 at 7 pm**  
**Jan. 15 at 1 pm and 6 pm**  
**Petersen Event Center**

## Donors contribute to “Bring Reading to Lives”

Individual and business donations to Stanislaus Literacy Center provided over \$95,000 to help bring reading to lives. Here is a list of those who gave to the cause of Literacy in Stanislaus County

AAUW  
 Amberse M. Banks  
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Your donation can provided the following:

**\$50 = books for one student for one yr.**  
**\$100= books and bus passes for one student for one yr.**  
**\$300 = everything needed to help a student for one yr.**

**Thank You Donors for Bringing Reading to Lives**

**We could not have helped over 1400 adults without your generosity.**

**Stanislaus Literacy Center  
1224 I Street  
Modesto, CA 95354**

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***Bringing Reading to Lives***

WE'RE ON THE WEB:  
WWW.READINGWORKS.NET

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