

Meet Our Student, “Daniel”



Photo by Peter Willott, St. Augustine Record

Daniel, now 44, dropped out of High School the first week of his freshman year due to his limited reading and writing abilities, and immediately began working

construction. Daniel became disabled from a workrelated injury and consequently gained a lot of weight from inactivity over a five-year period. Having heard about Learn to Read’s tutoring services and desire to find meaningful employment, Daniel began his studies at Learn to Read in February 2015 with LTR’s trained volunteer tutor, Lisa Montgomery. Daniel is now reading novels regularly and has filled two composition books with 150 personal essays.

Daniel received the prestigious Flight for Freedom Award, sponsored by Southwest Airlines at the Florida Literacy Coalition’s Annual Awards Luncheon in May 2016. Daniel, 200 lbs. lighter, exercises to keep the weight off and is training for the October 2016 Marine Corp Marathon, Washington, DC. Daniel also has his sights set on a career in the medical field after having volunteered at Flagler Hospital, St. Augustine.

“To learn to read is to light a fire; every syllable that is spelled out is a spark.”

~ Victor Hugo



“The journey of a lifetime begins with the turning of a page.”

~ Rachel Anders

“It is as important to teach adults to read as it is to teach children to read.”

~ John Corcoran, John Corcoran Foundation

Our Mission Statement

“To be the area’s principal organization for providing individualized education in fundamental verbal, written, mathematical and technological skills for persons 16 years and older to remove barriers to employment and higher education, improve quality of life, and prepare for community and civic participation.”

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Opening Doors Of Opportunity



**LEARN
to READ**
of St. Johns County, Inc.

www.LearntoReadStJohns.org

Education

Knowledge

Confidence

Hope

Employment

Citizenship

An American Dream...

...of socio-economic advancement frequently includes personal goals such as starting a small business, owning a home, and sending children to college. These dreams are often unattainable for individuals struggling with their inability to read and write, perform basic arithmetic or comprehend the English language.

Doors that are open wide to the literate in society are effectively closed to workers who are unable to read labels, understand written instructions, write reports, use a computer or perform inventory counts.

In addition to limited job opportunities, individuals with literacy challenges can experience depression and a diminished sense of self-worth.

Learn to Read of St. Johns County, Inc. was founded in 1986 to change the lives of St. Johns County residents struggling with literacy challenges.

We hope that you enjoy learning more about the mission and achievements of Learn to Read and if you share our vision for changing lives through basic literacy education, we welcome your involvement and support as we celebrate our 32nd Anniversary!

Sidney Ansbacher
Board President

Ann Breidenstein
Executive Director

www.LearntoReadStJohns.org

Life-Changing Programs

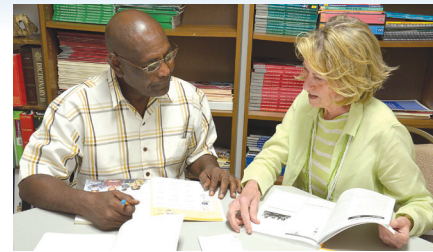


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Adult Basic Education (ABE)

Free one-on-one tutoring with trained volunteers in reading, math, writing and language arts to individuals 16 years of age and older using the Laubach method. Learn to Read bases instruction on the student's goals

such as getting a job, going to college or technical school or reading for enjoyment or to their children/grandchildren.

GED Test Prep

Free one-on-one tutoring with trained volunteers in the four subject areas of the revised GED using the most updated materials to prepare students to take and pass the High School equivalency exam.

English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) and US Citizenship

Free adult conversation classes in English and one-on-one tutoring to improve the English speaking, hearing, reading and writing skills of non-English speaking citizens. US Citizenship tutoring is also offered at no charge. Learn to Read has 100% success in students passing the US Citizenship Exam.

Job Readiness Skills

Whether it is learning how to write a report, improve reading comprehension skills, or how to make change at the register, Learn to Read works to remove barriers that prevent individuals from accepting a job promotion or being eligible for hire because they do not have required skills.

Health & Financial Literacy

Learn to Read has implemented Florida Blue's "Staying Healthy" curriculum and Wells Fargo's "Hands on Banking" in tutoring sessions with ABE students and English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) students to raise awareness of healthy living and financial stability.

Introducing "Isabelle"



Isabelle (Rodriguez) Renault had a problem. She had just moved to the Jacksonville area from France with her husband, a U.S. citizen, and quickly found a job with the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce. The problem was Isabelle's lack of fluency in conversational English.

"I was afraid to pick up the phone," Isabelle recalls, "I couldn't understand what most people were saying. When I had to go to big meetings, I was terrified. I was thankful to have been offered that job. However, after several months I became pretty

frustrated with my own limitations," she says. "I knew I could do better, but not until I improved my English."

Isabelle discovered Learn to Read of St. Johns County, and steadily improved her English skills. Today – nearly 20 years later – Isabelle (Rodriguez) Renault is the President and CEO of the Chamber, and was recently named a "Woman of Influence" by the Jacksonville Business Journal.

She credits much of her career progression to her conversational classes in English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) at Learn to Read.

"I needed to practice conversational English in a safe place," she explains. "You can't do that in a work environment, where people expect you to understand what they're saying. If you use the wrong word or the wrong tense at Learn to Read, people may laugh, but they make their own mistakes, too. It's a supportive group, and that helps grow confidence."

Isabelle (Rodriguez) Renault is a success in any language.