Congratulations on being a part of another great year in the DC Reads program! Each and every one of you have become role models for the students you have helped over the past months. As tutors, you gave one of the most important gifts a person can give— the opportunity for a better education.

You are a part of a team of over 145 tutors distributed amongst 10 sites all around the District of Colombia. Providing more than 750 hours of tutoring a week, you as tutors have made an enormous impact on the children of DC. Although each and every one of you have been instrumental to the success of the program, there were many tutors who went above and beyond what was required of them. We would like to recognize them on the following pages:

The FLOC team before going to site!
D.C. Reads *Star* Tutors!

Jonathan Abbamonte and Michael Brosnan (Beacon House): Great in helping new tutors get adjusted to a new system at the center.

Colleen Arnold and Kelly O’Connor (Garfield): Colleen and Kelly are always great smiling faces at Garfield.

Juliana Aquaro: She went out of her way to go to Campus Ministry and picked up the flyers for Kids on Campus Day which was a huge help!!

Jen Barbera (FLOC): Jen was not feeling well on Wednesday, but pulled through and came to tutoring for her student. That shows me true dedication and selflessness. I am proud to have her on our team!

Maureen Barry (Garfield): Maureen and I co-tutor a class of fifteen students and she is a huge help in the class and keeps up great attendance. Thanks Maureen!

Brian Bligh: He is a great tutor and always has a lot of energy when helping his student and always willing to go above and beyond. He is always on time, ready to tutor and help others.

David Boone (Turner): Really stepped up this week and tutored an entire class of students by himself. Great job, David!

Marcus Bolston and Jason Burke (Garfield): Our Americorps tutors Marcus Bolston and Jason Burke are great and positive! They are both a pleasure to have at site!

Mike Brosnon (Brookland): Mike is doing excellent, especially because he has offered to sign in the tutors and drive them Wednesday when neither of his team leaders can attend site. Thanks for your dedication Mike!

Tim Brady (Garfield): Tim usually tutors 3rd grade alone, other than the help of a parent helper. He is a very enthusiastic tutor with great attendance and always comes to site with a friendly face! Thanks Tim!

Kate Bukowski (Garfield): Kate is one of the most patient tutors who works with 4th grade, which is one of the most difficult grades to work with at Garfield. She does a great job!

Daniel Burns: Got his tutee to complete his subtraction math assessment. He is a challenging child to work with and after Dan’s help and encouragement, he suddenly blasted through the last 13 problems.

Lucy Consler (FLOC): Lucy has really impressed me with her ability to tutor a student especially when her assigned student is absent. Her enthusiasm is contagious and her spirit is undying. I think that she is really doing a great job this semester and she really puts her heart into tutoring!
D.C. Reads *Star* Tutors!

**Nwakaego Ekwuabu, Christina Strain and Megan Murray:** An enthusiastic group of tutors who stayed late for night tutoring at Beacon House. Talk about dedication!!!

**FLOC Tutors:** Eric Gannon, team leader at FLOC, nominated all of his tutors! They are: Jen Barbera, Brian Bligh, Lucy Consler, Nolan Converse, Eric Gannon, Kathryn Howe, Marissa Leone, Michael McGrath, Caroline Savoie, Jonathan Sitko, & Johanna Sturm. Keep up the good work!

**Joan Gunawan (Turner):** She has shown a lot of dedication at site regarding attendance and has great communication with her team leader and supervisor! Thanks Joan!

**Jennifer Hector (Turner):** Jennifer was great this week! She was patient and took charge of her class!

**Jeff Ledford (Beacon House):** He is an incredibly productive tutor and shows exceptional skill in being friendly with the children while communicating the material.

**Holly Murray (Beacon House):** She connects very well with her students and keeps them on task and especially makes a good tutor-student friendship with them.

**Cara Paulan (Centronia):** Cara always comes in full of energy and enthusiasm.

**Lori Schmid:** She is a natural teacher and leader. Her children seem to love her and learn a lot when she is with them.

**Jonathan Sitko:** Gets his student excited about learning and he always communicates with his site leader and the other tutors.

**Rachel Stabb (Turner):** I was unable to be on site for one day last week at the last minute, and she stepped up and helped me out.

**Christina Strain:** Helped out with testing at Beacon House when one of the proctors called out sick.

**Johanna Sturm (FLOC):** Has gotten a new student this semester and is really engaging her student, Destiny, who is responding very well to the positive attention and encouragement. The effort and excitement that Johanna is putting into tutoring really makes her stand out from the rest of our DC Reads tutors!

**Mia Volant:** She comes up with creative ways to help her student who often gets frustrated and gives up easily. She wants her students to succeed and helps them any way she can to do so.

**Alex Dennett (FLOC):** Has really seemed anxious to start tutoring. She has been asking questions when she does not understand something and she tries to get involved in any way she can.

**Elizabeth Doherty (St. Anthony’s):** She shows a lot of hard work and patience, especially since she just got 2 new students!
DC Reads Tutors’ Experiences and Reflections

DC Reads is something that people can only really appreciate when they have been a part of something as meaningful as this program. I was introduced into the DC Reads program because of my class, and I can honestly say that I have not enjoyed any other class more. I can remember my first day at my site. I was so anxious. Would my student like me? Was I really cut out to be a teacher? What if I failed to teach them all that I was supposed to? My students were counting on me to help them and to give to them what they may have lacked - a role model.

Within minutes of meeting my student all of my fears had disappeared. I was amazed at the ease that the seemed to come over me while I talked of fractions and adverbs. I can remember calling my mother after that first day and as I tried to explain to her the amazing experience that I had just had, I realized that I couldn’t. My DC Reads experience has been something that only a small group of people can understand. The times that I have had at site have taught me a lot about myself. I learned that my dream to be a teacher is something that can be accomplished; that a role model is one of the keys to success in life; most importantly, I learned that life is what you make of it, and that anything is possible when you over come your fears.

~Anonymous ‘09
I must admit, on my first day I was nervous. It was a new experience, one that I could not fathom being a part of just weeks ago as I sat in my backyard in Northern New England. For me, being a tutor with DC Reads was an obvious decision. Being the oldest child of eight and having two parents who were English teachers, DC Reads was a chance for me to take all that I had been taught in life and share with those who were less fortunate.

Over the past months I believe that I have benefited from the DC Reads program as much, even not more than, my students. I have come to discover the difference that one person is capable of making, the joy of seeing the progress a person makes in life, and also how important it is to have a role model in life. Words can not describe how much my life has changed because of the DC Reads program. I am eternally grateful for the experiences that I have had.

~Anonymous ‘10

DC Reads has truly changed the way I look at the world. I have done similar tutoring programs in the past, but nothing quite compares to DC Reads. Coming in as a freshman, I was really intimidated by the fact that the program involves so many tutors from all different years. However, from the moment that I stepped foot inside my school, all the fears I had disappeared.

I have seen so many positive changes from my students, and I truly feel that I have made a difference in their lives. Just knowing that they had that one dependable person a couple of times a week made me feel so important. I have seen my students gain self confidence, respect for others, and most importantly respect for themselves.

~Anonymous ‘11
What is one thing you will take away from your DC Reads experience?

“Knowing that I made a difference in just one person’s life is something that I will take great pride in.”

“Seeing the smiles on the students’ faces when the tutors walked through the doors each day. Everyone dropped what they were doing and just lit up!”

“Seeing the personal growth in my student. Knowing that she benefited from me giving up just a few hours a week is something that I will never forget.”

“The funny stories of the other tutors. On the bus rides back we were all share something funny that happened during the day with our students. It’s true: kids do say the funniest things!”

“I have gained a great respect for teachers. I can’t even begin to imagine what it was like teaching me and my friends when we were younger!”

“The personal relationships that I gained with my students. Knowing that they look forward to seeing us each day is the best feeling!”
One Hundred Years from now
(excerpt from "Within My Power" by Forest Witcraft)
One Hundred Years from now
It will not matter
what kind of car I drove,
What kind of house I lived in,
how much money was in my bank account
nor what my clothes looked like.
But the world may be a better place because
I was important in the life of a child.

Thank you to Katelynd Mahoney for all her hard work putting together this newsletter!
Thank you also to the many contributors of stories, quotes, and photographs.

We would also like to recognize the people who planned this year’s appreciation dinner:

Nwakaego Ekwuabu, Eric Gannon, Jenni Nguyen, Margie O’Connor, and Kate Reina.

Thank you so much!