

Raising a City of Readers



The Need is Great

- Only 42% of inner city children read at grade level by the end of third grade, thereby diminishing their chances for later school success. The result is a greater likelihood of delinquent behavior and the potential for dropping out of school.
- Almost 85% of the children who appear in juvenile court lack basic reading skills.
- Nearly 80% of Philadelphia's public school children are eligible for free or reduced price lunch. Many homes contain, on average, less than one book for children's reading.
- Low achieving readers who participate in programs that involve an hour of reading daily advance an average of 1½ years in reading levels in one school year.

The Power Partners Program matches socially-conscious corporations, non-profits, and professional organizations with children from Philadelphia area classrooms for weekly one-on-one literacy coaching sessions that last from October through May.

The program provides a creative blend of mentoring, literacy, enrichment and career education experience for hundreds of elementary school children. Weekly reading sessions are conducted for a class of children from a nearby elementary school who are bused to a professional site. Employees are matched one-on-one with a child. Power Partner participants receive training from a PHILADELPHIA READS staff member.

A donation of \$2,000 towards the purchase of books and administrative services is requested of participating organizations.

Ask any Power Partner to learn about this meaningful experience.

Philadelphia Power Partners 2005-2006

(As of July 1, 2006 - subject to change as new Power Partners are added)

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PHILADELPHIA READS helps to strengthen the literacy skills of Philadelphia's youngest and neediest children. Together with individuals, schools, community and faith-based organizations and businesses, PHILADELPHIA READS provides mentors, resources and advocacy for in-school, after school and summer programs.

PHILADELPHIA READS is a collaborative effort with the School District of Philadelphia and the Free Library of Philadelphia. It is an independent, nonprofit affiliate of the Greater Philadelphia Urban Affairs Coalition.

POWER PARTNERS

HELPING TO RAISE A CITY OF READERS

Philadelphia Power Partners

This unique literacy initiative gives students their first glimpse of the corporate world while observing employees of different genders, races and faiths working cooperatively in environments unknown to children in an urban community.

As of July, 2006, the Philadelphia Power Partners program works directly with 40 businesses and organizations that have made a commitment to 50 classrooms in 21 schools. Over 1,700 professionals are dedicating their time during the workday to ensure the literacy success for the students they coach. In the fall of 2004, the Power Partner program expanded into Harrisburg where businesses and organizations help over 200 students from the Harrisburg Public School District. Recruitment efforts for new Power Partners are continuous throughout the year.

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