

Piedmont Down Syndrome Support Network



December 1, 2009

Dear Piedmont Triad Community Advocates,

I am writing you on behalf of the Readers Are Learners Program (REAL), a literacy program for young adults with developmental disabilities. As the liaison from the Piedmont Down Syndrome Support Network for REAL, I am asking for your help in recruiting volunteers to act as tutors for our next group of willing students. I may have contacted you last year, and I hope that you will be willing to help promote our program again this year.

We are seeking patient, qualified volunteers who are invested in helping some of our young adults build and maintain basic reading skills. In most cases, these students have specific goals in mind: reading a restaurant menu, navigating parts of the newspaper, or deciphering advertisements. REAL has been very successful in the past – so successful that some of our young adults in the three two years graduated to the Beyond Academics program at UNCG. But more importantly, what REAL has helped create are relationships that have fostered confidence in our students and fulfillment in our tutors.

With the support of the YMCA, REAL has literacy training to help tutors become prepared to help our students. Tutors would be trained by the Literacy Initiative of the YMCA, paired with a young adult, and assisted in finding a space to conduct tutoring sessions. We ask that potential tutors be willing to meet on a weekly basis with their students throughout the calendar year. Specific times would be arranged by the tutor and the student based on their availability.

Working with the Readers Are Learners Program would be a tremendous way to help those who want to help themselves. Available on the PDSSN website is a flyer that provides more information about REAL and contact information. We ask that you please post a flyer in your workplace, make copies for anyone interested, or pass one along to any volunteer or potential tutor. Any and all information including applications for tutors and potential students can be found on the PDSSN website at www.pdssn.com/events/programs.htm. Please forward any applications to me, Stuart Egan, at 824 Chester Road, Winston-Salem, NC. The zip code is 27104.

Tutoring these young adults is a tremendously rewarding experience as well as a great way to be of service. As a parent of a child with developmental disabilities, I am grateful to be raising my family in the Piedmont Triad community. That is because people like you promote inclusion and advocacy for all community members.

Please contact me if I can be of any help. My email address is pdssnreal@gmail.com.

With warm regards,

Stuart Egan
PDSSN Liaison for REAL

