

THE READING CONNECTION

www.thereadingconnection.org

The Reading Connection is a 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to bringing books and a lifelong love of reading to children in housing crisis. Mt. Vernon Branch AAUW has a team of members who participate in The Shelter Read-Aloud Program.

The Shelter Read-Aloud program is designed to make reading accessible and fun for children living in housing crisis. When children first enter the shelter, they receive Welcome Bags filled with new books, school supplies, a blank journal, and other reading incentives.

Mt. Vernon Branch (Team C) reads monthly at Mondloch House, always on Monday nights at 7:00pm. We would love for you to join our team! All you have to do is apply online at www.thereadingconnection.org and then participate in a brief training session.

Please visit The Reading Connection website and apply to join our branch read-aloud team.

MORE ABOUT THE READING CONNECTION

The Reading Connection (TRC) was founded in 1989 by a group of Educators as a service project of the Greater Washington Reading Council. They noticed the children they taught who lived in homeless shelters were unfamiliar with books and faced huge obstacles in learning how to read. Volunteers first began reading with children in a small emergency shelter located in Arlington, Virginia. TRC incorporated as a 501(c)(3) organization in 1992.

TRC's mission is to share a passion for books and reading with children living in housing crisis. In this way, we seek to build foundations for a lifelong love of reading and achievement. Over the years, TRC has expanded to 14 shelters and transitional housing sites in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area. We also provide staff trainings, parent workshops and a Book Club for Healthy Families DC/Alexandria/Arlington, Arlington Early Head Start and The Child and Family Network Centers.

Read-Alouds are held weekly at 13 participating shelter sites by teams of committed, caring volunteers who meet to share and talk about books with kids. Volunteers spend an hour each week exploring books and engaging kids

in the reading process. The goal of the Read-Aloud is to get children to spend more time reading and talking about books so children see themselves as readers. At the end of each weekly Read-Aloud, children also choose a new book to keep and add to their personal library.