

FEATURED VOLUNTEER SPRING 2010



Volunteer Sharan Allen knows what it's like to be a struggling reader, as she herself experienced some difficulties in the third grade. When she moved from Newark, DE to Sussex County and was searching for a way to connect and give back to her new community, she discovered the Reading ASSIST Institute website. Reading ASSIST's Volunteer Tutoring Program seemed the perfect avenue to make a difference in her community. Sharan completed training in the fall of 2008 at the Reading ASSIST Institute Milford Office and has been volunteer tutoring for the past several years. She tutored at West Seaford Elementary and presently tutors at North Georgetown Elementary.

In addition to volunteering with Reading ASSIST, Sharan is a member of the Board of Directors of Taking His Word Ministry, Inc. She received a PhD in Christian Counseling from the Southwest Bible College and Seminary and through her church ministry volunteers to mentor youth at risk, counsel single and married women, and teaches Adult Bible Study.

I struggled with some minor reading problems in the third grade and although it was a brief struggle, it still made a large impact on my self esteem. I was fortunate to have a tutor at the time that made the difference for me. Hopefully, one day the students I tutor will be able to give back and help someone as well.

I appreciate the multisensory aspect of the program. This would have helped me! I even utilize the skills I learned during the (RAPS Intervention) training myself on a regular basis. I stress this with the students I tutor. I tell them not to be intimidated by words. Don't be afraid as I will help you. Use your skills and take authority over the word and you can read it.

I have seen improvement in the students I tutor. I believe that even those students who do not show great improvement immediately, will blossom. The skills they learn are like planted seeds. Each day is different and as I arrive to tutor, I wonder how the students will do. My hope is that one day the students I tutor will develop a love of reading.

-Sharan Allen