



Turning the Page

TTP Newsletter

April 2010

Volume 8, Issue 4

Friends,

With spring all around us, we here at Turning the Page have been as busy as ever with our fabulous used book sale, Carpe Librum. We are so happy to be seeing so many familiar faces at our sale site and look forward to seeing more in the future. Although our Community Nights are over for the school year, other programs and the sale are keeping us busy.

Thanks, as always, for your continued support!

Carpe Librum Now Open!

Off to an exciting start

[Carpe Librum](#), our huge used book sale fundraiser, opened last Tuesday, April 13th, with a long line waiting for the sale to open. Don't worry if you missed our first week of sales as we promise we still have thousands of wonderful bargains remaining at our ninth annual book sale event. Over 12,000 books have been made available since the sale started, so great reads at amazing prices are sure to be had. You can find us seven days a week at The Shops at 2000 Penn, just across the hall from Johnny Rockets!

Location:

[The Shops at 2000 Penn](#)

2000 Pennsylvania Ave, NW

Hours:

Weekdays, through May 24: 10am - 7pm

Saturdays: 10am - 6pm

Sundays: 11am - 6pm

We would also like to take this time to thank the generous people who make this sale possible each year, including book drive hosts, individuals who donate books, and our volunteers. Turning the Page would like to extend our appreciation to [The Shops at 2000 Penn](#), [Office Movers](#), and [McBride Real Estate Services](#) for their generosity. We couldn't have done it without each of you!



Funder Spotlight: Reading is Fundamental

Long-standing supporter brings books and joy to families

Our Community Night parent workshops are well-loved, but what many overlook is how much students look forward to coming to Community Nights, encouraging their parents and family members to come back week after week, despite hectic schedules and other obligations. TTP has been fortunate to have a long-standing relationship with [Reading Is Fundamental, Inc.](#) (RIF), an organization that allows TTP to give away books to the hundreds of children who attend Community Nights each year and bring students – and their parents – back for more! “Turning the Page consistently demonstrates its commitment to high-quality children’s literacy programs and exhibits exemplary community and family involvement,” said Carol H. Rasco, president and CEO of RIF. “RIF is proud to support Turning the Page in its efforts to instill a life-long love of reading in children across the District of Columbia.” Founded in 1966, Reading Is Fundamental is the oldest and largest children and family nonprofit literacy organization in the United States. Through community volunteers in every state and U.S. territory, RIF provided 4.4 million children with 15 million free, new books and literacy resources last year!

The relationship between RIF and TTP extends beyond book donations and began in 1999 when RIF employees volunteered and ran Child Mentoring activities at the first-ever Community Night. This January RIF employees built on this tradition and volunteered again as Child Mentors at a Community Night at King Elementary School. Kate Ferguson, Government Relations and Outreach Coordinator said of her experience, "The other RIF staff and I were beyond impressed with the Community Night, specifically for the sheer number of parent participants that attended. Parents and students brought with them an excitement that sustained itself throughout the family dinner, the 'healthy eating' themed parent workshops, the children’s hands on activities, and the read alouds. As a volunteer, you could really sense the bonding between parent and child that takes place at these events. I am looking forward to my next volunteer experience!"

Since 2000, the relationship has grown tremendously, and RIF remains one of TTP's most loyal, longest-running supporters. Every book that students bring home at the end of a Community Night is thanks to this long-time supporter and families have entire libraries to prove it! Turning the Page is forever grateful for the long-standing support that Reading Is Fundamental has continued to provide. Unfortunately, RIF is in jeopardy of losing the federal funding they rely on to provide this valuable and fundamental resource to children in need throughout the country. Turning the Page is tremendously grateful for the support that RIF has given us throughout the years and we urge you to [speak up to help RIF keep their funding!](#)



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Community Night Perspective

Great-grandmother shares her TTP Community Night experiences

Ms. Colicchio Proctor, a Community Night regular and vocal participant in workshops at Payne Elementary School is a great-grandparent raising children for the third time around. Her great-granddaughter, Dior, is currently enrolled in Payne's pre-school class. Below, Ms. Proctor shares her Community Night experiences from Payne, our newest school partner.

I thought Community Nights were excellent, the only problem that I have with them is that they should have started years ago, back when I was a young parent! There are a lot of parents that need this, which goes back to the roots of raising a child. [Community Nights] helped me remember things that I forgot, from asking Dior to spell the letters of a stop sign while we are driving to pointing out signs and explaining their purpose. It's an enrichment program. [At Community Nights] the parents seem to interact—it not only helps the kids, but the parents. For us to be able to come to together and sit down—the program gave us that opportunity. Everything we did in that circle enlightened you more to help your child along and especially with the input of parents of how to deal with different things. My father was a teacher and my mother was a homemaker, and I still see things that could have benefited my parents when they were raising me! I'll be 64 in August and I could have benefited from this when I was raising my children, but it's benefiting Dior now.

Dior loves Community Nights, she says 'Mommy, we can't go home, it's Turning the Page night!' She enjoys the activities and loves the books. It helps her out with her socialization, she loves it—all the children love it. Dior always shows me the [RIF] books she's picked and asks me to read them when we get home. I read so much I'm about to lose my voice! We use all the books, look at the pictures and use our imaginations. We play great games with them. The knowledge I've gained I can definitely pass on. Now I work with my grandkids as well—I read and play games with the books we get.

I've gained an awareness of things going on in the school, from phonics to talking with parents. I love the program and hope there are Community Nights for Dior throughout her time at Payne.





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Community Nights

By the numbers



Turning the Page's 2009-2010 [Community Night workshops](#) were our best yet, setting numerous TTP records for attendance! From parent-teacher relationships to bullying, and healthy eating to standardized testing, parents engaged in discussions around helping their children succeed in school. Parents and students also enjoyed [Author Visits](#) from eleven local authors, sharing in storytelling, performances and delightful children's books, of which every family took home an autographed copy! And of course, students were engaged in learning and fun as well

with our fabulous Federal-Work Study and volunteer Child Mentors!

Schools Partners: **7**

Community Nights Held: **56**

Attendance Facts:

Parents Attending at Least One Community Night: **679***

Average Community Night Attendance: **29.09***

Parents with Perfect Attendance: **26**

Workshop Hours Logged by Parents: **2,434**

Fun Facts:

Rescheduled Community Nights because of February Blizzards: **4***

RIF Books Given Away at Community Nights: 3,000+

Number of Child Mentors: **72**

Round-trip runs to pick up Child Mentors: **235**

Number of Community Night Dinners Served (cooked dinner or pizza): **4991**

Meals Cooked: about **3500**

Number of Pizzas Ordered: about **420**

Successful Potluck Dinners: **8**

Number of Snacks made at Healthy Eating Workshop: **433**

* indicates TTP record