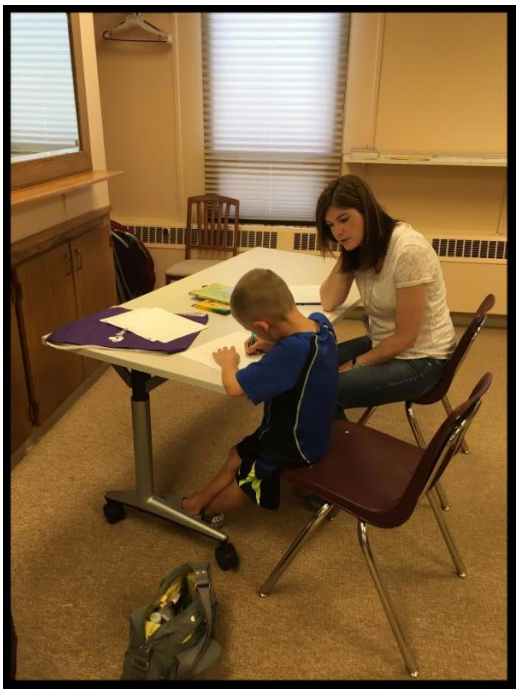
The mission of Raising Readers in Story County is to improve language and literacy development in children from birth to age eight and nurture healthy parent-child relationships.

July 2016

Beat the Heat by Reading!

2016 K-3 Reading Buddies



Volunteer tutor and student working on writing skills. July 2016

We have another great summer of K-3 Reading Buddies!

By the numbers:
6 site supervisors
9 sites around Ames
46 volunteer tutors
79 students enrolled
815 new lending library books

The program runs July 5 through August 12, with sites throughout Ames. Visit www.raising-readers.org for more information on the program.

Bethesda Site Supervisors Maddy and Emma

Thank you to the Story County Community Foundation, United Way of Story County, Ames Community Preschool Center, City Church, First United Methodist Church, the Boys & Girls Club, Explore 'n More Daycare, Trinity Christian Reformed Church, Eastwood Apts, Northwood Preschool, Laverne Apts, Bethesda Lutheran Church, and Iowa State University for your participation and support in 2016!

Welcome Lisa Reeves!

Raising Readers in Story County welcomed a new staff

member in June, Lisa Reeves! Lisa is our newest Family Literacy Coordinator/Educator and joins Kim and Judy in bringing quality early literacy programs to families in Story County.

Lisa will be coordinating our StoryPals programs at Ames, Nevada, and Colo-NESCO preschools; will be bringing back our Books in the Home program; will be working with Primary Health Care, Inc. to coordinate pre-natal parent education classes; and will take over the K-3 Reading Buddies program after being very involved in the program this summer!

Lisa lives in Ames with her husband Duane and daughters Shelby (a freshman at the University of Iowa) and Haley (about to start 8th grade at Ames Middle School).

Lisa has her Master's Degree in Education from the University of Missouri and joins us after working with at-risk students at Sawyer Elementary School to reach grade-level reading goals, Bethesda Christian Preschool and St. Cecilia's preschool program.

Lisa can be reached at **literacy@raising-readers.org** or 515-520-8686. Welcome Lisa!

Super K-Transition to Kindergarten

Registration is now open for our 2016 Super K program!

All children entering Kindergarten this fall are eligible to participate in this free, 8-day program, but Super K is especially designed for those children who are feeling some anxiety about starting school and just need a little more preparation. Spots still open for August Super K in Ames! Register before July 15.

Super K will expose students to many of the routines, activities, materials, and skills that they will experience in Kindergarten. Students will work to become super friends, super listeners, super organizers, and super problem solvers as they become familiar with the backpack routine, lunch tray procedures, opening milk cartons, and saying "goodbye" to families at the door. Each student will receive a free backpack, school supplies, and daily snacks.

Dates and Locations:

August 1-11 - Raising Readers Office (ACPC), Ames. 8:30-11:30am or 12:30-3:30pm

For more information and to register

'Iced Tea Social'

Thank you for another year of awesome volunteers!

RRSC cannot reach the families we do without our amazing volunteers and we want to THANK YOU for another great year of helping Story County children and families.

Cool off on Monday, July 18 as we show our gratitude for you at our **'Iced Tea Social'**! Please join us from either 1:30pm-3pm or 6:30pm-8pm at the Raising Readers in Story County Office (ACPC Building-920 Carroll Avenue)

RSVP by emailing Kim Hanna at **director@raising-readers.org** with the time that you will be joining us!

Small Talk Story County Graduation

On June 25, Small Talk Story County held their first graduating class of 2016, and it was full of smiles, stories, sharing, toddling babies, and excitement.

Eleven babies and their parents graduated with degrees, carnations, and cute stuffed elephants and will go on to receive their M.B.A. (or My Baby's Awesome) degree in graduate classes over the next several months.

A second set of classes began in early June and meets on Tuesday evenings at the Ames Public Library. New classes will begin this fall, and you can register for either Friday morning or Saturday morning classes **here.**

For more pictures from graduation, visit the ISU-College of Human Sciences **Facebook page**!

THANK YOU!

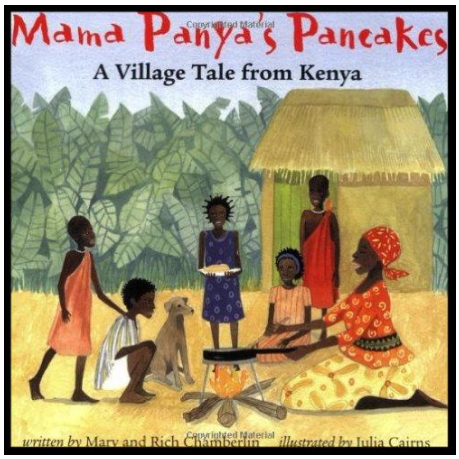
Iowa 4-H Youth Conference Volunteers spend a morning at RRSC this June helping us prepare materials for K-3 Reading Buddies!

We thank all of our generous donors, volunteers, and partners who are helping to create brighter futures for Story County children and families.

Donations like yours support our programs. We thank the **Iowa 4-H Youth Conference Volunteers** for their hard work in June! 10 high schoolers from across the state helped label and organize hundreds of K-3 Reading Buddies Lending Library books! They also helped organize reading incentives that students will receive per number of minutes they read at home this summer. Thank you for your hard work!

If you would like to help support the vital programs offered by Raising Readers in Story County please make a gift today!

Donate Today!



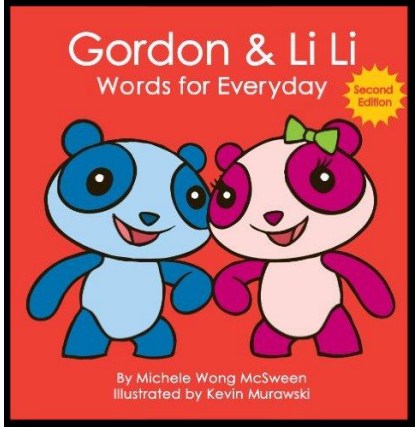
One of the titles available for purchase at Worldly Goods that can be donated to RRSC programs.

Worldly Goods Book Drive

Raising Readers in Story County has partnered with Worldly Goods to provide quality children's books for Story County families. Patrons can purchase children's books at Worldly Goods, which will then be donated to RRSC for use in their StoryTime programs in Ames, Read to Succeed programs at several Story County elementary schools, and StoryPals programs in Ames, Nevada, and Colo-NESCO. These culturally diverse children's books will help children learn about different cultures throughout the world and will benefit children in Story County who are improving their literacy development through RRSC programs.

Worldly Goods will also have a donation box located at the store for any new and gently used children's (0-8 years old) books that community members wish to donate.

Andrea Gronau, Store Manager of Worldly Goods looks to the next generation to develop our local community. "It's a natural fit for Worldly Goods to partner with RRSC to share the stories of the world and promote a greater understanding of different cultures. Worldly Goods wants to help bridge social understanding." Worldly Goods is located at 223 Main Street in Ames. **www.worldlygoods.org/**



Volunteer Spotlight: Carol Elbert, RRSC Board Member

Carol Elbert surrounded by Gilbert 4th Graders delivering donated books to RRSC

The **July Volunteer Spotlight** is on RRSC Board Member **Carol Elbert**.

"What are you reading now?"

For long-time Ames resident Carol Elbert, this friendly inquiry is more than just a great conversation starter. In addition to her own passion for books, learning and reading, she has made it her life's work to keep literacy front and center in her local community.

After 25 years as a youth services coordinator with the Ames Public Library (APL), a reviewer of children's books, and countless other contributions, Elbert continues to support language and literacy development in her retirement. Often this takes place through her involvement with the nonprofit Raising Readers in Story County (RRSC), which Elbert helped create.

RRSC started, simply enough, as a pilot project of Christie Vilsack's Iowa Stories 2000. This initiative began with an advisory panel representing local organizations, with a goal to review and discuss existing local literacy programs-and concluding that early literacy was the area of need to focus on. **MORE**

-Colleen Hamilton

Dates to Remember

2015 Super K's showing off their capes!

Small Talk Story County Classes
Thursdays, June 7-August 2 6pm-7:30pm
Fridays, September 9-November 18 10am-11am
Saturdays, September 10-November 19 10am-11am
Ames Public Library

Little Cyclones Summer Enrichment
June 6-July 14
Ames Middle School

Nevada Summer Enrichment

June 20-July 28
Central Elementary School, Nevada

K-3 Summer Reading Buddies-Ames
July 5-August 12
Various Locations in Ames

Ames Summer Learning Day Celebration
July 14, 5pm-8pm
Ames Public Library, 515 Douglas Ave

Iced Tea Social-RRSC Volunteer Appreciation
July 18, 1:30-3pm and 6:30-8pm
ACPC Board Room, 920 Carroll Ave

Super K - - Nevada Superheros (Transition to Kindergarten)
July 18-July 28
Central Elementary School, Nevada

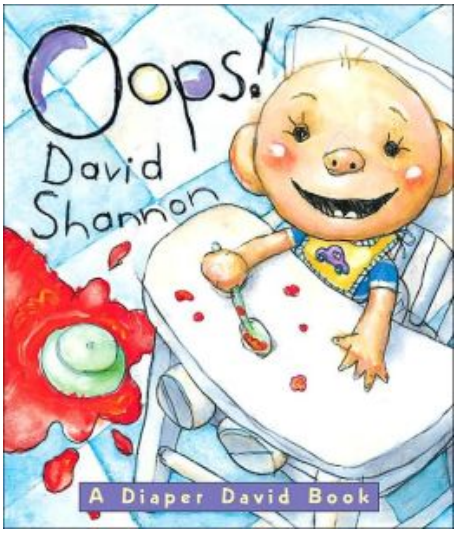
Super K - - Ames Superheros (Transition to Kindergarten)
July 5-15 and August 1-11
RRSC Reading Room, ACPC

RRSC Annual Meeting
August 19, 9-10:30am
City Church, 2400 Oakwood Rd

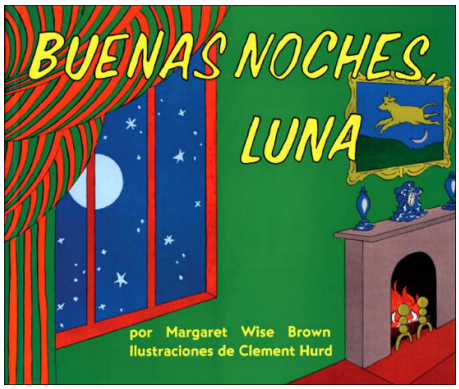
#WeekendReading

Follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram to get inspiration each Friday on a book to read with your family!

If you have a favorite #weekendreading book that you read as a family, email **contact@raising-readers.org** and we may feature it in the coming weeks!



RRSC Wish List

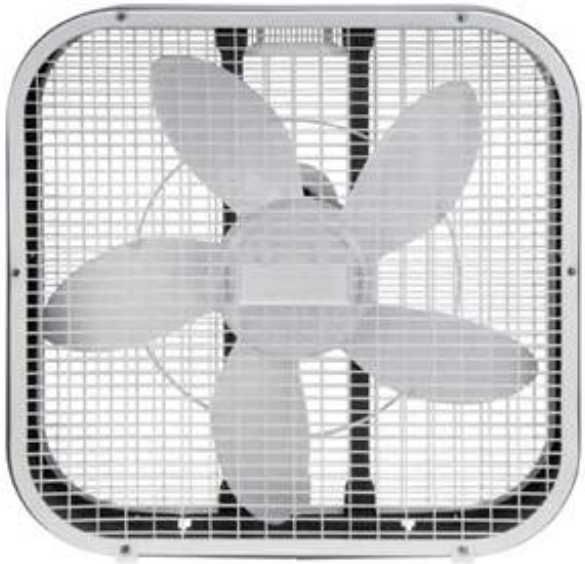


We are so grateful for our volunteers and supporters and have a few things that we are looking to add to our organization. If you would like to donate, please contact us at contact@raising-readers.org.

Wish List

- Korean/Mandarin/Cantonese language children's books
- Spanish language children's books
- Fabric tote bags *you know, the ones that are in a pile in your closet!*
- Flat book cart
- Full-length door mirrors (2)
- Fans (box, swivel, etc) *eventually it'll get hot again, right?!*

Tote bags with handles
help us carry books easily!



Visit Our Website

Raising Readers in Story County| 515-520-8686 | contact@raising-readers.org

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