



Vermont Reading Partners

A Volunteer Literacy Program

Student-Tutor Newsletter, December 2010

2010 Tutor Training

What do an engineering tech, a recent college grad, a retired ESL teacher, a retired member of the corporate world, a retired business owner, and two attorneys have in common? They have all taken the plunge and completed a VRP tutor training workshop. This year VRP welcomes seven new tutors, bringing the total number of tutors assisting children, adults, and families in southwest-



From left: Danielle Fogarty, Nina Richmond, Joyce Brenner, Julie Snow, Nicole Crocco, and Carolyn Little completed the Adult Tutor Training Workshop in October.

ern Vermont to fifty-four. Four of the new tutors are from Manchester, two from North Bennington, and one from Cambridge, N.Y. Having three new tutors from the Southshire will increase VRP's ability to continue services in the Bennington area. Thanks to the Bank of Bennington in Manchester and the Martha Canfield Library in Arlington for providing facilities for the classes.

--Cristina Mansfield

Suzanne Rose doing a reading exercise at the School Program Tutor Training Workshop.



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Tutor Interview

Following is an interview of new Adult Program tutor Danielle Fogarty by VRP Board member Sarah Post:

Interested in helping an adult learn to read and write, Danielle Fogarty found out about tutor training from our website listed in our flyer and attended sessions in the fall. After completing her training, Danielle did not have to wait long for a student. The partnership with her new tutee is going very well, she says.

Danielle spent her early years in New York state, then went to the University of Florida for her Bachelor of Business in Finance and to Suffolk University Law School in Boston for her law degree. She received her Masters of Law in International Trade and Competition Law at the University of Amsterdam's School of International Relations in the Netherlands. She has been licensed to practice law since 1997 in Vermont, Massachusetts, and New York. She is a partner in the law firm of Donovan & O'Connor, LLP (offices in Bennington, Vt., and North Adams and Pittsfield, Mass.).

We recently caught up with Danielle to ask her a few questions.

What do you like most about being a lawyer?

Applying creative analytical thinking to solve and prevent problems.

What do you like the least about being a lawyer?

Resources spent fighting rather than resolving and preventing disputes.

Do you have any pets?

No pets—though I love pets and animals.

If you could be any animal, what would you be and why?

One that could change forms (to fly, run, swim) and travel through different dimensions of consciousness. Is that human?

Do you live with other humans?

Gratefully, yes.

What do you like to do for fun and relaxation?

Being home, cooking, painting, walking, laughing, loving.

Do you speak other languages?

None that anyone else understands.

Do you like to travel and if so, where have you traveled?

Yes. I've been to England, Holland, Germany, France, Switzerland, Belgium, Luxembourg, Canada, the Caribbean, and various places in the U.S. I would love to travel leisurely through Italy, Greece, China, New Zealand, and Costa Rica.

How long have you lived in Vermont?

Six years.

Do you like the Vermont winters?

Except for their length and scary driving conditions, yes.

What is your favorite season?

Hmmmm.... Spring or Autumn. I also love when a new year begins.

Any plans for the Holidays this year?

I have some nice lunches and gatherings scheduled and I'm looking forward to being at home.



Auction Dinner a Rousing Success

On August 29, Vermont Reading Partners celebrated its 25th anniversary with a Dinner-Auction that packed the Barrows House in Dorset. Tim Anchor-Hoch, Mary Berger, and Julie Freebern of the Equinox Consort began the successful evening outside on the patio with a musical performance on recorders, woodwind instruments also known as the *flauto dolce* or sweet flutes. The balmy summer evening along with the soothing music allowed the guests to enjoy the surrounding gardens, sample sumptuous appetizers prepared by the members of the Board of Directors, and begin bidding on the many interesting items in the Silent Auction before moving indoors to enjoy a three-course dinner and finalize their bids.



A heart-felt thank you for their continued long-time support of literacy and our organization goes to Linda and Jim McGinnis and their wonderful staff at the Barrows House for hosting the dinner. Also, a special thank you goes to the members of the Fund-Raising Committee for their creative ideas and hard work in preparation for the dinner and auction: Betsy Butler, Eleanora Devenish, Sarah Post, Carolyn Smith, Marie Sossi, and Chris Wetzel.

Because of the generous efforts and donations from the Northshire Community for this event, the mission of Vermont Reading Partners will continue to serve adults, children and their families with free literacy programs and books.

And last but not least, the tutors and Board of Directors of Vermont Reading Partners wish to express their thanks to all who attended, donated, and continue to support their efforts. --Marie Sossi



Foundation and Community Support

We would like to share with you the financial support from foundations and community organizations that fund individual projects and help Vermont Reading Partners continue to reach out to those in southwestern Vermont who need our help.

The **Stratton Foundation** approved a grant in the amount of \$985 to purchase "Tool Bags" for our tutors and books for young readers in our School Program. Providing tool bags to tutors has been found to improve and enhance a child's learning experience by allowing tutors to create more "hands-on" activities. The bag includes books and an array of



Marianne Kennedy, Executive Director of the Stratton Foundation, presents a grant check to VRP for the purchase of new Tutor Tool Bags.

supplies that are used to create reading and writing associations including pictures, games, and other hands-on activities. The amount of the grant will supply bags for up to five years.

The **Lions Club** donated a total of \$1000 to purchase books and supplies for tutors and students. A portion of the funding was awarded for VRP's volunteerism at the Maple Leaf Marathon and additional funds were granted from a written request.

The **Vermont Country Store Community Action Team** awarded VRP \$685 for "Books to Go" bags for our School Program students. Each student will receive a bag filled with books to take home and enjoy with their family. These books may be returned or kept as part of the child's home library. This program emphasizes the importance of book ownership and will continue throughout the school year. The grant will purchase enough bags for a five-year program.

The **Green Mountain Girls Club**, a long-time supporter of Vermont Reading Partners and their programs, donated \$600 to be used at the discretion of VRP.

The **Berkshire Bank Foundation** awarded us \$250 to help fund the purchase of a book for each of our adult and school program

students during the holiday season. The book is generally a reference book and will be given out at our annual Holiday Party.

We thank each of these organizations for their long-term dedication to literacy. Their support, along with the support of individuals and businesses, helps us to continue to provide trained volunteers to those seeking our services.

Rail Jam

On December 6, a "Rail Jam" (snowboarding) event was held on Observatory Hill at Burr and Burton Academy sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, Equipe Sports, and Mtn. Riders. Vermont Reading Partners was named as the recipient of a percentage of the profits. Volunteers who helped register contestants were Berta Maginniss, Executive Director of the Manchester Chamber, and VRP members, Annie White, Donna Bazyk, Dick Bailey, Cristina Mansfield, Pat Johnston, and June Gutbier. Though they didn't strap on

their boards or skis, the volunteers enjoyed the action of the young folks on the rail.



*Annual Holiday Potluck Dinner Honoring Students and Tutors
January 6, 6 p.m., Barrows House Inn, Dorset*

*Reach Your Goal in Reading Hockey Match
Sunday, February 13, 4 p.m., Riley Rink, Manchester*

The Vermont Law Enforcement Hockey Club will challenge the Green Mountain Boys
Take your chances with Chuck-a Puck at half time, take home free books!