Should Success Lead to More?

During the last seven years, we have experienced significant growth and maturity in our local Augustine Project®. We have tripled our numbers and now serve over 115 children in over 20 locations. Our tutors are recognized as the best-trained, most responsible, and dedicated literacy volunteers in our community. In many ways, our story is astonishing.

But here is reality: OVER HALF of WSFCS 3rd graders—more than 2,000—are not reading at grade level. Given these numbers, we must find ways to innovate and to open access for all those who need the Orton-Gillingham approach to succeed.

At the board level, we are wrestling to shape that innovation for maximum benefit. Is the right answer to simply get bigger, or are there other components we should add that will yield bigger results in our community? Where are the gaps that most need filling to make a profound difference in reading rates for the children of Forsyth County? Are we the right group to fill them?

In the coming months, we will keep you informed regarding new directions. We will never give up our core program—one-to-one tutoring for low-income children who need a great tutor—but we believe we are called to do more. If we want to radically alter the reading, writing, and spelling abilities of children and teens in our community, again we must think outside the box to find ways to help ALL those who are not reading well enough to succeed.

—Henri Brown, Augustine Director
The Gift of Great Imagination

Many Augustine students, such as Tishara, have great imaginations. When asked to write a story, “The Rolling Pumpkin,” Tishara’s imagination soared. She animated her pumpkin, wove a great tale, and later discovered that she had won the Griffith School Writing Contest.

Tishara’s prize was a Saturday trip to Barnes & Noble to select a book. It was Tishara’s first trip to a bookstore. Martha Apple, Tishara’s Augustine tutor, reported that Tishara was so amazed by the vast number of book choices that she had difficulty selecting her prize.

Martha is overjoyed that Tishara is being recognized for her talents. “Tishara is very creative. She’s eager to learn and to demonstrate what she has learned. She’s a joy,” Martha said.

Congratulations to both Tishara and Martha on their excellent progress together!

Bonnie and David Link Quilt Award

Several years ago, master quilter Dale Link created a special, personalized lap quilt for several Augustine students. This act of generosity grew into an award, “The Bonnie and David Link Quilt Award,” given in memory of Dale’s two children.

The award is given to exemplary Augustine students who model the tenacity, positive attitude, and spirit of our project. Each winner has worked with an Augustine tutor for more than one year.

We are deeply grateful to Dale for her continuing energy and generosity toward our Augustine students. These beautiful handmade quilts will be treasured for a lifetime. I know this year’s winners will be as overjoyed as previous winners have been. Again, thank you, Dale!

Gifts Large and Small

New tutor Abby Catoe brought her student a small book to celebrate his birthday. He was thrilled both to receive the book and to have a special memento from his tutor. At their next lesson, Abby says that her student reciprocated her gift giving. Her student said, “I have something special for you so you will always remember me.” Then, Abby reports, “he reached into his pocket and bestowed me with the tab of a zipper!” Abby made a necklace with the zipper pull, and she wears it as her favorite piece of jewelry. “Always around my neck now,” she reports.

What greater gift could there be than the true friendship of a child?
Augustine Tutors Win “Volunteer of the Year” … Again!

Congratulations to Pat Helm at South Fork Elementary and Jim Davis at Old Town Elementary, both 2012-2013 Volunteer of the Year winners at the schools where they tutored. They join others such as Carson Howard, Woody Clinard, and Nancy Dennis, who also have won this honor. Like all our Augustine tutors, they go way beyond the commitment of normal volunteers. Hooray for all our tutors, and special congratulations to Jim and Pat!

WS Augustine Provides Local Scholarships for National OG Conference

The WS Augustine Literacy Project® provided scholarships for one Augustine tutor, three WSFCS curriculum coordinators, and seven WSFCS classroom teachers to attend the 2014 national Orton-Gillingham Conference, held at Triad Academy at Summit School. Attendee and Griffith teacher Sandy Matthews expressed deep thanks for this unique opportunity, saying, “What a joy and a blessing it was to hear so many qualified people speak and share, … encourage and inspire each of us.” She concluded, “I know the Orton-Gillingham approach truly works. I see it at our school, and I am so deeply grateful to those special tutors who give up their time, love, and expertise to help our children. From my heart to yours, a deep and grateful thank-you to each of you.”

This year’s conference, “The Power of Orton-Gillingham: Inclusive, Effective, Universal,” featured nationally known presenters such as Ron Yoshimoto, Barbara Wilson, and Diana Hanbury King. Teachers, tutors, administrators, psychologists, speech therapists, and parents all benefited from the remarkable sessions offered during the conference.
Anonymous (6 total)
Anonymous (1), in honor of parents
Anonymous (1), in honor of Joe Current
Sandra Adams
Martha Albertson, in honor of Henri Brown
Mary Alsop, in honor of Chiquita Guglielmi
Shirley Amen
Mr. and Mrs. Earl R. Anderson, in memory of Rosli Clark
Hannah and John Appel, in honor of Bonnie Poindexter
Ms. Anne O. Armfield
Edna S. Austin
Mr. and Mrs. Charles S. Baldwin, III
Wrenna Barney
Helen P. Barnhardt
Ellen Bassett
Louise and Bill Bazemore, in honor of Becky Clingman and Joy Van Zandt
Mr. and Mrs. Frank M. Bell, Jr.
Beth Townsend and Bert Bennett
Jack Bennett, Jr., in honor of Jack Bennett, Sr.
Jack K. Bennett, Sr.
Mrs. Janice Bennett
Rita Bennett, in honor of friends
Mrs. Kim Berlin
Beta Mu Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma
Emily and Harbd Bing
Janice and Tom Blackburn
Mrs. Sally Glenn Blanco
Laura Bland
Mary O. Booe
Pam and David Bowton
Penni and Mike Bradshaw, in memory of Sara Bradshaw
Mr. and Mrs. John B. Brady
Mabel Brandon, in honor of Becky Clingman and Carol Danforth
Jeanne M. Brickhouse
Susan Brittain, in honor of Irene Burton
Homer Brookshire
Alice Day Brown
Henri and Royall Brown
Jean P. Brown, in honor of Scott Banks, Troupe. Poppy and Piper Cox, and in memory of Fischer Murphy Cox
Mary Elizabeth Brown, in memory of Lyle D. Brown
Pat and Hal Brown
Patty and Malcolm Brown
Jeremy and Hal Burnett
Brooke and Richard Burr
Mary Louise and John Burress, in honor of Henri Brown
Agnes and Albert Butler, in honor of Henri Brown
Mr. and Mrs. Archer Butler
Jane Butler
Taryn Butler
Ashley and Sam Byrd
Anne Carr, in honor of Henri Brown
M. Campbell Cawood, in honor of Kay and Don Donahue
Mr. and Mrs. Scott Cawood
Kay Chalk, in honor of Becky Clingman
Claire Christopher
Robert C. Clark
Alice and George Cleland
Woody Clinard, in memory of Helen Hall Clinard
Mrs. Emily M. Clingman
Mr. and Mrs. William F. Clingman, III
Tay and Austin Coan
Sarah Hill Colhoun
Chris Cox, in honor of Kris Cox
Sally and David Craven
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas H. Crichtlow, Jr.
Lila Cruikshank
Mr. and Mrs. John Danforth
Judy Davis
Betty Gray and Bill Davis
Mr. and Mrs. Albert J. DeForest, III
Nancy Dennis
Diamondback Grill, in memory of Thomas M. Schultz
Patricia and Morrison Divine
Myrna Doenmberg
Betty P. Doggett
Mr. and Mrs. Daniel W. Donahue
Mr. and Mrs. James W. Douglas
The Dowd Foundation
Ellen Doyle
Mr. and Mrs. Dale E. Driscoll
Cary F. Driver
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Lu Dunkelberg
Phyllis Dunning, in honor of Susan Melville and Charles Monroe
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Mr. and Mrs. Haywood Edmundson, V
Mr. and Mrs. James Eller, in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Driscoll, Mr. and Mrs. Dudley Humphrey, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Grubbs, Mrs. Gordon Hanes, Mr. and Mrs. Bernie McGinnis, and Dr. and Mrs. Charles Duckett
Robert M. Elliot and Suzanne Reynolds
Mrs. J. Robert Elster, in honor of Alison D. Elster
Susan and John Elster, in honor of Alison Elster
Mr. Thomas and The Rev. Darby Everhard
Hugh Everhart
Scilla and Alex Ewing
Elizabeth L. Fenwick, in memory of Charlotte Blount
Nancy Figan
First Tennessee Bank
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Nely and Michael Flatow
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Ms. Gene G. Foster
Bonnie and Rob Fowler
Dottie Francis
Mr. and Mrs. Tom Frazier
Alice and Isaac Freeman, in honor of Henri Brown
Audrey Fuhrmann
John P. Gaillard
Katherine and Harley Garrison
Mr. and Mrs. Scott Gerding
Barbara Gerhard, in honor of our students who teach us so much, and in memory of Helen Clinard
Mr. and Mrs. Robert J. Giffler, Jr.
Emily Gibbons, in honor of Henri Brown
Kathy and Art Gibel
Jane and Tommy Goodrum, in honor of Jim, Jennie and Will Turrell
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas O. Goodson
Mr. and Mrs. William A. Goodson, III
Karen and Keith Googe
Liana and Richard Gottlieb, in honor of Woody Clingman
Mr. and Mrs. W. Patrick Grantham
Constance Gray
Jennie M. Gray
Carrie Beth and John Guglielmi, in honor of Chiquita Guglielmi
Chiquita and John Guglielmi, in honor of all Augustine tutors. giving of their time and talent to make a difference in the life of a child.
Nicholas A. Guglielmi
Susie and Scott Halsey, in honor of Susan Uphoff
Tony Hamby
Mr. and Mrs. F. Borden Hanes, Jr., in honor of Henri Brown
Carol H. Harding
Martha Harper
Linda Hassel
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hauser
Laura and James Hemphill, in honor of John and Carol Danforth
Sue and Doug Henderson, in honor of Henri Brown
Martha Higginbotham, in honor of Susan Uphoff
Highland Presbyterian Church
Dr. and Mrs. Edward G. Hill, Jr.
Bunny Hinkle, in honor of Pam Bowton
Alice Hinman, in honor of Mrs. Lou Prangay and Mrs. Peggy Slater
Linda Hobbs, in honor of Judy Goodson
Mr. and Mrs. Walter McDowell, in honor of Henri Brown
Loy McGill, in honor of Henri Brown
Dr. Robert L. Means, in honor of Rita Bennett
Mr. William Mebane
Marianne Meyer
Robyn and Albert Mixon
Mr. and Mrs. John F. Morrow, Jr.
Ann Parke, Spencer and Sam Muller, in honor of Mr. and Mrs. John Olenick, Mr. and Mrs. John Milner and family, Mr. and Mrs. Carter Cook and family, Mr. and Mrs. Chris Ross and family, Mr. and Mrs. Mel Williams and family, Mr. and Mrs. Mike Dew and family, Dr. and Mrs. Ron Waterer, and Mr. and Mrs. Tom Bennett
Carolyn and John Myracle
Liz and Bob Newell, in honor of Liz Newell
Brad Niven
Marjorie Northup
Mr. and Mrs. Christoph Nostitz
Mary Beth and Bob Parker
Joellen S. Parks, in honor of Joy Van Zandt
Leigh and Charles Pace, in honor of Roberta and Jim Conroy
Dominique Patrick
Richard B. Patterson, in memory of Susan Uphoff
Nancy W. Payne
Brenda Penney
Mr. and Mrs. Cliff Perry, Jr.
Louise Perry
Julia and Bill Phipps, in honor of Carol Danforth
Mrs. Marjorie Pike
Mary Jane and David Pishko
Mr. Graydon Plemont and Mrs. Margaret Scales
Jane Spangler Poe
Sandy and Gary Poching, in memory of Mary Anne Maynard
Bonnie Poindexter
Louise and Harold Pollard
Mr. and Mrs. William A. Porter
Mrs. Deborah Potts
Mary L. Pritchard
David Rea and Martha Apple
Anna Kathryn Reece
Burton Reifler, in memory of John Fisher
Ms. Anna Reilly and Dr. Matthew Cullinan
Elizabeth Repetti, in honor of Henri Brown
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas B. Rice, III
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Margaret and Gene Stewart
Denise Stinson
Kimberly and Brian Strahn, in honor of Joy Van Zandt
Strickland Family Foundation, in memory of Nawal Ebeid Giscard d’Estaing
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Ginger and John Thomas
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Emily Wade, in honor of Susan Uphoff
Suzanne Wade
Martha Mickey Walker
Susan B. Wall, in honor of all the tutors
Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Wallace, in honor of Woody Clinkard
Dorothy Wattleworth, in honor of Beth Welsh
Mr. and Mrs. James Welsh, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Ernie White
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Trudy and Powell Winstead
Robin Woodard
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Jeffrey
Young, in honor of Sarosia Club of Winston-Salem
Susan and David Yount
Mr. Richard L. Zuber
Happily, Our Staff Grows

In December 2013, wonderful, energetic Kris Cox agreed to increase her responsibilities with the project, taking on the role of Assistant Director as well as Tutor Coach. Last year, Kris made 232 visits to our tutors in the field. She is amazing.

With the growth of our tutor pool, we also needed an additional part-time person to help Kris as a Tutor Mentor. We found the perfect person: Taryn Butler.

Taryn began as an Augustine tutor in 2011. Since then, she has worked as a tutor, a volunteer coach in our trainings, and an effective mentor to new tutors. We are delighted that Taryn has joined the Augustine team!

At left: Kris Cox prepares for Tutor Lunch Bunch.
Below: Taryn Butler, tutor mentor, works with her student.

Literate Girls Update

Our second grant from the Women’s Fund of Winston-Salem will end in June 2014. While we committed to serve 45 girls, we actually served over 70 girls during the grant period. We also created a bilingual informational piece highlighting the warning signs of reading difficulties in girls. This piece was distributed in public libraries, pediatricians’ offices, and other locations where parents of girls gather.

We deeply appreciate our partnership with the Women’s Fund and look forward to future collaborations.
Become an Augustine Tutor

UPCOMING TRAININGS:
September 15-26 (full training)
October 6-10 (abbreviated training)

Space is limited. Tutors are accepted as they register on a first-come, first-served basis.

Don’t miss your opportunity to tutor one child and change two lives.

Yes! I would like to help the Augustine Literacy Project® provide free literacy tutoring to low-income children in our community.

Attached please find my tax-deductible contribution in the amount of $_____________
Augustine Angel: $1,000  Patron: $500  Sponsor: $250  Donor: $100  Friend: $50  Other

Name: ________________________________
(for acknowledgment on Donor Honor Roll, or [ ] I prefer that my name not be listed.)

Address: _______________________________________________________

My gift is [ ] in honor  [ ] in memory of: ____________________________

Please send notice of my gift to: _______________________________________

Please make check out to St. Paul’s Episcopal Church with “AUGUSTINE” on the memo line.
Mail to Augustine Literacy Project, 520 Summit Street, Winston-Salem, NC 27101

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Rita Bennett, Office Manager
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From Our Board Chair, Pam Bowton:

Augustine Lessons Are Like Snowflakes

In my seven years of tutoring, I’ve experienced extraordinary joy working with many students. In the beginning, I thought the reading journey would be the same for each student. But this is hardly reality. I am continually struck by the different challenges and strengths of each new student. One student zips from lesson to lesson, building on skills, just as I imagined. However, I notice when he reads, he stumbles on the first word of new sentences, weakly transitioning from one sentence to the next. Fluency becomes his goal. Another student, mired in a struggle with automatic word recognition of common sight words, does NOT zip from lesson to lesson. He says he wants to be like the other students in his class. An older student confuses when to use short and long vowel sounds in a word and cannot break words into syllables. In lesson after lesson, my students teach me what they need.

I have the perfect toolbox for each student: the ALP lesson. Our lessons are like snowflakes, patterned but each unique. In limitless ways, every tutor can individualize lessons to target each student’s specific needs. We speed through lessons, we slow lessons down, and we review old lessons. We repetitively weave problem areas into lessons, using games, poems, skywriting, whisper phones, sand tracing, and iPad “painting.”

I believe that every child deserves the opportunity to learn to read and to acquire a joy of reading. With ALP tutors, students can flourish in an environment of trust, where making mistakes is OK and encouragement is always offered. I stand in awe of our passionate tutors and the Augustine Literacy Project.