

Literacy Volunteers of Beaufort County



Affiliate

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Pictured above are Merilice Robinson and Wade Boston, who drives her to her sessions.

Each volunteer with Literacy Volunteers is given an opportunity to make a difference in a student's life. I, (Margaret Hudson) became interested in tutoring and went through the training. At the end of the tutor orientation, I was assigned a student. And so begins the story of a very special lady.

Meet the M&M team-yes that's Marilice and me (Margaret Hudson). Marilice grew up in Maryland. There she met and married her husband, James. The family moved to Washington when their children were young. Today their three children and five grandchildren live in Baltimore, Md. Marilice is fortunate to have a strong support team: family members, Barbara and Wade Boston, and a host of church members.

At our first session Merilice was very unsure of herself, hesitating to take part in any dialogue between us. In fact it was about three weeks before I knew I was calling her the wrong name! There have been other hurdles to overcome-it had been a long time since she was in school, and we realized that she needed to be fitted for glasses. Her progress has steadily improved. Our 90 minute sessions include discussions of the calendar, different types of maps, and the Daily News. Marilice then dictates entries for her journal. We read and discuss these experiences. Handwriting and phonics activities are included in each session. She enjoys reading (with my limited assistance). Her comprehension/ listening skills are outstanding.

As the weeks have turned into two years, I have witnessed the transformation from a very quiet, unsure student, to an outgoing, witty, and responsible one. She loves reaching out to others-she has made dozens of cards for family and friends. She proudly framed every picture or award given her-most recently an award for 30 weeks of doing her homework. To paraphrase her words when working on an activity "You go girl; you go, girlfriend!" Congratulations Merilice!