

Reading2Connect®

Revolutionizing the Way People Living with Dementia Engage with Literature and Each Other

Drawing on a decade of nationwide experience, **this award-winning initiative** is designed for community organizations serving older adults such as Adult Day Services, Senior Centers, Memory Cafés, and AAAs.

The Reading2Connect® Program offers:

- A large collection of age/dementia friendly books
- Employee training based on “Montessori for Aging and Dementia” principles
- Supporting materials

The Reading2Connect® Books -- respecting the dignity of the adult reader.

- Adapted, highly readable text with abundant illustrations.
- Retaining the integrity of adult literature.
- Physical books and eBooks, available in several languages.
- Physical books printed on tear-resistant, washable paper for durability & infection control.
- Popular topics (e.g., pets, travel, sports).
- Cultural topics (e.g., civil rights, the Korean War, Judaism, gay rights)
- Damaged books are replaced at no cost.

Books are a gentle, affirming way to honor varied life experiences and identities.

The Reading2Connect® Training -- employees and volunteers learn how to:

- Compensate for the reading challenges unique to older adults.
- Enable book-based, peer socialization in self-directed Reading2Connect® groups, with minimal employee facilitation.
- Use Reading2Connect® in their community in practical, exciting ways!

NOTE: Your community retains **lifetime access to the Reading2Connect® Training**, ensuring that Reading2Connect® remains alive and flourishing even in the event of staff turnover.

The Reading2Connect Community-Based Program fee is \$2,000 and includes:

- Lifetime access to 45-minute, online employee/volunteer training
- 40 physical books (10 sets of 4)
- 10 eBooks
- 12 book stands
- one voice amplifier
- one Reading2Connect® User Manual
- Reading2Connect® Certification
- No shipping costs. No subscription fee.

****Contact us to discuss ways to increase affordability.**



Reading2Connect® not only enriches the lives of older adults, but also offers communities a sustainable, low-facilitation program to engage families, volunteers, and other generations.

Testimonials

My mother often feels anxious. But when reading these books, she is focused and so happy!

-- Anne Bundy, Family Member

Reading is such a natural thing and we don't realize these people are capable of doing this. I love seeing an activity where the residents are in charge, they're reading, and I'm listening.

-- Sierra Harger, Certified Nursing Assistant

When I saw your reading program I got chills because I've known these residents for years and they don't usually communicate. And yet, with the books, they were talking and reading...and to each other! I've never seen this before, ever. And the excitement in their faces, got me excited. I was blown away.

-- Ann Marie Denegre, Registered Nurse

(Reading the Chicago book) You really felt as if you were in Chicago. I felt as if I had been there again reading this. It was wonderful.

-- Claire Reeve, Resident (100 years old)

They feel a longing for something. They know something is missing. These books satisfy that longing.

-- Kristi Couture, Therapeutic Recreation Director

The reading groups encourage them to take interest in each other and give them a sense of fellowship. Otherwise they tend to live in isolation.

-- Perry Rowthorn, Family Member

I love the reading groups! After you set them up, you feel this vibe, this connection. You see that reading is something they like to do. They just keep reading and talking, over and over. It's perfect!

-- Anne Marie Saimil, Recreation Therapist

We have a group of gentlemen that rarely participate in our activities but here they are, having their own group, reading and talking about baseball -- not to us but to each other.

-- Allyson Geida, Program Coordinator

These reading groups hold the resident's attention perhaps more than any other activity. They foster not only a renewed sense of cognitive focus, but also encourage proactive group interaction, often to include some welcome dramatic personal expression!

-- Rick Hall, Family Member

Magic happens when we pull together a Reading2Connect group. These reading groups incorporate all of the 8 dimensions of wellness – it doesn't get much better than that!

-- Laure Lynch-Young, Activities Director

Seeing a group of residents reading to each other, you see them sharing joy and passion. You see the level of happiness brought forth by this program. It's made all of our lives here that much richer.

-- Kathleen Dess, Executive Director