



The Reading Is Fun Program



WHERE EVERY CHILD IS
EVERYONE'S CHILD



The Reading Is Fun Program/RIF's Mission:

- To mobilize volunteers to enhance reading-readiness, comprehension, vocabulary, and conversational skills in Schenectady School District youngsters, ages 4 to 9, most in need of extra reading assistance;
- To address the critical need of helping Pre-K through Grade 3 students to reach their grade-level reading skills.



RIF's History:

- Founded in 2013 by Alvin Magid, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus at the University at Albany.
- In 2014, Al was the sole volunteer, working with the Schenectady City School District to develop the program and build a volunteer base;
- By 2016, there were 66 RIF volunteers working in Schenectady's elementary schools with 77 children;
- In the 2022-2023 school year, 85 volunteers are working with 197 students in all 11 Schenectady City Elementary Schools.



RIF – How We Work:

- Volunteers are paired with Teachers who assign students in need of extra reading assistance;
- Weekly **one-on-one** sessions of 30-to-45-minutes are scheduled with the student;
- Volunteers bring books and educational games;
- Volunteers and students read a book together, and work on sight words and vocabulary and reading comprehension;
- When each session ends, students are presented with the book they read to keep for their very own home libraries.
- Approximately 7,500 books were given to Pre-K through Grade 3 students during the 2021-2022 school year.



RIF Resources:

- **Volunteers**, who come from many walks of life – retired, still working, college and high school, law enforcement, and many others;
- **The RIF Library**, where volunteers can choose books to read with and give to their students, and educational games to play and help them develop their reading skills;
- **RIF Training Sessions**, coordinated and presented by a former Schenectady School District teacher with a Masters in Elementary Education.



RIF Sponsors and Donors:

- RIF is entirely volunteer-run and volunteer-driven;
- RIF relies on donations, fund-raising efforts, and sponsorships to purchase books, educational games, and administrative materials;
- RIF operates currently under the auspices of the Schenectady City School District Educational Foundation, a 501 (c) 3 charitable organization;
- Tax-deductible donations to the Foundation in RIF's name are greatly appreciated;
- RIF operates its Library through the donation of office space from the Faith United Methodist Church on Brandywine Avenue in Schenectady.



RIF Sponsors and Donors:

- Some of the local organizations whose support has been invaluable to RIF in recent years:



First United Methodist Church
Schenectady



SEYMOUR FOX MEMORIAL FOUNDATION



Faith U M C Schenectady



Schenectady
Rotary Club



SCHENECTADY CITY
SCHOOL DISTRICT



EDUCATIONAL
FOUNDATION



BURNT HILLS UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH

THE TROY
SAVINGS BANK
CHARITABLE FOUNDATION



Schenectada Chapter, NSDAR

St. George Greek Orthodox Church
Schenectady, NY

