

Common Place...*where love works!*

GOODNEWS

August 2011

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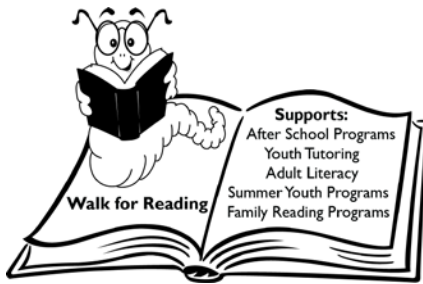
Our Mission is to strive to eliminate the root causes of poverty, racism, and other social injustices by recognizing the dignity and self-worth inherent in each person.

Common Place Board Chair
Roberta Koscielski

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Jim Bremner
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25th Anniversary - Common Place Walk for Reading

Put yourself in the “shoes” of a child starting school, who lives in a household where reading isn’t present—or where everyday survival overshadows reading and learning. What feelings do you have?—fear, inadequacy, maybe even helplessness—that permeates your classroom experience, your relationships with peers and adults, and the way you behave in the world around you. Statistics show that there are many children in our community who do not read at grade level. Some of these become adults who still face reading challenges (see statistics p. 2). At Common Place, we give the gift of literacy every day to children, adults, and families. Over the last year, over 180 K-12th grade children and youth found a “home” at this common place where they discovered the pleasure of learning, gained confidence and developed strong character. Adults—217 of them—learned life-changing reading, math and everyday lifeskills in our small group classes or one-on-one tutoring. Families enjoyed reading together and parents learned how to help their children succeed in school through Family Reading Nights, Operation Education workshops for parents, and Summer Family Reading.



You can help make a difference by participating in our **25th annual Walk for Reading on September 10!** The Walk provides vital financial support for our literacy programs! This year’s goal is \$ 30,000, dollars that are necessary to maintain our literacy programs for all ages.

Registration begins at Common Place at 8:00 a.m., with the walk starting at 8:30 a.m. Choose either the “Novel” 5K walk or the “Short Story” 1-mile walk, through our residential and shady “streets of literature”, followed by a free brunch and awarding of prizes.

Sponsorships are key to reaching our goal! Ask your friends, neighbors, relatives to sponsor you to walk. A form is enclosed, find it online at www.commonplacepeoria.org, or call Stephanie at 674-3315.

If you can’t be at the Walk, you can still support literacy—gather sponsors and walk at another location/time of your choice; organize a team with your civic group, church group, business or others (to participate at Common Place or another location); or send a donation—and remember to celebrate reading!



Calendar of Events

Mon., September 5	Closed: Labor Day
Thurs., September 8	International Literacy Day
Sat., September 10 8:00 a.m. 8:30 a.m.	<i>Walk for Reading</i> Registration Walk
Wed., September 14 5:30 – 8:00 p.m.	Tutor Training Workshop, Session 1
Sat., September 17 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.	Tutor Training Workshop, Session 2
Sat., September 22 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.	Tutor Training Workshop, Session 3
Thurs., November 24	Closed: Thanksgiving
Friday, November 25	Closed

Did you know

- World wide, more than 861 million adults don't know how to read or write; over 30 million in the U.S. lack the reading skills to complete a job application.
- 21-24% of Illinois adults cannot read or have only minimal reading skills.
- Locally, over 28,000 Central IL adults have not graduated high school; 25% of the adults in our neighborhood have not graduated high school.
- In Illinois, those with a college degree are 39% more likely to be employed than those without a high school diploma, and earn twice as much over the life time.
- About 40% of high school graduates lack the literacy skills employers seek.
- 85% of juvenile offenders have reading problems.
- In a recent study, 4th grade reading scores in Illinois are at or above the basic level for only 47% of low-income students, compared to 80% of others.
- Research showed that children from professional families hear 382 different words per hour, while those from welfare families hear 167.

People who read are more likely to not only succeed in school and work, but also are more involved in their community, in the arts, more likely to vote, more likely to volunteer, have greater success with their children, and have better health.

Straight from the Heart of Volunteer Adult Tutors

Although there is always a need for tutors in the Adult Literacy Program at Common Place, there is currently a shortage. From July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011, Common Place served 217 adult learners and had 53 tutors.

One of our newest volunteer tutors, Jeri Winkler, a retired reading specialist/learning disability teacher, says she is volunteering to help adults read because, "God gave me skills to use and I want to help others. It's the reward of seeing someone make progress and be happy is why I am tutoring." She also says if someone is uncertain about tutoring, "they should come to the first Tutor Training Workshop session to see if it's for them."

Another tutor, Jerrie Ruck, claims it's "one of the very best experiences I've ever had. I wish I had done it sooner." And, if someone is thinking about volunteering they should, "just do it and don't look back. I would not miss this experience."

Common Place is offering a Tutor Orientation and Training Workshop series in September at Common Place. If you would like more information about the Tutor Training, or would like to register, please call Kathryn at 674-3315.

Teach an Adult to Read

The Adult Literacy staff at Common Place is offering a **Tutor Orientation and Training Workshop** series at Common Place on

- **Wed., September 14, 5:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.**
- **Saturday, Saturday 17, 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.**
- **Saturday, Saturday 24, 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.**

Cost is \$20 for materials. Registration is required. Call Kathryn, 674-3315, to register.

Love In Action Award Dinner
June 9, 2011



Dick & Dolly Albers



Carl Cannon, 2011 award recipient, and family



Carl Cannon posing with Common Place youth



Above: Peoria City Councilman Ryan Spain, Common Place Promising Futures Coordinator Lola Patton, and Mayor Jim Ardis

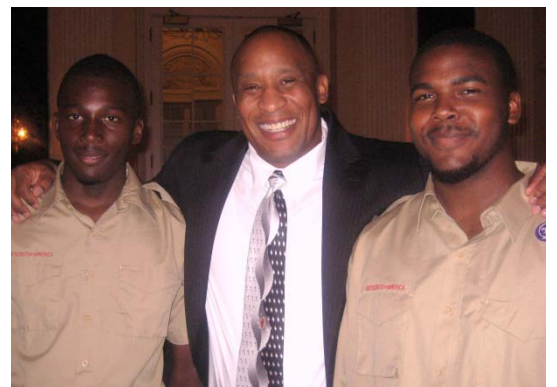
Right: Board Vice-Chair Jim Bremner with Claude Williams (seated) and 2010 award recipient Shirley Dresden



Left: Board Secretary Cheryl Dawson and husband, Mike



Left: Board President Roberta Koscielski talks with City of Peoria Police Chief Steven Settingsgaard



Right: Carl Cannon poses with program participants, Stefan Anderson and Michael Albert Rayford

It is the 25th anniversary of the Common Place Walk for Reading!

*Celebrate literacy and support Common Place literacy programs
by participating in the*

**25th Walk for Reading
Saturday, September 10, 2011**

8:00 a.m. registration at Common Place
8:30 Walk begins
Followed by free brunch and prize awards
Registration \$25 individual, \$35 family

Celebrate Reading!!

International Literacy Day is Thursday, September 8

Common Place Walk for Reading is held each year on the Saturday that follows International Literacy Day, in celebration of literacy and to recognize and support our Common Place literacy programs. Celebrate literacy this year -----

- *Participate in the Common Place Walk for Reading!!*
- Find out more about literacy needs in your community.
- Arrange for a speaker about Common Place literacy at your club or group.
- Read to someone—young or not so young.
- Visit your local library.
- Donate a quality book(s) to our programs for children and adults.
- Form a reading club.
- Volunteer to tutor a young person or an adult.
- Advocate for literacy.

Happy reading!!

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS from March 30, 2011 to July 8, 2011

Dick & Dolly Albers; Fred & Sharon Altman; Ameren CILCO; Fern Anderson; Melanie Anderson; Anonymous; Jim Ardis; Thelma Arnett; AT & T Employee Giving – United Way Campaign; Peter & Jeanne Barclay; Bob & Karen Bartelt; Ken & Judy Baumgartner; Kristen & Dan Berchtold; Mr. & Mrs. Harold Berg; Ruth Bittner; Mrs. Dean Blomeyer; Mr. & Mrs. Mahlon Blumenshine; Sally Boers; Ellen Boulton; Jim & Alice Bremner; Cheryl Bryant; John & Letha Byrne; Dale & Marianne Campbell; Frank & Janice Carder; M. Joyce Carlisle; Peggy Carter; Catholic Women's League; Children's Home; City of Peoria; Nancy Clayton; Phillip & Noel Cline; Carolyn Close; Rick & Sally Cloyd; Steve & Minta Colburn; Combined Federal Campaign; Community Foundation of Central Illinois; Mr. & Mrs. David Connor; Kathleen Conner; Dick & Doreve Cridlebaugh; Pat Dallman; Debbie Daniels; Mike & Cheryl Dawson; Delavan United Methodist Church; Delta Kappa Gamma, NU Chapter; Dollar General Literacy Foundation; Jon & Shirley Dresden; Helen Dunn; Mr. & Mrs. Keith Erickson; Mary Evans; David & Karen Ewert; John & Lu Anne Fendrich; The Craig Fenton Family Foundation, Inc.; First Baptist Church Women, American Baptist Women; First Baptist Church, Peoria; First Christian Church, Creve Coeur; First Christian Church, Pekin; First Christian Church, Walnut; First Federated Church, Peoria; First United Methodist Church, East Peoria; Ted W. & Kerri Fleming; Adele Fleming; Phillip Gardner; G.E. Foundation; Betty Gibson, Glen Oak Christian Church; Terry & Carol Glynn; Mr. & Mrs. Robert Gordon; Grace and Peace Lutheran Church; Johanne Grewell; Mr. & Mrs. Frank Grimsley; Homer & Barb Gurtler; Mr. & Mrs. Bill Hardin; Mr. & Mrs. Michael Hartnett; Heart of Illinois United Way; Hoerr Nursery; Mr. & Mrs. Donald Hofford; Ann Holmes; Carol Hoover; Mr. & Mrs. William Hounshell; Dr. & Mrs. James Hunt; Bea Huson; James Hutcheson; Illinois Conference UCC; Illinois Central College; Karin Johnson; Mr. & Mrs. Joe Kennell; Millie Koscielski; Roberta Koscielski & Chandler Kirby; Kathleen Krippel; Richard & Marsha Kutter; William & Tracey Lance; Rich & Sharon Lansdowne; Linda Lavaux; Kenneth Legg; Kathleen Leonard; Yvonne Long; Mackinaw Christian Church; Madison Ave. United Methodist Church; Steve & Deborah Malpede; David Manuel, Sr.; Marian Marshall; Helen Martin; Marge McGaughey; Meredith McKee; Noral McNeely; Robert McQuirter; Anne Messmore; Beverly Miller; William & Norma Miller; John & Betty Minor; Mr. & Mrs. H.J. Mitchell; Mizpah Circle of the Kings Daughters & Sons; Derrick Montgomery; Mr. & Mrs. James Mueller; Robert & Gail Muir; Elliott Murray; Coral Ness & Lynn Ann Boon; New Beginnings Ministries; Brian Nixon; Charlotte Noe; Henry Noe; James & Kelly Noe; Northminster Presbyterian Church; Dr. & Mrs. Bud Novotny; Mrs. William O'Neill; Dana Oaks; Rosemary Oldenburg; Optimist Club of Peoria; James & Katherine Owens; Mrs. Theodore Page; Ann Pastucha; Peoria Area Convention & Visitors Bureau; Peoria Housing Authority; Peoria Park District; Sam Petty; Pilot Club; Tim & Debra Pleasant; Richard Popp; David Prindable; Mr. & Mrs. Chuck Rager; Donald & Laura Rager; Henry & Nancy Rakoff; Raman & Parimala Raman; William & Patricia Rinehart; Tom Rochford; Dr. William K. Rohwedder; Miriam Roth; Brian & Deborah Ruddell; John & Linda Sahn; Barbara Schefelbein; Mr. & Mrs. Mark Schellenberg; Congressman Aaron Schock; Mr. & Mrs. Richard Schwebel; Donald & Meredith Seaton; Jodi Shields; Stephanie Sierra; Esther Springer; St. Marks Lutheran Church, Washington; Ted & Mary Jane Sterling; James Stowell; Mr. & Mrs. Fred Stuber; Sunnyland Christian Church; Mary Sutton; Steve & Kay Sutton; Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Swager; Marilee Tilly; Matt Timm; Mrs. Kathryn Timmes; Moira & Richard Tingleff; Mr. & Mrs. Field Triebel; Truist; Carol Turbett; Nancy Venzon; Versa Press; Mr. & Mrs. Ken Volz; Eugene & Margaret Voss; Karen Voss; Carol Walker; Chuck Walker; Washburn Christian Church; Marcus Washington; Washington Presbyterian Church; Web Tech Services, Inc.; Alan & Helen Wertsch; Dr. & Mrs. Max Wessler; Dr. & Mrs. Owen West; Randy & Mary Jane West; Westminster Presbyterian Church; Whistwood; Jackie & Curtis White; William & Beverly White; Merle Widmer; Joe & Judy Willard; Martha Willi; Willow Hill United Methodist Church; Maurine Witte; Women In Leadership of Central Illinois; David & Sally Youngman; Phyllis Ziegler; and, Glenn & Julie Zipp

Thank you to all donors. We apologize for any omissions or incorrect listings in the donor list. If you feel that an error has occurred, contact Common Place at 674-3315. Please be reminded that the list reflects contributions received between March 30, 2011 to July 8, 2011.

We are grateful for the following grant funding to support the work of Common Place!

IL Conference of the United Church of Christ, for Future Quest youth program * Dollar General Foundation, for Adult Literacy Program * Secretary of State, for Adult Literacy Program * Secretary of State Penny Severns grant, for Adult Literacy Summer Family Reading * United Way for Primary Focus (grades 1-4) * United Way for Future Focus (grades 5-8) * United Way for Comprehensive Adult Literacy * CDBG through City of Peoria, for Promising Futures and Future Quest * Youth United for Central Illinois for Summer Youth Programs

Want to contribute to our quality programs? Here are some ways---

- Send a general donation.
- During tax year 2011, you can designate Common Place as a recipient of your Required Minimum Designation.
- Leave a legacy by making a bequest to Common Place in your will.



Help us win an office makeover!

We are participating in the *Make My Non-Profit Run Better* contest for a chance to win an office technology makeover from RK Dixon. Vote once per day, www.rkdixon.com

Summer Youth Programs and Summer Family Reading Program

Each summer children experience a loss of core educational skills, sometimes a semester or more. This summer the youth enrolled in Common Place's Summer Work Study Program and the Summer Teen Employment Program participated in this year's educational theme of "Brain Bowl". Common Place is thankful for the Youth United for Central Illinois (YUCI) grant for helping to fund the Brain Bowl. Brain Bowl is a quiz show type setting where the Shurley English Method and basic Math Skills were studied. Every Friday the children came together in their groups to share what they learned and competed for points and knowledge rights. Many children enrolled have asked if we would use the Brain Bowl theme for next summer!



Brain Bowl teams competing

Right: Youth giving the staff a preview of what they learned this summer by reciting a jingle to help them remember rules of English grammar.



Thanks to donated seeds, plants, and monetary donations, these youth were able to learn about gardening



Summer Family Reading participants learn about living in Medieval Times from the Society for Creative Anachronism



These young ladies enjoyed making their own jeweled sword as part of the Summer Family Reading program, "Summer Days and Knights of Olde"



Students performing the personal pronoun jingle during the Brain Bowl



Community service: litter pick-up around Common Place



Summer Family Reading program: adults reading, Robin Hood

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Please call or email us if you would like to be removed from our mailing list.

Current Resident

Yes! I want to help with the *Walk for Reading*

_____ Please send me a registration form and sponsor sheet.

_____ Sorry I can't be there, but enclosed is my contribution to help with Common Place's education programs.

NAME & ADDRESS _____

_____ I would like information about volunteer opportunities.

_____ I have included Common Place in my will.