



Volume 7

Number 2

June 2009



Bessie McKinney and Brenda Thomas

## Project Read makes a difference in the lives of people in our community Come Join Us

On April 30, 2009, Bessie McKinney completed a 12 hour training course at Project Read and is now certified to tutor Basic Literacy clients. The remarkable thing about this certification is that, not long ago, Bessie herself was a Basic Literacy client here at Project Read. After studying for only two years with tutor Sandy Fryman, Bessie easily passed the tests at EKU's Adult Education Program and got her GED. What is more, she is now enrolled as a freshman at Eastern Kentucky University where she is working toward a degree in the field of Environmental Health Science.

All of us at Project Read are so proud of her. We do not often encounter adult learners with Bessie's determination and thirst for learning. One big advantage for her was her age. She is younger than most of our adult learners--which explains why it is easier for her brain to store and retain new information. It also helps that she does not have the adult responsibilities of a full-time job and a family, as many of our clients do.

I am also proud of this agency and tutor, Sandy Fryman, for being here to provide Bessie with the opportunity to continue her education. We are here for a wide range of adult learn-

ers, but many of them are at the lowest literacy levels. In fact, we are the only program in Madison County to provide literacy classes to these learners, and we feel this service is invaluable. We believe our community cannot afford to be without it, in spite of current economic conditions. Studies show that communities with higher literacy rates have lower unemployment and crime rates, as well as a reduction in other low literacy related problems.

Bessie is definitely one of our success stories. She has come full circle, and is now fulfilling the Frank Laubach dictate that "each one teach one." That concept—that those who learn to read and write should go forth to teach others--changed the world and made it possible for adults who had been left behind to catch up. I look forward to hearing her in one of our classrooms as she explains how to sound out words or how to do a math problem. Bessie has shown us that the work we are doing does indeed make a difference. We extend the invitation to this community to make many more such success stories possible.

Message from the Executive Director—Brenda Thomas

**Give a gift that makes a difference :  
Volunteer**

**We want your name and address  
to be accurate  
please call 623-4905**

# Donors



**David Jett, Marjorie Farris, and Jackie Vance, members of the Development Committee,** and other Board members are working hard to make up the difference between the projected United Way allocation and Project Read's anticipated financial needs for 2009-10. We are soliciting with letters and visits to local companies and governmental bodies. Progress is slow but we are encouraged by a recent promise of support from Bechtel Parsons after a visit by Governing Board Chair, Imogene Ramsey, and Board member Jackie Vance. Readers are encouraged to support PR in whatever way they can.

—Article submitted by David Jett.

**An Appreciation Reception for Our Tutors** is scheduled for June 30 from 5:30 to 7:00p.m. at the Richmond Central Bank Conference Room. We extend a special thanks to our tutors who give so generously of their time.

**Thanks to our donors**  
**for their support of the work we do**  
**for our community. If you would**  
**like to**  
**contribute, send your**  
**donation to:**  
**Project Read**  
**419 Gibson Lane**  
**Richmond, KY**  
**40475**  
**Phone: 859-623-4905**



Brenda Thomas and student Uyanga A.

A farewell party was held on May 12th for student, Uyanga A. who is from Mongolia. Those attending were her tutors Brenda Thomas, Executive Director, and Rachel Harmon, who recently graduated from ECU with a degree in Spanish, tutor Marjorie Farris and two of her students, Lucy S. from Columbia, S.A. and Yoko K. from Japan and tutor Barbara Dixon with her student Simone G. from Brazil.

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