

# ***Twin Cities and Metro Area Children's Literacy Programs***



## Directory

Updated 8/22/2021

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If you have a volunteer opportunity that you would like to add to our list, contact Kelly at [krynda@literacymn.org](mailto:krynda@literacymn.org).

**Volunteer applicants may be subject to a background check.**

## MINNEAPOLIS

### East Side Learning Center (ESLC)

Locations available throughout St. Paul and Minneapolis.

- Coordinator: Shoua Khang
- E-mail: [shoua.khang@eslcmn.org](mailto:shoua.khang@eslcmn.org)
- Phone: 651-808-8107 (work); 651-504-4888 (cell)
- Commitment: 1 hour per week. Stipends available for volunteers age 50+ who commit 8-10 hours per week.
- [Website](#)
- [Online application](#)

East Side Learning Center provides free, one-on-one reading tutoring to Pre-K through 3rd graders. Tutoring opportunities are available at eleven different schools and after school sites in St. Paul and Minneapolis. Volunteers are only asked to tutor a minimum of one child, once a week for about 30 minutes, but most people tutor much more! No experience? No problem! Training, materials, and on-site support are provided.

ESLC is the proud host of the AARP Foundation Experience Corps program, inspiring and empowering adults 50 and older to serve in their community and disrupt the cycle of poverty by making a lasting difference in the lives of America's most vulnerable children. 6-10 hours per week commitment for one school year; volunteers who commit 8-10 hours/week are eligible for a stipend.

<https://www.aarp.org/experience-corps/experience-corps-volunteer/>

Volunteers age 16 and up accepted. Opportunities available Monday - Thursday, 8:00am to 5:00pm. Volunteers accepted year round, including summer. Wheelchair accessible locations.

COVID-19 Update for Spring 2021: ESLC is doing virtual tutoring and expects to continue virtual distance learning for students and tutors during the 2021-2022 school year. Volunteers will be provided with everything they need to successfully tutor from home: training, technology, materials and staff support. **\*ESLC is now only recruiting volunteers for the Experience Corps program - volunteers 50 years and older who can make a 2+ day a week commitment.\***

## MINNEAPOLIS

### Simpson Housing Services

**Reading Tutoring: 17 E. 24th St., Minneapolis, MN 55404**

**Literacy Mentoring: public libraries throughout western metro**

- Coordinator: Jocelyn Pickreign
- E-mail: [jpickreign@simpsonhousing.org](mailto:jpickreign@simpsonhousing.org)
- Phone: 612-455-0850
- Commitment: Reading Tutors: minimum 1 hour/week for the school year. Literacy Mentors: 1 hour/week, plus 1 Saturday per month for the school year.
- [Website](#)
- [Online application](#)

Tutors and mentors support literacy skills, social-emotional skills, and relationship building for elementary-aged (K-5) students, with the ultimate goal of interrupting the generational cycle of homelessness. Reading Tutors work 1:1 with a child at our transitional housing site for 60 minutes once or twice a week. Staff prepare the literacy lessons and materials and are available on site for support. Hours are M-Th, 5:00-6:00 pm. Literacy Mentors work 1:1 with a child in our scattered site programs for 60 minutes once a week. Staff prepare the literacy lessons and materials, but tutoring takes place according to the mentor and mentee's schedules at various public libraries across the west metro. In addition to weekly tutoring, mentoring pairs attend monthly enrichment outings.

Volunteers must be 21+ and pass a criminal background check. Reading Tutors serve October-May; we will accept applications all year, but cannot guarantee a full-time match after the start date. Literacy Mentors serve during the school year; we will accept applications until our school year cohort is full (usually late September). Applications received after that will be held for the next year's cohort.

COVID-19 Update for Fall 2020: Due to Covid-19, mentors and tutors will begin volunteering virtually, using Zoom or another approved video platform. Training will be provided. Volunteers will transition to in-person service as soon as it is safe to do so.

## MINNEAPOLIS

### Boys & Girls Clubs of the Twin Cities

**Locations in Minneapolis: 2410 Irving Ave N, 701 E 39th St and 2495 18th Ave S**

- Coordinator: Molly Hemes
- E-mail: [mhemes@bgc-tc.org](mailto:mhemes@bgc-tc.org)
- Phone: 651-200-4102
- [Website](#)

Starting June 14, Club programming changes to daytime hours (8 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.), Monday-Friday during the summer. Our Literacy Program takes place during the mornings. All members K-3, and some 4-6, are involved in literacy stations and/or literacy lessons during these times. Our area of need is helping our Program Directors to run literacy stations during that time. Each program area has stations set up that focus on phonological awareness (letter/sounds/alphabet recognition), vocabulary/sight words, and reading/comprehension/fluency. Program Directors and other Club youth development staff run these stations in hands-on multi-sensory ways that are engaging. We need volunteers to run literacy stations as these members are rotated through. As we group our members based on assessment data, we may also need volunteers who are interested in doing one-to-one tutoring in reading (this could be a more flexible time commitment). We would love to have you as a part of our literacy team!

Individuals must complete a background check and online training in child abuse prevention to begin volunteering.

Update for Summer 2021: We plan to increase in-person volunteer involvement this summer to assist youth with academic support, though volunteers are still needed on a limited basis, based on the number of youth attending each Club. Please email Molly Hemes to inquire about volunteer capacity – please note that you are reaching out through Literacy Minnesota.

## MINNEAPOLIS

<p><b>DinoMights</b>  <b>Green Central Elementary School and Park Avenue Church, Minneapolis; Securian Equity on Ice Center, St. Paul</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordinator: Emily Rees, Academic Coordinator</li> <li>• E-mail: <a href="mailto:emily@dinomights.com">emily@dinomights.com</a></li> <li>• Commitment: 1-3 hours per week</li> <li>• <a href="#">Website</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Online application</a></li> </ul>	<p>Mentor youth. E-Mentors support students' academics and Social Emotional Learning by phone or video chat. Staff will provide standard check in questions for mentor and student to discuss each week. Mentors will help answer academic questions if possible. Elementary mentors will read with students if possible. <b>Time Commitment: Two check-ins per week. Elementary students: October – early April. Middle school: October – May. High school: September – May.</b></p> <p>Wheelchair accessible locations. Must pass a background check. Volunteers 16+ accepted.</p> <p>Update for Summer 2021: Volunteer opportunities:  <b>“Overtime”:</b> Post-high school planning and goal setting for our ninth graders and above. Meets every other Tuesday this summer from 2-4 p.m. starting June 15. Preference to those who can commit to all six sessions. We will meet at Park Ave Church.</p> <p><b>Academic Power Camp:</b> Our annual academic summer camp and the theme this year will be on public health. August 16-20 for elementary kids and August 23-27 for middle schoolers from 9 a.m. to noon each day. Preference to those who can commit to one whole week. We will meet at Park Ave Church.</p>
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## Urban Strategies – Heritage Park

1000 Olson Memorial Hwy, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55411

- Coordinator: Elana Dahlberg
- E-mail: Elana.Dahlberg@UrbanStrategiesInc.org
- Phone: (651) 230-5255
- Commitment: 4 hours/month for the school year
- [Website](#)
- [Online application](#)

**One-to-one Mentoring:** Support students to graduate high school on time and graduate college or career ready.

**One-to-one Tutoring:** Tutor one consistent student whose interests (academic needs) and preferred learning style are a good fit for the tutor. Students and tutors will choose their preferred virtual platform.

Volunteers age 18 and older accepted. Volunteers must have graduated from high school/GED.

Update for Summer 2021: Still accepting a small number of mentors and tutors for the summer! For the summer we will be offering both outdoor in-person as well as virtual options. Summer programming tends to focus on supporting the literacy skills of younger students. The following summer volunteer opportunities support literacy:

### In-person:

- Active Chefs, 4:30-7:30 p.m.: Assist with set-up, programming, and clean-up for weekly cooking and garden class for K-8th grade (outside). The Active Chefs program supports young students continuing to practice their reading skills in a really fun way over the summer as well as increases nutrition literacy!

### Remote:

- GGB YouTube Tutorial Vlogs: Work with youth involved in our take home summer programming to edit and produce vlogs. The YouTube tutorial vlogs will be connected to our Summer Reads program, in which students will complete take home literacy activities that culminate in a video!
- Teen PPT Presentations: Support the capacity of our work by creating PowerPoints and other mini lessons to be used in future college and career readiness groups or other activities to be done with teens. We will provide you with options of topics, or you can choose your own! An additional option is to create lessons about a topic that you have expertise in, (academic, marketing, a car skill, etc).

## MINNEAPOLIS

<p><b>826 MSP</b> 1915 E. 22<sup>nd</sup> St, Minneapolis, MN 55404</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• E-mail: <a href="mailto:ellen@826msp.org">ellen@826msp.org</a></li> <li>• Phone: 612-259-8562</li> <li>• <a href="#">Website</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Online application</a></li> </ul>	<p>826 MSP empowers underserved K-12 students to think creatively, write effectively, and succeed academically alongside a community of caring volunteers. 826 MSP seeks to inspire the next generation of Twin Cities readers and writers through <a href="#">After-School Writing Lab</a>, <a href="#">Storytelling &amp; Bookmaking Field Trips</a>, <a href="#">Young Authors' Book Project</a>, <a href="#">Creative Writing Workshops</a>, and the <a href="#">Writers' Room at South High School</a>.</p> <p>COVID-19 Update for Spring 2021: Virtual after-school tutoring and writing Mondays–Thursdays, 3–6 p.m., on Zoom. Volunteer shifts are 90 minutes, 3–4:30 or 4:30–6. Daytime opportunities also available Mondays–Thursdays between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m., pivoted to Zoom or other digital formats.</p>
<p><b>St. Anne's Place of Haven Housing</b> 2634 Russell Ave N, Minneapolis, MN 55411</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordinator: Kathy Moe</li> <li>• E-mail: <a href="mailto:kmoe@havenhousing.org">kmoe@havenhousing.org</a></li> <li>• Commitment: 3 months, every other week.</li> <li>• <a href="#">Website</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Online application</a></li> </ul>	<p>St. Anne's Place is an emergency homeless shelter in North Minneapolis for women-led families. There are up to 16 families living at St. Anne's and the average stay is 45 days. Tutors help with K-12 homework each evening.</p> <p>Volunteers age 18 and older accepted. Evening opportunities available from 7:00pm - 9:00pm on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays and 8:00pm - 9:00pm on Mondays.</p> <p>Update for Fall 2021: Volunteer spots are currently full. Please check back in October!</p>



## Project for Pride in Living (PPL)

### Various PPL sites in Minneapolis and St. Paul:

- **Wednesdays at CVI (2020 Elliot Ave S) from 5:30–7:30 p.m.**
- **Mondays at Camden (4643 N Lyndale Ave) from 5:30–7:30 p.m.**
- **Tuesdays at Fort Road Flats (2242 7th St W) from 5:30–7:30 p.m.**
- **Thursdays at New Foundations (1161 Westminster St) from 5–7 p.m.**
  
- Coordinator: Jaylen Lyles
- E-mail: [Jaylen.Lyles@ppl-inc.org](mailto:Jaylen.Lyles@ppl-inc.org)
- Commitment: 2-hour, once-a-week commitment for the school year
- [Website](#)
- [Online application](#)

Help youth achieve success in school and life by mentoring students in the **PPL Mentor Program**. The PPL Mentor Program matches volunteers one-to-one with youth to support them in developing their social and emotional skills. Due to the critical importance of consistency in mentoring, mentors commit to volunteering for the full school year. We are especially seeking mentors who identify as black/brown men.

**Location:** Remote/in-person. Various PPL Sites in St. Paul and Minneapolis.

**Schedule:** Fixed; from October through May, a 2-hour, once-a-week commitment for the school year.

The program works with K–fifth grade school kids in our community. Volunteers will:

- Be matched one-to-one with a child.
- Engage, interact, and fulfill social and emotional support for the youth.
- Be involved in activities that include art therapy, science experiments, and playing outside.

## SAINT PAUL

### Saint Paul Public Library

**Homework Center Locations: Rondo Library, Arlington Library, Rice Street Library, Sun Ray Library and Highland Park Library. Monday–Wednesday, 4:00 pm –7:00 pm.**

**Reading Together Locations: Rondo Library, Arlington Library, Rice Street Library, Sun Ray Library, Dayton’s Bluff and Merriam Library.**

- E-mail: [VolunteerSPPL@ci.stpau.mn.us](mailto:VolunteerSPPL@ci.stpau.mn.us)
- [Website](#)
- [Online application](#)

### Homework Center Tutor

The St. Paul Public Library Homework Center has homework drop-in centers where we serve all grades and ages, K – College. It's a busy, fast-paced environment with many visitors each day. The Library staff pairs tutors with students according to their skills and the students' needs, in order of arrival. Each session is about 30 minutes, then the tutor switches to the next student. Students may sign up for multiple tutor sessions in a day. SPPL Homework Centers are comfortable spaces at the library where students can drop in and work on their homework independently or with the help of volunteer tutors. Volunteers assist students with homework, create a welcoming atmosphere at the homework centers, and act as positive role models for students of all ages.

### Reading Together

Volunteers meet one-on-one with a student in grades 1st–5th for one hour per week for one school year. The goals are to foster an enjoyment of reading and create a positive mentoring relationship. As a reading mentor, you will develop rapport with the student and support their individual growth and engage with literacy activities and games. Tutors must be proficient in reading and writing. Most of the students come from families who speak English as a Second Language and are underperforming in reading tests at school. Based on your available hours and desired library location, you will be paired with a student who has the same availability. This program allows for volunteers to see students' growth over the school year and communicate progress to parents and the Reading Together program.

## DinoMights

**Securian Equity on Ice Center, St. Paul; Green Central Elementary School and Park Avenue Church, Minneapolis**

- Coordinator: Emily Rees, Academic Coordinator
- E-mail: [emily@dinomights.com](mailto:emily@dinomights.com)
- Commitment: 1-3 hours per week
- [Website](#)
- [Online application](#)

Mentor youth. E-Mentors support students' academics and Social Emotional Learning by phone or video chat. Staff will provide standard check in questions for mentor and student to discuss each week. Mentors will help answer academic questions if possible. Elementary mentors will read with students if possible. **Time Commitment: Two check-ins per week. Elementary students: October - early April. Middle school: October - May. High school: September - May.**

Wheelchair accessible locations. Must pass a background check. Volunteers 16+ accepted.

Update for Summer 2021: Volunteer opportunities:  
**"Overtime"**: Post-high school planning and goal setting for our ninth graders and above. Meets every other Tuesday this summer from 2-4 p.m. starting June 15. Preference to those who can commit to all six sessions. We will meet at Park Ave Church.

**Academic Power Camp**: Our annual academic summer camp and the theme this year will be on public health. August 16-20 for elementary kids and August 23-27 for middle schoolers from 9 a.m. to noon each day. Preference to those who can commit to one whole week. We will meet at Park Ave Church.

## SAINT PAUL

### Boys & Girls Clubs of the Twin Cities

Locations in St. Paul: 690 Jackson St and 291 Belvidere St E

- Coordinator: Molly Hemes
- E-mail: [mhemes@bgc-tc.org](mailto:mhemes@bgc-tc.org)
- Phone: 651-200-4102
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Individuals must complete a background check and online training in child abuse prevention to begin volunteering.

Update for Summer 2021: We plan to increase in-person volunteer involvement this summer to assist youth with academic support, though volunteers are still needed on a limited basis, based on the number of youth attending each Club. Please email Molly Hemes to inquire about volunteer capacity – please note that you are reaching out through Literacy Minnesota.

## SAINT PAUL

### Karen Organization of Minnesota

**Humboldt High School, 30 Baker St E, St. Paul, MN 55107; Harding High School, 1540 6th St E, St. Paul, MN 55106**

- Coordinator: Suzanne Olive
- E-mail: [solive@mnkaren.org](mailto:solive@mnkaren.org)
- Phone: 651-202-3112
- Commitment: Ideal commitment is 2-4 hours per week, but flexible.
- [Website](#)
- [Online application](#)

Are you interested in tutoring Karen high school students in Saint Paul Public Schools? KOM is looking for patient, flexible and self-motivated college students or adults who have a passion to tutor high school students with limited English proficiency. Tutors will assist students with homework during KOM's afterschool programs on Monday and/or Tuesday afternoons, or with students during the school day.

Please contact Humboldt High School and/or Harding High School's office regarding building accessibility. We have a required online application (available in paper copy as well), minimum age requirement of 18 years old, and we complete a background check on all youth tutor volunteers. Remote volunteer support needed due to COVID-19. (Potential for limited in-person tutoring at a designated location. More info to come.)

## Good Neighbor Center

441 Rice Street, St. Paul, MN 55103

- Coordinator: Amanda Jacobson, Becky Peeper
- E-mail: [amanda@441rice.com](mailto:amanda@441rice.com), [becky@441rice.com](mailto:becky@441rice.com)
- Phone: 651-587-3451
- Commitment: Varies. Contact program for more info.
- [Website](#)
- [Online application](#)

The Good Neighbor Center tutoring program provides academic tutoring and mentoring for children in grades K-12 and college students. This program is free of charge to any young person who has the desire to learn. The program works to provide educational resources and enrichment opportunities to all young people in our community, in an effort to support strong and empowered communities.

Volunteer opportunities available Monday-Wednesday, 6:30-8:30 p.m. (Dinner 6:30-7 p.m.; tutoring/academic practices 7-8:30 p.m.). Free street and lot parking after 5 p.m. In-person tutoring: Everyone does a temp check, sanitizes or washes hands upon entry and is expected to be correctly masked. We have masks available. Since our program covers a wide range of ages and many of our families live in multigenerational homes or community housing and the vaccines are available for 12+, we are still requiring masking inside through the summer.

Update for Summer 2021: The school year is finishing up, but tutoring goes throughout the year and into the summer. We have an ongoing need for volunteers to work with our young people this summer. GNC usually has fewer tutors during the summer so our needs for volunteers are greater this time of year.

## SAINT PAUL

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Help youth achieve success in school and life by mentoring students in the **PPL Mentor Program**. The PPL Mentor Program matches volunteers one-to-one with youth to support them in developing their social and emotional skills. Due to the critical importance of consistency in mentoring, mentors commit to volunteering for the full school year. We are especially seeking mentors who identify as black/brown men.

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**Schedule:** Fixed; from October through May, a 2-hour, once-a-week commitment for the school year.

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- Be matched one-to-one with a child.
- Engage, interact, and fulfill social and emotional support for the youth.
- Be involved in activities that include art therapy, science experiments, and playing outside.



## TWIN CITIES METRO AREA

<p><b>Edina Public Schools</b>  <b>Locations available throughout Edina Public Schools District.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• E-mail: <a href="mailto:volunteer@edinaschools.org">volunteer@edinaschools.org</a></li> <li>• Phone: 952-848-4923</li> <li>• Commitment: Flexible, contact program for more info.</li> <li>• <a href="#">Website</a></li> </ul>	<p>Edina Public Schools is committed to using volunteers to promote and strengthen partnerships between the school and the community as well as to help personalize instruction and enrich the curriculum for all learners.</p> <p>Volunteers 9<sup>th</sup> grade or older accepted. Morning, afternoon and after-school opportunities available. Wheelchair accessible locations.</p> <p>Update for Summer 2021: We will be launching summer volunteer opportunities in the coming months! Priority will start with volunteers who are already in our system having completed the application/orientation process before COVID-19 closures. If you would like to be added to the volunteer waitlist or learn more when information becomes available, please contact Cheryl Gunness: Cheryl.Gunness@edinaschools.org or (952) 848-3944.</p>
<p><b>30,000 Feet</b>  <b>2355 Highway 36 West, Suite 400, Roseville, MN 55113</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordinator: Vanessa Young</li> <li>• E-mail: <a href="mailto:vanessayoung@30kft.art">vanessayoung@30kft.art</a></li> <li>• Phone: (651) 123-4567</li> <li>• <a href="#">Online application</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Website</a></li> </ul>	<p>We are looking for several experienced and reliable tutors to join our educational team. You will work with students of various ages, either one-on-one or in groups, to provide help on a particular assignment or with basics in a specific subject. Our ideal candidate has worked professionally with school-age students for at least one year and is comfortable tutoring in math.</p> <p>High school degree or equivalent, proficient in at least two of the four core subjects up through early high school levels, proven experience working with children and older students. Must pass a background check and work either during or after school hours. Proficient in Microsoft Office Suite, Zoom and Google Hangout.</p> <p>COVID-19 Update for Fall 2020: Virtual; in-person when safe.</p>

## Boys & Girls Clubs of the Twin Cities

**Locations in Richfield: 7315 Bloomington Ave S and 7461 Oliver Ave S**

- Coordinator: Molly Hemes
- E-mail: [mhemes@bgc-tc.org](mailto:mhemes@bgc-tc.org)
- Phone: 651-200-4102
- [Website](#)

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## GREATER MINNESOTA

### Hands Across the World

1605 Goettens Way Suite 206, St. Cloud, MN 56301

- Coordinator: Lisha Chaudhary
- E-mail: [lisha@handsacrosstheworldmn.org](mailto:lisha@handsacrosstheworldmn.org)
- Phone: 320-493-0943
- [Website](#)
- [Online application](#)

Hands Across the World is a St. Cloud, Minnesota-based nonprofit that champions immigrants and refugees throughout their journey in America. We provide dynamic education-centered opportunities that support children, adults, and families to feel welcomed and find a sense of belonging in their new communities. Hands Across the World programs prepare our newest neighbors to fully engage in American life in meaningful and enriching ways.

**Hands Across the World is currently seeking VIRTUAL VOLUNTEER TUTORS to provide academic tutoring for children in our program who are enrolled in local public schools.** Virtual Volunteer Tutors will be matched with a family and work with all of the siblings in that family to provide academic and homework help across all content areas. **This is a 100% remote volunteer opportunity with a flexible schedule based on the preference of the family and the volunteer.**

Virtual Volunteer Tutors are expected to meet with the K-12 students in the family they have been matched with via Zoom or Google Meet at least once a week. Total hours and length of volunteer service will be based on volunteer and family preferences. Tutoring sessions will be provided in English but volunteers who also speak Spanish or Somali are in great demand. Please email Lisha, the Volunteer Coordinator, at [lisha@handsacrosstheworldmn.org](mailto:lisha@handsacrosstheworldmn.org) to learn more and sign up as a Virtual Volunteer Tutor today! From Hands, to Hearts, to Minds, towards Peace - this is Hands Across the World!

Update for Summer 2021: Still in need of volunteers!