

# Inspiread

A PUBLICATION OF READ FOR LITERACY

**MAKING A DIFFERENCE**

## Changing lives



On behalf of the Board of Read for Literacy welcome to *Inspiread!* Read for Literacy (RFL) would not exist without the efforts of our friends, volunteers, and donors, and we are excited to share Read for Literacy's message with you.

Spring is in the air and with it comes RFL's newest signature line of service, Claire's Day. This will be the second Claire's Day since our organizations merged and I continue to be humbled by the love that resulted in Brad and Julie Rubini creating the first Claire's Day. Claire had passed away at the age of 10 and they knew they wanted to do something to honor all of the things she loved! Fifteen years and countless volunteers, authors, and young readers later, Claire's Day is approaching what might be the largest event to date.

2016 marks the 15th Anniversary of Claire's Day, a celebration of life, authors, illustrators and reading excellence. As the Board Chair of Read for Literacy, I am honored to invite you to join us this year at Claire's Day.

This year:

- More than 800 children will receive Claire's Award for Reading Excellence recognition
- 20,000 children will participate in 41 author and illustrator visits at their schools
- 6,000 people will participate in the Claire's Day Book Festival visiting with 15 authors & illustrators, and special celebrity guests
- And a new Creation Station Goes Green powered by First Solar will promote Literacy, Science & Math. This expansion will be delightful as we go hands-on for reading and green education

We hope you will join us on May 21 at the Maumee Library and help us celebrate Claire. This free family fun event will be ready—all we need is you! In this edition we've also highlighted our Creating Family Readers and Adult Basic Education programs because each day children, adults and families rely on our services to assist them. Because of you, we are changing lives.

Thank you.

Stephen R. Dolley  
BOARD CHAIR

**CELEBRATING READING EXCELLENCE**

## The 2016 Award-Winning Claire's Day Line-up



Julie Rubini (Author) is an author, city councilwoman, Mother and Maumee Resident. Julie and her husband Brad co-founded Claire's Day in memory of their daughter. This year hosts the 15th year of Celebrating Life, Authors, Illustrators, and Reading Excellence.

[julierubini.com](http://julierubini.com)



Philana Marie Boles (Author) was born in Toledo and fell in love with reading and writing as a child.

[pmarie.com](http://pmarie.com)



Louise Borden (Author) cares deeply about her stories and choice of words, revising and revising to make the books beautiful or fun to read.

[louiseborden.com](http://louiseborden.com)



Carol McCloud (Author) a.k.a. the "Bucket Lady", has captivated all ages and has encouraged them to become daily bucket fillers.

[bucketfillers101.com](http://bucketfillers101.com)



Ruth McNally Barshaw (Author and Illustrator) grew up in the Detroit area, where she began drawing pictures to go with famous stories.

[ruthexpress.com](http://ruthexpress.com)



Kyle Prue (Author) now 19 years old, has been honored with state and national awards for his book, *The Sparks*.

[kyleprue.com](http://kyleprue.com)



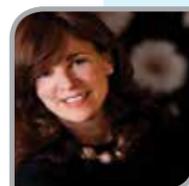
Karen & Darrin Brege (Author & Illustrator) a husband and wife team say their books are meant to "inspire kids to read and follow their dreams."

[monstermyths.com](http://monstermyths.com)



Kelsey Timmerman (Author) is a New York Times Bestselling author. His books reflect his passion for connecting people, global issues, the outdoors and travel.

[kelseytimmerman.com](http://kelseytimmerman.com)



Denise Brennan-Nelson (Author) is a multi-award winning children's book author and motivational speaker.

[denisebrennannelson.com](http://denisebrennannelson.com)



Bryan Chick (Author) was born and raised in Michigan. As a child he wondered what it would be like if zoo exhibits had secret doors that allowed kids to get in and animals to get out.

[TheSecretZoo.com](http://TheSecretZoo.com)



Merrill Rainey (Illustrator) who lives in Maumee, Ohio has been noted as a "5'7" kid at heart". His illustrations have been influenced by the Saturday morning cartoons.

[littlerainey.com](http://littlerainey.com)



Janette Rallison (Author) has gained recognition for her books that combine humor and romance that leave her readers engrossed and wanting more.

[JanetteRallison.com](http://JanetteRallison.com)



Mary Ann Riehl (Author) is the author of five children's books. Her second grade teacher predicted that she would end up becoming a writer or a teacher.

[maryannriehle.com](http://maryannriehle.com)



Shannon Anderson (Author) is an award winning book author and presenter who has been passionate about writing since childhood.

[shannonisteaching.com](http://shannonisteaching.com)



Denise Fleming (Author) has published numerous picture books including *Time to Sleep* and Caldecott Honor Book, *In the Small Pond*.

[denisefleming.com](http://denisefleming.com)

ADULT LITERACY IS LOOKING FOR HELP

## Creating a culture of family readers

Because Read for Literacy's students, families and volunteers have made our Creating Family Readers program possible in the south end of Toledo at Queen of Apostles School, we are expanding Creating Family Readers to Sylvania. Creating Family Readers has been serving adults, children and families who are learning English as their second language. Using various literacy models, volunteers and staff will engage families in reading activities, provide books to create at home libraries and offer support all while building self-esteem and confidence.

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Sylvania UCC and Read for Literacy, a local non-profit will collaborate on a new literacy program called Creating Family Readers. We will work to increase the literacy skills of families by training a group of volunteers to work with adults and children.

- **Working with the Parents**  
Parents will be guided: to establish goals they would like to accomplish, and we'll provide resources to support reading, writing and listening, conversational skills and financial literacy.
- **Working with Children**  
Children 3-6 years of age will: be engaged in activities that promote early literacy skills (reading, writing, rhyming, alliteration, storytelling, spelling etc.) and other activities will be shared by volunteers allowing the child and volunteer (we call them reader friends) to engage together in the joys of reading.

We hope you will say yes and join us 2 hours per week on Mondays from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM starting on September 12, 2016. Please call Maira Galvan at Read for Literacy 419.242.7323 to learn more.

No experience needed as we provide all of the training.

### MY STORY

*Hi. My name is Joseph Ellsworth. I am 49 years old and I have a lot of reading problems from the beginning of school. My reading isn't good. I moved a lot as a child.*

*I have been in Learning Disability classes from time to time in elementary school because of moving. I couldn't concentrate in school.*

*Some of my teachers didn't look at my reading and spelling records and history. I have been in reading classes before and did not have a lot of luck. But in my new reading class at Read for Literacy, things are different. It is more structured by reading books and good teaching in reading. The volunteers like Larry help you in the class and make reading more enjoyable.*

## Basic Literacy Group

Adult Literacy is looking for help in a few different areas this year. If you have taken a break from tutoring, want to shift your efforts for a while, or are up for another challenge, we could use your help!

For more than 30 years, adults have been tutoring other adults one-to-one. This year we would like to expand our program and begin to offer small group literacy opportunities for our students and we could use your expertise and experience to anchor these groups.

A Basic Literacy Group tutor will help an individual or cluster of learners in a class-like environment where multiple tutors are working with multiple learners in the same place at the same time. Learners seek to improve his or her reading, writing, and/or math skills on a flexible, drop-in basis.

Times are flexible, and based on tutor preferences. Each group session is scheduled to run for 8 weeks, or a semester. At the end of the session, we will recognize the students for their accomplishments and offer that they set new goals and start again.

Volunteering for groups gives you flexibility to take time off, work with other tutors, and help a variety of students. For students, one benefit is the chance to learn from other students as well as a tutor. For RFL, we can place more students in small groups, reducing our waiting list.

For more information about Adult Group learning or to volunteer in this program, please call Cindy Carson, Director of Adult Education at 419.242.7323 ext. 15.



Volunteers are the heart of Read for Literacy & Claire's Day. In the next 100 days, we will work to recruit, train and place 100 new volunteers for Adult Literacy, English Language Learners and Creating Young Readers Elementary and Preschool Programs. If you can give 1-2 hours per week sharing your love of reading with another person - we need you!

All materials provided! Flexible schedules. Call Nikyle Fitzgerald, Volunteer Coordinator at 419.242.7323 ext. 12 and he will work to get you started!

### FOCUSING ON OUR MISSION

# I can.

With these two simple words, we began a new fiscal year in September to bring hope and focus to our mission and a new message of I CAN READ. In the past six months, more than 1924 individuals and families have been served by Read for Literacy through our signature lines of service including ADULT & FAMILY, CREATING YOUNG READERS, CLAIRE'S DAY AND VOLUNTEER & OUTREACH.

Reading is a gift for all of us. If you know a struggling adult reader, please encourage him or her to call our office, it really is never too late to learn something new!

**When volunteers work with children the love of reading comes to life and children respond with I CAN DO THAT!**

- We are inspired by the 700 adults and volunteers who work together to increase reading skills so our adult students can read a story, secure a job, complete drivers education classes and more.

- Bringing the joy of reading to children between the ages of 3-8 was a dream for Read for Literacy just seven years ago. Today Creating Young Readers serves 595 children who are receiving books in our pre-school and elementary programs to start their own at home libraries and more than 529 students are working with a volunteer "reader friend" to increase their early literacy skills though one-to-one reading time.

**CLAIRE: Celebrating Life, Authors, Illustrators and Reading Excellence for 15 years!**

- Claire's Day! Inside Inspiread you will find all of the details that make the 15th Annual Claire's Day Celebration so spectacular. Once a day-long event, Claire's Day is now two weeks of events and there is something for the entire family. We are especially eager to present a new area at the Festival on May 21 called CREATION STATION GOES GREEN. Thanks to the generosity of the Toledo Community Foundation and First Solar, Creation Station, the hands-on activity area will include crafts, flower planting and new hands-on activities related to literacy & science!

## Claire's Day Agenda

9:30am – 9:55am  
Shannon Anderson

9:55am – 10:20am  
Denise Fleming

10:20am – 10:45am  
Philana Marie Boles

10:45am – 11:10am  
Bryan Chick

11:10am – 11:35am  
Karen and Darrin Brege

11:35am – 12:00pm  
Denise Brennan Nelson

12:00pm – 12:25pm  
Kyle Prue

12:25pm – 12:50pm  
Carol McCloud

12:50pm – 1:15pm  
Julie Rubini

1:15pm – 1:40pm  
Merrill Rainey

1:40pm – 2:05pm  
Janette Rallison

2:05pm – 2:30pm  
Mary Ann Riehl

2:30pm – 2:55pm  
Louise Borden

2:55pm – 3:20pm  
Ruth McNally Barshaw

3:20pm – 3:55pm  
Kelsey Timmerman

## Celebrity Readers

Christine Senack  
Girl in the Glass City

Tom Cole  
Sports Host BCSN

Princess Laurel Parties

Abby Davis  
Miss International Teen Ohio

Sanaa Orra, 13abc

Brandon Loboschewski,  
Maumee Fire Chief

# claires day

A SIGNATURE SERVICE OF **R/L** Read for Literacy

May 21, 2016

## Joy



I recently came across a compact disc of Claire's music. As a family we selected the songs to play during the visitation for her memorial services. I don't know how we managed to get through those dark, horrific early days after her sudden death nearly sixteen years ago.

What I do know is found in her music from all those years ago.

As I listened to the tear-jerker, *God Must Have Spent a Little More Time on You*, I remembered how Claire insisted she sing the song BY HERSELF on our way home from a family camping trip just a week before she left us. *Oops I Did It Again* brought back memories of how she choreographed a water ballet show for family members. Kyle and Ian were always willing participants. The Backstreet Boys *I Want It That Way* reminded me of Claire's strong, passionate personality.

There is great joy found in her music. Claire can be found there too.

As I write this in my new home office, what used to be her bedroom, I feel her spirit.

Her energy surrounds us daily, bringing with it peace and gratitude. It was through this positivity and maybe a little nudge from our special little angel, that the concept of Claire's Day came to us six months after she died.

I don't know how to explain any other way that an issue of Time magazine was in my plane seat pocket on a flight to a family wedding. And that I discovered an article about the Texas Book Festival within.

Claire's Day was born at that very moment. Now fifteen years later, this day celebrating Claire and sharing her love for reading continues to grow. The very foundation Brad, Kyle, Ian and I, along with an amazing committee, remains the same. We still host children's book authors and illustrators. We still give reading awards to children who are recognized as being the most improved readers in their classrooms. We still make books available to children who might not have their own home libraries.

We just offer more of what has always been found at Claire's Day.

Joy.

I hope you will come join us for Claire's Night and Claire's Day festivities this year to celebrate fifteen years of joy along with us.

Julie Rubini  
FOUNDER, CLAIRE'S DAY

LIFE, AUTHORS, ILLUSTRATORS

## Claire's Day Celebrating 15 years

Claire Lynsey Rubini passed away in 2000 from a heart condition. Her family knew they needed to do something to honor her memory. A vibrant child, Claire loved art, crafts and most of all reading! In 2002 Claire's parents Brad and Julie, brother Ian and sister Kyle worked with a host of volunteers to present the first Claire's Day Book Festival at the Maumee Branch Library in her honor turning a very personal and tragic loss into a celebration of life and literacy!

This year on May 20 and 21 we will celebrate 15 years of Claire's Day honoring children with CARE Awards, as we host Northwest Ohio's largest Book Festival! Featuring 15 prolific authors and illustrators who will make more than 41 school visits, it will be a fun-filled week of literacy!

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

### An easy commitment

It was an easy commitment to help plan the craft activities at Claire's Day. In fact, I volunteered for ten years. What a fun time that was. Craft activities became a first stop for many families, so the tents got bigger and bigger. We tried paper making, print making, door hangers, puppets and more. My favorite craft was when children used large coffee filters to create hats. Nothing was cuter than a sea of children with brightly polka dotted, oversized hats.

I have been touched by the subtle impact of this event. Area children who listen to author visits at their school get to see authors as celebrities. In a sports-centric society, I think celebrity in authors is well placed.

The C.A.R.E. Awards always make me smile; I still remember one young man dressed in his best with a bowtie, proudly sharing the day with his parents and grandparents. Now there is a celebrity to cheer on.

BETH SHEETS

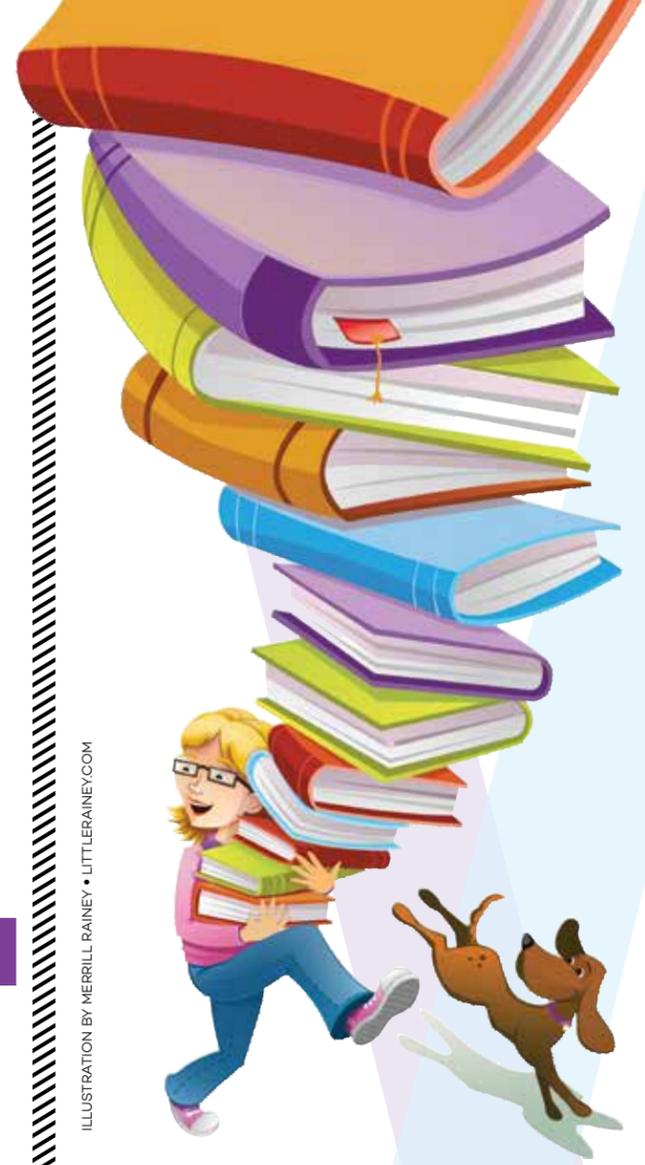


ILLUSTRATION BY MERRILL RAINEY • LITTLERAINEY.COM

## DID YOU KNOW

CLAIRE'S DAY IS CELEBRATING

# 15

YEARS IN MAY OF 2016. ONCE A DREAM, CLAIRE'S DAY WILL TOUCH THE LIVES OF 20,000 CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES THIS YEAR.

# 9-13%

OF PEOPLE IN LUCAS COUNTY LACK "BASIC PROSE LITERACY SKILLS." THEY MIGHT BE ABLE TO READ A WORD OR SIMPLE PHRASE, BUT THEY CAN'T READ A SENTENCE OR THE LABEL ON A MEDICINE BOTTLE.

BECAUSE OF READ FOR LITERACY'S PROGRAMS

# 1,924

CHILDREN AND ADULTS WERE PROVIDED LITERACY PROGRAMING FROM SEPTEMBER THROUGH FEBRUARY.



PRESENTING SPONSOR



The Amazing Race was held on Saturday April 9, 2016 from 4 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at The Pinnacle in Maumee Ohio. This year teams drove around the Greater Toledo area taking photos of more than 75 amazing clues! They ended the evening back at The Pinnacle where they enjoyed a delicious dinner of various kabobs, salads, dessert and coffee station. Guests also arrived after the Scavenger Hunt and joined the competitors for dinner and the auction.

Live and Silent auctions were a hit with trips to France and Spain, sporting event packages and local artists' creations. There was a bidding war for the "Nightlife of the Sheriff" – a four hour ride along with Sheriff Tharp or a member of his department as well as for the "Ride Along" with the Toledo Police Department. There was fun for everyone and close to \$36,000 net was raised for literacy programs.

Sheriff John Tharp and Event Chair Bonnie Berland welcomed the more than 300 guests to this event. Special guests also included Toledo Mayor Paula Hicks Hudson and Steve Dolley, Read for Literacy's Board Chair.

The Amazing Race was made possible by the generosity of our sponsors and volunteers:

**Presenting Sponsor:**  
United Healthcare Community Plan

**Gold Sponsors**  
The Blade  
Lucas County Prosecutors Office

**Starting Line Sponsor**  
Old Newsboys

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SSOE

**Bronze Sponsors**  
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UAW Region 2-B

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Bob Howell  
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Eric Reimer  
Lori Creller  
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Jenna Miller  
Dave Bodner  
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Teri Alzfan  
Marilyn Widman  
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# Read for Literacy

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## Upcoming Events

**MAY 20, 2016**  
6:30 pm – 9:00 pm  
**Claire's Night**  
**The Purple Carpet Affair**  
Main Library  
Tickets on sale until May 13

**MAY 21, 2016**  
9:00 am to 4:30 pm  
**Claire's Day Festival**  
**FREE BOOK FESTIVAL**  
Maumee Branch Library

**June-August**  
**Volunteer Recruitment and Training for 200 Volunteers**

**October 27, 2016**  
11:30 - 2:30 pm  
**The Blade Corporate Spelling Bee**

**December 6, 2016**  
8:00 pm to Midnight  
**#Giving Tuesday**

### OUR MISSION

To provide a range of literacy services and trainings that enable children, adults and families the opportunity to achieve success.

Read for Literacy Purpose

- To inspire children and families to be lifelong readers through exposure to a variety of literacy opportunities and experiences.
- To provide programs that Celebrate Life, Authors, Illustrators and Reading Excellence while honoring the memory of Claire Lynsey Rubini.
- To recruit, train and place volunteers to act as Reader Friends and Tutors on a one to one basis with individuals who require literacy assistance.
- To serve as the leading advocate for literacy in our community and work cooperatively with other literacy projects.

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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*Coordinator Claire's Day*

## Wish List

- Back packs for adult students
- Stamps
- Pens, pencils, notebook paper
- Large print or simple crossword puzzles
- Coloring books
- Crayons & washable markers
- Flashcards (words, letters, math)
- Bus tokens
- Children's books  
Newbery and Caldecott Awards winning



325 North Michigan  
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ReadForLiteracy.org  
ClaireDays.org