

## Reading Legacies Youth Readers Program Description

Our Youth Readers Program is a unique after-school community service program that provides the opportunity for high school students to read aloud with preschool children in their communities on a regular basis. They commit to a full semester (once per week) and gain leadership skills through this commitment. Adults volunteer in this program as Community Advocates for the youth, being there for them on occasion to monitor their book selections, read-aloud techniques, and interactions with the children with whom they are reading. These adult Community Advocate volunteers read-aloud as role models for the youth, as well.

Occasionally, Adult Guest Readers are invited to join the activity (with special invitation from Reading Legacies) and they are invited to read-aloud with the children and then speak to the youth afterwards in order to share their own backgrounds and professions with the youth – thereby giving the high school youth opportunities to meet and interact with community members.

### Volunteer Responsibilities and Expectations

- Youth volunteers can participate in our Youth Readers program in locations around the county where Reading Legacies has established a regular schedule for the program. If we are not currently available in your location, we can work with you to gather enough other volunteers to start the program in your area.
- Once we find a good location for you to participate, the commitment is one afternoon per week for one semester. The time commitment is one hour, not including travel time to and from the child-care center. You can receive community service hours for your volunteer time.
- Adult community advocate volunteers participate in this program semi-weekly for one semester. Their role is to role model for and encourage the youth volunteers as good readers with exemplary behavior and commitment to the young children with whom they are reading.
- All volunteers are required to attend a Reading Legacies training to learn our process and other information pertinent to this program.
- It is our policy that Reading Legacies volunteers never work alone. You will always be with at least one other volunteer and a staff member from Reading Legacies or the facility where the event is located will always be available to you.
- Your experience as an important member of our team is of utmost importance to us, including your safety and “job” satisfaction.



Reading Legacies is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) public-benefit organization whose mission is based on our core value that intergenerational shared reading experiences provide a unique opportunity to empower children and youth as valued family and community members—a critically important priority for the future of our country. Our strategies to fulfill our mission and vision for children and youth are by facilitating meaningful “community connections” and “family connections” for them.