Pasadena Chapter Reading and Literacy

PALS Program

**Timing, duration, frequency of program**

Runs weekly during the school year, roughly from late September to May

**Fiscal Information**

Budgeted expense total for program last year: $0

**Partnerships**

Three local parochial schools

What role does your partner(s) have in the program? Provide location and students for tutoring

**Clients**

Number of children/families served your last fiscal year: 148

Age range of clients served: Kindergarten through 1st grade

**Volunteers**

How many volunteers participate in this program (planning and working): 7

What roles do the volunteers have in this program? The volunteers are directed by the teachers in the grades covered. The primary goal is to develop a love of reading amongst all students. This takes the form of “Read Aloud” to those who have yet to learn or are just beginning to learn to read and tutoring amongst early readers.

**Program Description**

Overall goal of this program: The ability to read is key to future success in life. PALS volunteers are dedicated to “growing” a delight in books amongst the youngest students and encouraging those who are encountering difficulty to embrace learning, rather than giving up and drifting through school. The gift of reading is life-changing..

What service/materials do you provide to your clients? An individual message of love that heartens both students and teachers. The students know that the tutors are with them because they indeed matter.

Often, that ignites miracles-and a warm bond between the students and the volunteers that lasts a lifetime.

PALS tutors presenting “Read Aloud” may bring in books to share with their students or share those provided by the school. PALS tutors working with grades First, Second, and now Third, work with materials provided by the teachers. However, one school does have a library section provided by Christ Child Society of Pasadena members. The reading level of these books ranges from early readers to proficient readers.

The program was inspired by Megan Cox Gurdon, keynote speaker at the NCCS Convention in 2018.