

It's All About Kids

Reading ASSIST Institute

Reading ASSIST is a Delaware-based nonprofit literacy organization that promotes literacy but more importantly also trains tutors, teachers and parents to actually teach children to read. The Delaware Small Wonder has as its mission to teach ALL of Delaware's struggling readers to read.

Founded by Delawarean and University of Delaware alumna Virginia (Ginger) Biasotto, Reading ASSIST was one mother's answer to the reading struggles of one of her children. Ginger learned first-hand the

frustrations experienced by a child who could not learn to read by traditional classroom methods, and set out to help other children overcome reading differences.

These are students from all walks of life who find learning to read an arduous and frustrating experience. Ironically, they are often the brighter children in their classes, artistic multidimensional thinkers,



those most able to grasp broad spatial concepts. However, they are also the children for whom the written word is a mystery. And research tells us that it will remain one without appropriate intervention. Reading ASSIST tutors learn a phonetic, multi-sensory curriculum through an intensive, free 36-hour training course. These dedicated volunteers work one-on-one with children in Kindergarten through third grade in public and parochial schools who have been identified by their teachers as being at risk for reading failure.

This volunteer tutor program is active in 36 partner schools with

more than 120 tutors serving more than 200 children daily!

Reading ASSIST also offers private, fee-based tutoring through their Tutor Service Program, at a reasonable price. Funds from the Wilmington Flower Market will enable Reading ASSIST to provide important manual to its volunteer tutors. As a result, they will be able to bring consistent cutting -edge instruction to the children that they serve.



Reading ASSIST Founder Wins Jefferson Award



"One person can make a difference!"

The Jefferson Awards Program, named for Thomas Jefferson, was founded by the American Institute of Public Service in 1972 to encourage volunteerism. It also provides an opportunity to recognize ordinary people who do extraordinary things. Award criteria include two simple issues:

Outstanding personal acts:

The individual stands out for taking extra steps. The individual acts were "outstanding," "unique" or "heroic."

Community impact:

Besides heroic acts, the individual has positively impacted the community and helped hundreds of others.

Virginia Lanier Biasotto was one

of five Delawareans to recently receive the Jefferson Award, considered to be the Nobel Prize of service to others. Biasotto said her efforts grew over 26 years from "a dream seed." Her dream - of all Delaware children learning to read - led her to start the Reading ASSIST Institute. Virginia has helped thousands of children overcome literacy problems and learn to read.