



Augustine Project News

Changing lives two at a time through literacy tutoring, compassion & caring.

March 2011

Visit us online: www.augustine.st-peters.org

Volume 1, Number 2

University City Women’s Group Awards Grant

On February 10th, the University City Women’s Group awarded \$2,500 to each of four local non-profits: Augustine Project, A Child’s Place, Alexander Youth Network, and My Sister’s House Transitional Living Center.

The awards ceremony gave representatives from each organization the opportunity to describe their work and its impact in the community.

Augustine Project’s mission of improving the reading skills of low-income children and teens addresses one of the root causes of the problems being addressed by the other organizations.

Annabelle Suddreth, Executive Director of A Child’s Place, focused on the impact homelessness has on children’s

Our mission is to increase the reading, writing, and spelling skills of low income children and teens who struggle with literacy skills. The Project trains and supports volunteer tutors who provide free, long-term, one-on-one instruction using the principals of multi-sensory learning based on the Orton-Gillingham approach and Wilson Reading System® materials. To learn more about the Project, visit our new website at www.augustine.st-peters.org.

over what will happen next have a huge impact on how a child performs in school.

Suddreth sees the devastating impact of the current recession daily and called on the audience to see all children who need our help as our own.

Iris Hubbard, Center Director of My Sister’s House Transitional Living Center, observed that programs which support children in learning prevent one

for homelessness — a lack of education.

My Sister’s House provides homeless women with a place to live, an opportunity to assess their own skills, and the means to begin to obtain the education and training that will lead to a job.

For many of these women, the first step in that process is learning to read so that they can obtain their general equivalency diploma.

Whether you measure the Augustine Project’s impact by reading levels, graduation rates, or the way a child’s face fills with pride at finishing a new book, the free, one-on-one tutoring we provide is changing lives.

We are grateful to the University City Women’s Group for helping us make this possible!

Candace Armstrong
Director

Save the dates!
2011 Training for New Tutors
June 13-24 Huntersville
Sept. 26- Oct. 7 Charlotte
Details on reverse

The Makings of a Scientist—Augustine Fuels a Curious Mind

Augustine tutor Megan Forrest and her student Brandon Lee Paxton are pictured.

If the last thing you expect from a middle school student who is getting help with reading is an explanation of time—space relativity, maybe it’s time to rethink your expectations.

Meet Brandon Lee Paxton, a 7th grader at Crestdale Middle School, who has been working with Augustine tutor Megan Forrest for a little over two years.

Brandon’s favorite sport is kung fu karate, a Brazilian version that focuses on taking an opponent down without physically harming him. Brandon practices twice a week and was competing for his purple belt last month.

Talk to him about martial arts, or physics, or astronomy, and you’ll discover an inquisitive mind, eager to put what he’s learning into action.

That learning into action spirit can range from building a soda can robot from the innards of a calculator to inventing a hand-glove that he envisions as replacing tasers, so that soldiers can disarm opponents without physically harming them.



When Brandon was first offered the chance to work with an Augustine tutor, he jumped at the opportunity.

“If I can get help when I actually need it, I’ll take the help then and there,” he said. “I’ve improved a lot in my reading and spelling skills.”

Now Brandon’s grades are mostly A’s and B’s and he is thinking ahead to ROTC and military robotics before he

goes to college.

What’s the worst part of the work? Brandon pauses for a moment and then answers “Vocabulary. In language arts you have to make a story with it, give a short definition, and say what part of speech it is.”

“They pick words that aren’t in common use,” Mrs. Forrest adds. “We spend a lot of time with the dictionary, looking things up. Remember that word — tutelage?”

“That’s what you’re doing with me,” he answers. “I heard that word on Comedy Central the other night and I started laughing. They were using one of our vocabulary words.”

Virginia Brien



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## Training Workshops for New Tutors

**Plans are underway for two sessions in 2011!**

**June 13-24, Lake Forest Church, Huntersville**

**September 26-October 7, St. Martins Episcopal Church/Elizabeth Traditional School**

Several churches in northern Mecklenburg County are encouraging their members to serve as Augustine tutors. In response, we are pleased to announce that we are adding a second training workshop location for new tutors in 2011 in Huntersville. This is a new and exciting endeavor for us, and we are looking forward to making connections with folks in this part of our service area.

Our summer training session will take place in Huntersville at Lake Forest Church. Our fall training session will take place once again at St. Martin's Episcopal Church in Charlotte, with the practicum component of the session conducted at Elizabeth Traditional School.

The workshop training fee is \$250.00 and covers the cost of training materials that become the property of tutors, as well as a background check completed by the Augustine Project. (Tutors also apply for volunteer clearance by Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools.) Scholarship assistance is available.

You will find a workshop application at our website [www.augustine.st-peters.org](http://www.augustine.st-peters.org), or you may request one by telephone. Contact project director Candace Armstrong at 704-332-7746.

**Please consider making a commitment to a child who needs your one-to-one help to gain the survival skills of literacy.**

## Augustine Tutor Placements

**Currently, the Augustine Project has placed 35 tutors, serving 37 students. CMS locations include:**

|                                         |                                        |                                  |
|-----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <i>Bruns Avenue Elementary</i>          | <i>Lansdowne Elementary</i>            | <i>Rama Road Elementary</i>      |
| <i>Cotswold Elementary</i>              | <i>McAlpine Elementary</i>             | <i>Randolph Middle</i>           |
| <i>Crestdale Middle</i>                 | <i>Mallard Creek Elementary</i>        | <i>Selwyn Elementary</i>         |
| <i>Devonshire Elementary</i>            | <i>Merry Oaks Elementary</i>           | <i>Sharon Elementary</i>         |
| <i>Elizabeth Traditional Elementary</i> | <i>Olde Providence</i>                 | <i>Smithfield Elementary</i>     |
| <i>Hornets Nest Elementary</i>          | <i>Park Road Montessori Elementary</i> | <i>Westerly Hills Elementary</i> |

**Augustine tutors also meet students in libraries and other community-based sites, such as First Tee of Charlotte Learning Academy.**

**For more information about the Augustine Project and volunteer opportunities, or to refer a student, contact Candace Armstrong, Director at:**

[armstrong4300@bellsouth.net](mailto:armstrong4300@bellsouth.net) or 704-332-7746

## Thank You for Your Support

We continue to build this vital community project with the generous support of the Jessie Ball duPont Fund, as well as St. Peter's Episcopal Church, St. Peter's Hospital Foundation, and individual contributors.

We appreciate the support of IVIZE managing partner Tom Pagani and his staff for printing our training manuals for the past six years. We offer special thanks to St. Martin's Episcopal and Lake Forest Churches and to Elizabeth Traditional Elementary School for hosting our tutor training and practicum. Finally, thank you to School Specialty and EPS Publishing representative Cynthia Holley for her support.

To join in supporting our work, make your check payable to *St. Peter's Episcopal Church* and note *Augustine Project* in the memo line of your check. Please mail your contribution to:

**Augustine Project**

**St. Peter's Episcopal Church**

**115 West 7th Street, Charlotte, NC 28202**

To contribute online, visit the website for St. Peter's Episcopal Church at [www.st-petersweb.org](http://www.st-petersweb.org) and select the link for **MAKE A PAYMENT**.