

The Teens for Literacy program was started by Dr. Allen Berger, Heckert Professor of Reading and Writing, in 1989 at Miami University. The program encourages inner-city students to actively promote literacy in their own school or community. Teams of four or five students at each school design and participate directly in activities such as tutoring, reading-alouds, reading contests, video taping, creating displays and bookclubs. Students also help other students with state-mandated tests. These activities are carried out under the direction of dedicated teachers who make presentations at annual conventions of the National Council of Teachers of English and the International Reading Association. Teens for Literacy students also visit Miami University. Here they shadow undergraduates, gain additional tips on tutoring, using the internet, and college life. Highlights of their activities are shared at an end-of-school-year luncheon in Shriver Center. More information is available in a paperback, *Teens for Literacy: Promoting Reading and Writing in Schools and Communities*, published by IRA (2000).



During the past 15 years, 25 schools in Southwestern Ohio cities have participated in Teens for Literacy:

- Camden-** Preble Shawnee;
- Franklin-** Anthony Wayne, Franklin Junior High;
- Hamilton-** Garfield; **Kettering-** Kettering Middle;
- Middletown-** Mckinley, Vail, Verity;
- Cincinnati-** Bloom, Bond Hill, Burton, Cheviot, Dater, Gamble, Hyde Park, Merry, Midway, Peoples, Porter, Schwab, Shroder-Paideia, Taft, Western Hills Design, Winton Place, Westwood

How has Teens for Literacy affected its team members?

"Teens for Literacy has shown me that I can really help a lot of people"
Greg Monroe – grade 8

"Teens for Literacy gives you a sense of pride. The students and teachers tell us it really paid off big on all our attitudes."
DaShawna Englemon – grade 8

"I had a lot of questions and Teens for Literacy had a lot of answers."
Vince Snelling II – grade 7

"It has helped me be a better student and help others as well. It has encouraged me to want to be a teacher."
Kristen Wilson – grade 8

