Bonding Through Reading

Families are our passion. We build a literacy foundation for families through our Reach Out and Read program and build upon that foundation through a variety of programs as Raising Readers in Story County works to make sure all Story County children are reading at grade level by third grade.

The Geisler Family has been a Raising Readers family for many years and mom Dellisa shares that the last thing they did as a family before their daughter Ella was born in 2009 was attend Step Into Storybooks!

Dellisa and Jake Geisler have three children, Will, Ella, and Carsten. Ella has participated in summer Reading Buddies and Harrison Barnes Reading Academy. Carsten will be joining his sister at Harrison Barnes Reading Academy this fall and is very excited about it!

Dellisa shares, “Ella is young for her grade (she is a May birthday) and she has always had to work a little bit harder at reading. When Ella was in kindergarten she scored right on the lower cut off for the state FAST test and also had a hard time meeting her reading level for her grade. I had a friend that had done the [Reading Buddies] program and we decided to try it out. Ella’s first experience was the summer after her kindergarten year. She was paired up with a lady that was a Gilbert Kindergarten teacher that first summer and it was amazing. Ella loved working with her. That encouraged her to practice reading all summer that year.”

Raising Readers in Story County programs are showing parents positive literacy results. Ella started doing RRSC programs when she was a struggling reader in kindergarten and not meeting her grade level expectations.

“The Raising Reader programs are a great way to encourage your children to grow in their literacy skills. It has been beneficial for my kids to have dedicated people that work with them each week. We love the Reading Buddies program and we love Step into Storybooks each year!”

—Dellisa Geisler

“Right now,” Dellisa says, “Ella is exactly where she needs to be for third grade level expectations and seeks out books on her own to read for fun. I am eager for Carsten to participate this year and see how he grows.”
From Our Board President

I’m proud to serve as a member of the board of this organization because I am passionate about literacy and giving children the tools they need to be successful. Our organization lives its mission through partnerships with local schools, service groups, organizations, faith communities and public libraries. We offer many programs throughout the school year and summer to give children extra help with reading skills. We live our mission by getting books into the hands of children and encouraging parents and caregivers to read with children. We live our mission by empowering parents to be their child’s first teacher.

We wouldn’t be able to continue our mission without the support of our community. We are grateful for the support of our donors. With their help, we are able to give away more books throughout Story County.

We are blessed to have wonderful volunteers who give of their time and energy to support our programs by reading with children or labeling books. We are thrilled to have a dedicated staff who lead our programs and our organization, helping us to achieve our mission.

The past year has been full of growth. As we celebrate our successes and make plans for the future, it will be great to see what we are able to achieve with the support of our community.

From Our Executive Director

As I finish up my second year at RRSC, I continue to be inspired by all the children, volunteers, and families we work with. As a substitute in several of our tutoring programs last school year, I got to work one on one and in small groups with some wonderful children and have great conversations, from what a bear might taste like (strawberries or M&Ms) to what kind of book is the best kind of book (any and all!) to swimming lessons and school uniforms.

One of my favorite stories that I like to share when speaking to groups is one that Family Literacy Coordinator Judy Dahlke shared with me from an experience with her Eastwood programs. The children who attend Storytime at Eastwood of Ames were excited to hear that they would be able to select two free books as a treat for Trick or Treat from Miss Judy (Storytime Coordinator). The books, provided by Raising Readers in Story County, were spread out on the table so each child could make their own choices. A first grade boy was very pleased with his selections and asked Miss Judy “now when do I need to return these?” Whenever reading books from the Ames Public Library, Miss Judy would make a point of saying that she would be returning the books after Storytime, making it possible for them to check the books out tomorrow. Miss Judy explained that the books were his to keep. As the boy stood, hugging his books, he asked for confirmation that he could write his name in the books. Again, Miss Judy explained that he now owned those books and could certainly write his name in the front of them. On the way out the door, still hugging his books, the boy exclaimed to his friends “These are my first forever books!”

We were able to provide literacy programs and Forever Books to thousands of Story County children this past year because of the support of our communities, school districts, partner organizations and civic and service groups. Thank you for making our work possible!
Our Generous Supporters

ENDOWMENT FUND DONORS

$10,000+
Carolyn and Chuck Jonts*
Kim and Myron Herzberg*
Gary and Kelly Hendrick*
Vincent and Jean Hassebrock
Don and Sue Seaton*
Linda and John Schuh
Mike Bird and Patty Trom-Bird*
Marilyn Anderson and Bill Tont* 

$3000-$9999
Jeanette and Leland Smithson

$1000-$2999
Willie Struss
Karen and Al Wagner

$250-$999
Jill and Jacob Alexander*
Tanya and Brian Anderson*
Donald Beat*
Al and Linda Carver
Matt and Sara Converse*
Phyllis Crouse*
Connie and Warren Dunham*
Carol Elbert*
Roger and Rochelle Ginder*
Robert and Ann Hein*
Marilyn Moehlmann
Jeri Prescott
Andra and Robert Reason*
Ron Rice*
Virginia Richards*
Dallas Rust*
John and Suzy Shierholz*
Stoltze & Stoltze Family Dentistry*
Marlene Weisshaar*
Natalie and Michael Welter*

$100-$249
Anonymous*
David and Jane Acker*
Aimes Morning Rotary Club
Peggy Barbour and Bob Stephenson
Jan and Reno Berg*
Catherine Bowman*
Kelly and Travis Burton*
Lynne Carey and Navid Emami*
Judy Dahlke*
Brian and Jennifer Dieter*
Donna Doran
Ann Durland
David Freitas and Mark Naccarato
Jane and Cal Halliburton*
Sharon and Jan Haugen*
Liz and Randy Hertz*
Judy and Ross Jabaay*
Thomas D. and Dorothy T. McGee*
Kathryn M. and John B. Miller*
Ron Mowers and Margaret Epplin
Judita Obrrecht
Lori and Dan Oh*
Margie and Art Oldendoza
Shelley Orngard*
Lana Pavlik
P.E.O. K.R. Chapter
Jason and Amy Popillion
Monica and Max Porter
Jill Rooff
James and Jeanne Roth
Rummage Rampage 2016
Don and Sue Seaton*
Lee and Sherry Sargent
Shirley and Ken Shaw
Suzy and John Shierholz*
Marguerite Sibley and John Rundle*
Marilyn Smith
David and Marianne Spalding
Kenneth and Janis Stone
Sheritie and Dan Vos
Mark and Diana Weber
Thomas and Edra Wheelock
Lynn White
Danny and Shan Wilson
Wendy Wintersteen
Barbara Woods

ANNUAL FUND DONORS

$10,000+
City of Ames
United Way of Story County

$5000-$9999
Anonymous
Aimes Morning Rotary Club
Story County Community Foundation

$3000-$4999
Brian and Jennifer Dieter*
Julie and Harold Pike
Rotary Club of Ames
Story County
US Bank Foundation

$1000-$2999
Kari Besancon
Big Poppa Smoker’s Elite Team
Christy and Matt Franco
Kiwanis Club of Ames
McFarland Clinic, P.C.
Memorial Lutheran Church, Nevada
Ryan and Sonya Newstrom
Marlene Weisshaar*

$250-$999
Anonymous*
Jill and Jacob Alexander*
Brian and Elaine Anderson
John and Mollie Aronowitz
Lynn and Rodney Bagley
Donald Beat*
Roberta Boeke
Kerri Calland
Collegiate Presbyterian Church
Matt and Sara Converse*
Phyllis Crouse*
Paula DeAngelo
Connie and Warren Dunham*
Carol Elbert*
Dick and Lynn Engen
First National Bank
Kurt and Janet Friedich
Jill and Michael Guffy
Jeri Heid
Robert and Ann Hein*
Ali and Karen Hermanson
Sally and Jerry Jones
Erv and Janet Klaas
Jim and Joyce Klinebenstein
Cynthia Maren and Dallas Thies
Barbara and William Mengdel
Bruce and Barbara Munson
P.E.O. K.R. Chapter
Pi Beta Phi Foundation
Julie Presley
Andra and Robert Reason*
Ron Rice*
Virginia Richards*
Dallas Rust*
Louis and Coetsee Scallon
Stoltze & Stoltze Family Dentistry*
Ruth and Clayton Swenson
Madeleine and James Walker
Steve and Sandi Ward
Natalie and Michael Welter*

$100-$249
Anonymous*
Stephanie Baldwin*
Roselynn and Norman Boyles
Carolyn and Robert Brown
Wendy and Martin Edelson*
Mary Frahm*
Ann McMullin*
Barbara Peterson
Karen Tont*

$50-$99
Anonymous*
Marilyn Anderson and Bill Tont*
Mike Bird and Patty Trom-Bird*
Jo Craig
Joyce Greving
Vincent and Jean Hasebroek
Gary and Kelly Hendrick*
Kim and Myron Herzberg*
RRSC At-A-Glance

- 5857 volunteer hours recorded
- 22,737 minutes read during Harrison Barnes Reading Academy-School Year Tutoring program
- 6967 new and gently-used books donated
- $44,127.50 added to endowment fund in 2017-$314,236.86 (market value)

RRSC Sources of Revenue

$60,106.32: ASSET
$90,439.76: Contributions, sponsorships
$60,106.32: ASSET

IN KIND

John and Lynne Hanna
Bruce Munson
Janice Reutter
Al and Melissa Sorenson
Andrew Zalasky

Memorials

Glen Barton
June Baught
Janet Benson
Gene Cox
Mary Delargardelle
Irna Eden
Lisa Elbert
Pauline Halliburton
Mary Harms
Elizabeth Huber
Sandra Jacobson
Jan Kleinwolterink
Luke Lodermeier
Brenda Lorenz-Smith
James McGregor
Milo
Jim Piper
Frances Smith
Allan Sorenson
Ella Vilasak
Marcia Wenzel
Sharon Youngquist

Honoraria

Linda Carver
Diana Claus
Carol Elbert
Cal Halliburton
Kim Herzberg
Carolyn Jones
McFarland Pediatrics
Mengeling Grandchildren
Kathryn Mesaros
Ron Rice
Janice Walter
Nolan and Camden Zehn

Book Donations

Emily Anderson
Betsy Sigma Phi
Jen and Joe Brekke
Bethesda Lutheran Church, Ames
Gloria and Dennis Erickson
David Faux
First United Methodist Church, Ames
Pat Howes
ISU Human Sciences and Family Development Club
Vicki Jahr
Pat Johnson
Gayle Luce
Anne Nelson
Nevada Kiwanis Club
Palestine Lutheran Church, Huxley
Barbara Peterson
Allyson Phillips
Janice Reutter
Rebecca Rice
Dallas Rust
Stolze & Stolze Family Dentistry
Kathy Svec

$1-$49

Anonymous
Jim and Judy Amfahr
Sandra Anderson
Lynn Avant
Dean and Sharon Axland
Jolene Baker
Stephanie Baldwin*
George Belitons
Beth Billings
Elizabeth Block
Carolyn Bolinger
Janice Bortz
Nicola Bowler
Marcia Brink
Judith Brooks
Pat Brown
Tom Budnik
Dan and Betty Byers
Norman and Beth Cheville
Linda Chimenti
Mary Jane Clithero
Barb and Bill Cobb
Jan and Donna Dale
Robyn and Kevin Dennis
Betty DiXson
Wendy and Martin Edelson*
Nora and Paul Erickson
Clifford and Judy Farthing
Bruce and Linda Feldt
Mary Frahm*
Fran Frazier
Michael and Lucy Freitas
Bonnie Gaarde
Randall and Marlene Geiger
Joey and Karen George
Debbie Gitchell
Sharon Guber
Ken and Sally Hartman
David and Marilyn Haynes
Loie Hayward
Max Herzberg
James and Ruth Hill
John Hill and Fay Gish Hill
Marcia Imsande
Mary James
Julianne Jorstad
Glenn and Mary Kappelmann
Anne Kimber
John and Chris Kinley
Sue Kohler*
Kay Komp
Melvin Larsen
Dennis and Linda Lettow
Gary and Karen Lewis
Mary Long
Shirley Malaby
Stephen and Audrey Marley
Ann McMullin*
Lois and Burnett Mens
Leo and Jane Milleman
Relena Miller
Loren and Karen Milligan
Janice Monson

Anne and Chris Nelson
Curtis and Christine Ocenasek
Wayne and Eleanor Ostendorf
Barbara Peterson
Marytha and John Pitt
Judy Pope
Herman Quirimbach
Rebecca Rice
Haley Rosendahl
Wallace Schloerke
Marie Schropp
Sue and Norm Scott
Amy Smith
James and Diane Smith
Sheri Steinmetz
Kathy Svec
Curran and Anne Swift
Victoria Szopinski
Lynne Van Valin
Daryle and Joyce Vegge
Tom Walsh
Jeannie and Eldon Weber
Chad and Jaime West
David and Julia Wilson
Richard and Sally Wilson
Kent and Linda Woodworth
Dianne and Terry Wycoff

Mike Bird and Patty Trom-Bird*
Leonard and Janet Bond
Fred and Dianne Borgen
Dave and Liz Bowman
Betsy Bowman
Patrick and Mary Brooks
Edward and Jen Buckingham
Fran and Dick Burcham
Harold and Karen Cantonwine
Margaret Chamberlin
Donna and John Cleasby
Sue and Bill Cronin
Robert and Carol Deppe
Pam Ferris
Susan Franzen
Karlene Garn
Roger and Rochelle Ginder*
Jan and Greg Glaser
David and Hanna Gradwohl
Henry and Janet Gray
Barbi and Reggie Greenlaw
Sally and John Greve
Susan Habelr
Ron and Pam Hallenbeck
Phyllis Harris
Gary and Kelly Hendrick*
Liz and Randy Hertz*
Eric and Karen Hoiberg
Debra Hop
Stuart and Virginia Huntington
Bonnie Hunziker
Etta Hutchcroft
Lynn Jenison
Judy Jones
Caroline and Chuck Jones*
Roger and Mary Jo Kluesner*
Jim and Barb Koester
Jane Lohnes*
Judith Losh
Paul and Mary Ann Lundy*
Jere Maddux
Carol Madsen
Jackie and Dick Manatt
Bill and Carolyn McCall*
Marneta Miller
Heidi Mittelstaedt
Leona and Brad Nat*
Lynn Nehli
Gregory and Diane Nelson*
Joyce Nichol
Laura Ollerding
Luann Olsen
Jeanette Olson
Mary Beth Oostenbrug and Larry Cormicle
Brian Otmer
John and Cindy Paschen*
Clarke and Jonnie Pasley
Leigh Phillips
Allyson Phillips
Cori and Mike Phillips
Patricia Pohlman
Marlys Potter*
Marsha Readhead
Rae Reilly
Melissa and Pat Rowan
RueAnn Sams
Jean Saveraid
Candy Schainker
Roberta Schubert
Laura Shanks*
Diana Shontrock
John and Liz Setten
Jack and Mary Jo Swanson
Joanie and Ted Tedesco
Marcia Thompson

Time of Life Book Club
LuAnn and Dan Van Weelden
Dan and Mollie Walter
Barbara Warman
Western OB/GYN
Lynn Whisker
Toni and Bill Whitman*
Toni and Bill Woodward*
Sue Wuhs
William and Beth Wunder
Trudy and Ralph Yoder

IN KIND

John and Lynne Hanna
Bruce Munson
Janice Reutter
Al and Melissa Sorenson
Andrew Zalasky

Memorials

Glen Barton
June Baught
Janet Benson
Gene Cox
Mary Delargardelle
Irna Eden
Lisa Elbert
Pauline Halliburton
Mary Harms
Elizabeth Huber
Sandra Jacobson
Jan Kleinwolterink
Luke Lodermeier
Brenda Lorenz-Smith
James McGregor
Milo
Jim Piper
Frances Smith
Allan Sorenson
Ella Vilasak
Marcia Wenzel
Sharon Youngquist

Honoraria

Linda Carver
Diana Claus
Carol Elbert
Cal Halliburton
Kim Herzberg
Carolyn Jones
McFarland Pediatrics
Mengeling Grandchildren
Kathryn Mesaros
Ron Rice
Janice Walter
Nolan and Camden Zehn

*Indicates Matching Gift

Follow RRSC on social media: Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest, YouTube, and Google
The Year in Review

Summer 2016

K-3 Reading Buddies
84 children and 49 volunteers participated at nine sites in Ames in summer 2016. All of the children who participated in pre- and post-tests at least maintained their reading levels, successfully avoiding the summer slide. This program will be known as Harrison Barnes Reading Academy-Summer Reading Buddies starting in Summer 2018.

Super K
30 five-year olds spent two weeks learning skills that made them Super Ready for Kindergarten! Children in Ames and Nevada participated in this Transition to Kindergarten program. They were exposed to many of the routines, activities, materials, and skills that they will experience in Kindergarten.

School Year 2016-17

Harrison Barnes Reading Academy
Another wonderful year partnering with the Ames Public Library, 16 K-3 students worked one on one with volunteer tutors once a week on their reading and literacy skills. A highlight of the year was Skyping with Harrison Barnes and sharing favorite books with him! This program is being renamed as Harrison Barnes Reading Academy-School Year Tutoring and will also be offered in Nevada for the 2017-18 school year.

Preschool Reading Buddies
We continue our partnership with Ames Community Preschool Center by providing small group reading and literacy fun with volunteers twice a week during the school year. Eighteen four-year-olds worked with four amazing volunteers: reading, singing, counting, dancing, and STEM!

Read to Succeed
United Way of Story County supports the Food Bank of Iowa Backpack Program that provides backpacks of food to feed disadvantaged elementary-age children over the weekend and during school breaks. RRSC contributes to this program by giving personally selected gift books to tuck in backpacks three times a year, typically before holidays and spring and summer breaks. In the 2016-17 school year, 305 elementary school students from six Story County school districts received books.

StoryPals
StoryPals expanded to our third preschool site in the 2016-17 school year! Colo-NESCO preschoolers joined Ames and Nevada preschoolers in dialogic reading with volunteers. 64 three and four-year-olds participated, worked with volunteer mentors once or twice a week, and received a new book at the end of the program celebration.

Ongoing

Food Pantries
RRSC continues our passion for putting books in the hands of children by providing gently-used books at food pantries in Ames, Gilbert, Story City, Slater, Nevada, and Huxley. These books become Forever Books for children who benefit from food pantries.

Little Free Libraries
Thirty RRSC Little Free Libraries are located throughout Story County. These libraries are filled with children’s books for families to enjoy. New libraries in 2016 were installed at Patio Holmes Park and Greenbriar Park in Ames and at First Presbyterian Church in Maxwell.

Raising a Reader
Eighteen babies and eighteen parents participated this past year in our parent education/empowerment class Raising a Reader. Partnering with People Place, moms and dads learned communication tools, songs, games, and activities that they can do at home to increase their child’s brain development during the first three years of life.

“I loved the newsletters! They provided good information on what my daughter was doing which helped spark questions for me to ask her.”

Continued on Page 6
Reach Out and Read
Once again, approximately 10,000 books were handed out at well-child check-ups at McFarland Clinics, Story County Medical Clinics, the WIC Clinic, and Primary Health Care, Inc. for babies, infants, toddlers, and preschoolers throughout the county. Pediatricians use the books in their check-ups to check development and then prescribe reading at home to the children and their families.

Reading Corners
This unique RRSC program provides literacy-rich areas in public reception rooms to encourage families to enjoy books together while they wait. RRSC created a Reading Corners toolkit to encourage quality and consistency. New reading corners were installed this summer thanks to a 2016 Golf Fore Kids Grant in Nevada, Zearing, and Maxwell at their Story County Medical Clinics. A new reading corner will be installed in the ER at Mary Greeley Medical Center this fall.

Small Talk Story County
Partnering with Iowa State University and Ames Public Library, STSC is a series of free classes filled with learning, support, and valuable research focused on giving parents the tools they need to create an enriching language environment for their child (0-30 months) and learn about how to help their baby’s brain grow. A healthy snack or meal and childcare are provided, and babies receive a free book after each session. 73 babies received their M.B.A. (My Baby’s Awesome) degree in 2016-17.

StoryTime at Eastwood
Twice a month, children who live at Eastwood Apts., a low-income housing complex in Ames, gather after school to enjoy stories, poems, songs, and movement activities. Between 8 and 20 children attend each StoryTime and many of the children also participate in other RRSC programs.

Tot Time at Eastwood
Families with children under three participate in this program at Eastwood Apts. In Ames. This program is held three times a month and engages parents and caregivers in games, songs, and activities to recreate at home with their child. New board books are given to the children each session.

Special Events
Bethesda Food Pantry
Book Give-Away
Each fall, families who receive their Thanksgiving or Christmas food basket from the Bethesda Food Pantry also receive a free new children’s book from RRSC for each child in their household. 687 books were given away at the 2016 give-aways.

Northwood Literacy Night
Each winter, RRSC gives out new preschool-appropriate books at Northwood Preschool’s Literacy Night. 295 books were given out in 2017.

Read Across Story County
This annual event is provided as a volunteer option each September during the United Way Day of Caring. Community volunteers visit participating schools. The adults read books with groups of children and share why reading is important to them.

It supports the UWSC focus area of Education and raises awareness of the need to start early to develop literate citizens for our society. The 2016 Day of Caring was Friday, September 7, 2016 and 28 volunteers from the Center for Creative Justice, Fox Engineering, ISU Office of the Vice President for Research, ISU Foundation, and ISU College of Liberal Arts and Sciences participated.

Step Into Storybooks (Ames and Eastern Story County)
Each spring, RRSC partners with the Ames Public Library, Ames Morning Rotary, Nevada Kiwanis, Nevada Community School District, and many volunteers to provide fun literacy-rich experiences to inspire families to use reading and related activities at home with their babies, toddlers, and preschoolers.

These early relationships and experiences influence children’s brain development. Over 2000 attended the Ames event at the Ames Public Library and 231 attended the Eastern Story County event at Central Elementary School in Nevada.

Over 150 volunteers made the two events possible! Books were given out at both events and were sponsored by Ames Morning Rotary in Ames and Burke Corporation in Nevada.