

MARC Connections

Thank you, Loren

Some things are better together: peanut butter and jelly, nuts and bolts, MARC and Loren Strotheide. After many years together, Loren is retiring from the MARC Board of Directors. His journey with MARC began in 1993, when Loren registered to be a student. Loren studied with many tutors over the years, working hard to improve his reading and writing skills. In 1998, MARC was struggling financially and was at risk of ending programming. Loren decided to become a MARC benefactor, generously contributing significant donations to keep the organization afloat. In 2002, Loren took on a new role and joined the MARC Board of Directors, becoming the longest serving board member to date. Loren was named the MARC Outstanding Contributor of the Year in 2000 and again in



Loren Strotheide, Member

2002 as part of the Board of Directors. A Greenville native, Loren is retired from Greenville Public Schools. He will be recognized for his dedication at the upcoming Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon. His loyalty and service are appreciated; his sense of humor and kindness will be missed. As Loren says best, it's "time to go."



Tutor Gertrude Perry and Loren Strotheide, 1998

MONTCALM AREA
READING COUNCIL

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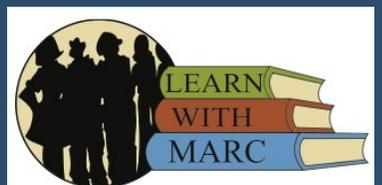
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UPCOMING EVENTS

MARC Board Meeting

Tuesday, May 8

8:00 AM



Visit our website at www.MontcalmAreaReadingCouncil.com

LITERACY: 5 IMPORTANT FACTS

Source: ProLiteracy.com



30 million adults in the United States cannot read, write, or do basic math above a 3rd grade level.



68% of programs are struggling with long student waiting lists, and less than **10%** of adults in need are receiving services.



Children of parents with low literacy skills have a **72%** chance of being at the lowest reading levels themselves.



Since 1983, more than **10 million** Americans reached the 12th grade without having learned to read at a basic level.



Each year, American employers spend more than \$129.5 billion on training, including remedial reading, writing, and math skills.

Literacy affects us all, personally and economically. Through MARC, students gain new opportunities and the power to change their lives. Help us build a stronger community. Become a tutor, help spread awareness, contribute financially!

Learning Together

MARC recently participated in a Nonprofit Learning Exchange three-part series focused on sustainability and grant writing. Sessions were led by Matthew Downey from the Dorothy A. Johnson Center for Philanthropy and Sara Pinder from the Michigan Nonprofit Association. Local nonprofits from Montcalm and Ionia counties gathered together for learning, networking, collaboration, and valuable professional development. Many thanks to the Greenville Area Chamber of Commerce, the Greenville Area Community Foundation, and United Way Montcalm-Ionia Counties for facilitating the series. MARC is thankful for the opportunity to engage with community nonprofit leaders to develop a culture of strategic thinking.

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