

## Our Mission

*We work within our communities to raise awareness of literacy challenges and to help people develop literacy skills necessary to meet their goals and improve their quality of life.*

Free books for family programs. Contact us to find out if you qualify.

## Thank you to our recent donors!

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Allan Quigley gives an inspiring talk to our tutors

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## Important Dates

May 17 – Join us for the Literacy [Task Group](#) meeting  
 June 19 – READ AGM & Partners Year End Party

See our [calendar](#) for a full list of events.

## Message from the Chair

In [2013](#)<sup>1</sup> over 12 million Canadians volunteered and over \$12 billion was donated to charities or non-profits. Volunteering and giving benefits society and benefits the volunteers and donors. If you want to contribute, it's important to do so in a way that fits your philosophy, interests, goals and schedule. At READ, [tutors](#) work directly with learners, our [Board](#) focuses on governance, and [supporters](#) donate services, goods, or funds. If you are passionate about literacy, call us to chat about how you can help.

<sup>1</sup> latest data available

~Aimee Begalka, Chair

## A Success Story - Never Give Up

This is the story of a learner (we call him Slim for privacy reasons). Slim came to our Partners program in October 2014. He was frustrated and embarrassed by his literacy skills. He had been working on his reading since about 2008.

Slim always had a hard time in school. Finally, he was tested and began working with a support teacher. Soon after that his family moved. The learning plan was not carried on to the next school. Slim dropped out of high school. But he kept trying to improve his skills. Slim figured out many things on his own. He found videos and materials about adult learning on the Internet. He joined another tutoring program for awhile. He even tried going to a business that taught reading and writing. The teacher was unkind and treated him with contempt. After two lessons with that teacher, he did not go back. Then he called [Decoda](#) Literacy Solutions who gave his name to us.

Nicky was the first Partners tutor to work with him. She tried many strategies in the coming weeks. Slim told Nicky which strategies worked for him and which were hard. They worked together until they found a method that fit for him.

*He kept trying to improve his skills*

It was not easy. "Slim made the time to improve his reading while working full time," said Nicky. "He also took transit an hour each way." He managed to get his homework done almost every week. Slowly, his reading got better.

Many people who find it hard to read think they are alone. Since joining Partners, Slim is now aware there are people worse off than him. For example, he knows of a person who sees numbers instead of certain letters.

Each learner has a goal. One of Slim's long-term goals is to finish high school. One of his short-term goals was to read the daily newspapers - which he can do now. He appreciates the help from Partners and says, "Thanks to you and your team for helping me out."

Slim worked hard to overcome his literacy issues. He even used some of his new skills to help his nephew with his reading. He also made a new long-term goal. "I think I'd be a good tutor because I've struggled. I've tried a few tutors and know what did and what didn't work." He knows he must help himself first. Then he will think about giving back. His advice to others who struggle, "Never give up. Give your tutor time to get to know you and figure things out."

Written by Embers Moore & Shanti Ang

