



Dear Friends,

Our all-church initiative, **Reading Changes Lives**, is quickly approaching its final phase. This has been an exciting year-long effort. Thank you for taking this journey with us.

What we learned was astounding! In the United States, 1 in 5 — or 20% of adults — lack reading skills beyond a fourth grade level. We are reminded in 1 Corinthians 12 that we are all part of one body through Christ. When any member of our community suffers, we all suffer. If any among us is kept from achieving their full God-given potential, it is to the detriment of us all (1 Corinthians 12:26 NIV).

Collectively, we are beginning to understand the challenges associated with the injustice of illiteracy. In the fall of 2014, we explored the social challenges illiteracy has on individuals during **One Read**, as we read the book *Hot Dogs & Hamburgers: Unlocking Life's Potential by Inspiring Literacy at Any Age*, written by Rob Shindler. This past March, we shared your literacy initiatives and stories during the **March Forth for Literacy** social media campaign.

During the final phase of our all-church initiative, we invite congregations to join in a three-part service project to lift literacy, **Engage 3 Ways**. This local, national and global call to action will help reduce the cycle of illiteracy. More than books and supplies, compassionate and willing volunteers are needed to make an impact on illiteracy. Together, we can support school systems and literacy programs; each are engaged in the life changing work of teaching children and adults how to read. Join us in our efforts to support public school systems, one of the largest providers of reading programs in our communities, through your **Local Supply Drive**. Without crayons, pencils and pens, educators are unable to teach specified curricula. The learning process is interrupted, especially for students who must develop essential early reading skills in kindergarten through the sixth grade.

If you are coming to General Synod 30, please participate in **Stuff the Pack (National Special Service Project)**. General Synod 30 registrants are invited to come with an open heart to stuff backpacks with needed school supplies. One thousand backpacks will be distributed to children in the Cleveland Metropolitan School District through our community partner, University Settlement. Having the necessary supplies to start the 2015-16 school year is crucial. We ask that you bring a recommended school supply to share. If you won't be at General Synod, you can initiate a similar activity in your community. Visit [ucc.org/literacy](http://ucc.org/literacy) to find out how.

During **Tutor the Tutor** presentation, taking place at General Synod 30, all are welcome to learn the basics of becoming a literacy tutor and foster a desire to commit to the process. Rob Shindler will lead this dynamic presentation.

The **School Supplies for Cairo** campaign will give you the opportunity to donate to Coptic Evangelical Organization for Social Services (CEOSS), a literacy program in Cairo, Egypt, promoted by Global Ministries. Donations will help to provide school supplies for children in need in Cairo. Visit [ucc.org/literacy](http://ucc.org/literacy) to participate.

We look forward to completing this journey with you and your congregation. Remember, this effort is not time-limited to the initiative we planned. We ask and pray that you will continue collecting school supplies and tutoring children and adults long in the months and years ahead!

Sincerely,

The Reading Changes Lives Team





# Engage 3 Ways Fact Sheet

## Information

In the U.S. 1 in 5 adults (20%) lack reading skills beyond a fourth grade level. We are reminded in 1 Corinthians 12, that we are all part of one body through Christ. When any member of our community suffers, we all suffer.

We invite congregations to join us in our three-part service project, **Engage 3 Ways**, with **local, national and global** actions planned to raise literacy rates. Together we can support organizations that engage in the life changing work of teaching children and adults how to read.

### Event **Local Supply Drive**

The **Supply Drive** is a grassroots campaign that supports one of the largest providers of free reading programs in most communities, school systems. This event makes it easy to collect school supplies and donate to local school system in need.

### Event **Stuff the Pack Event (National Special Service Project)**

General Synod 30 participants will prepare backpacks with school supplies that will be distributed by our community partner, University Settlement, to children within the Cleveland Municipal School District. Dates and times are listed below.

<b>Friday, June 26, 2015</b>	<b>5:00 pm – 7:00 pm</b>
<b>Saturday, June 27, 2015</b>	<b>1:30 pm – 3:30 pm</b>
<b>Sunday, June 28, 2015</b>	<b>9:00 am – 11:00 am</b>

Registrants are encouraged to bring a school supplies to General Synod 30. Items will be included in additional backpacks for University Settlement's Back to School Resource Fair.

### Recommended School Supply List

- Crayons - 24-packs
- Rulers – 12 inches
- Pencils – No. 2 in 10 packs
- Glue Sticks/Paste – 2-pack
- Folders – 3 tab
- Notebook Paper - college and wide ruled
- Notebooks, Spiral - 150 sheets
- Pens - 10 packs in blue, black and red ink
- Eraser – 2 pack
- Scissors – blunt tip

### Event **Tutor the Tutor Opportunities**

This national community event invites all to spend an afternoon learning how to become an effective literacy tutor with Rob Shindler, author of *Hot Dogs & Hamburgers: Unlocking Life's Potential by Inspiring Literacy at Any Age*. This event will take place at General Synod 30. Date and time listed below.

<b>Sunday, June 28, 2015</b>	<b>12:30 pm – 2:00 pm</b>
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### Event **School Supplies for Cairo**

The UCC will raise funds online for a literacy program of our Global Ministries' partner, the Coptic Evangelical Organization for Social Services (CEOSS), for Cairo children in need. Students will receive a new backpack and supplies. Contributions of \$5, \$10 or \$20 to end illiteracy in Cairo is a small step in ending illiteracy abroad. Visit the Reading Changes Lives website at [ucc.org/literacy](http://ucc.org/literacy) for more information..

**[ucc.org/literacy](http://ucc.org/literacy)**

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#### Reading Changes Lives Team

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# Frequently Asked Questions

## Local Supply Drive

- 1. How do school supplies help in the fight against illiteracy?**  
Teachers incorporate crayons, pencils and pens into specified curricula. Without these items, the learning process is interrupted. For young children, who develop essential reading skills in kindergarten through the sixth grade, this can be devastating.
- 2. How do I locate a school system in my area?**  
Please visit the **Reading Changes Lives** website, [ucc.org/literacy](http://ucc.org/literacy), under the tab **Supply Drive** and follow these simple steps:
  1. Click on the link **Find a school in your community through the National Center for Education Statistics**.
  2. Type in your zip code or the zip code of an area in need.
- 3. How long does the Supply Drive campaign last?**  
A Supply Drive may last until the beginning of the 2015-16 school year. It is our hope that this will become your annual event.
- 4. What kind of school supplies should I collect?**  
We recommend contacting the selected school system in your area and asking for the list of supplies sent to parents at the beginning of the school year. If this is not an option, a list of recommended school supplies may be found on the **Reading Changes Lives** website at [ucc.org/literacy](http://ucc.org/literacy) under the **Supply Drive** tab and on the backside of this sheet.

## Stuff the Pack(National Special Service Project)

- 1. May I participate in the Stuff the Pack event if I am not registered for General Synod 30?**  
**Stuff the Pack** event is limited to General Synod 30 registrants only.
- 2. I am unable to attend General Synod 30. May I send backpacks and school supplies to be used in the Stuff the Pack event?**  
If you will not be at General Synod 30, you can initiate a similar activity in your community. We welcome new backpacks and school supplies for the **Stuff the Pack** events. Please send your donations to:  
**University Settlement**  
c/o Krissie Wells  
4800 Broadway Ave. Cleveland, OH 44127  
*Please note: Due to limited space, donations will only be accepted if received June 1, 2015 through June 22, 2015.*
- 3. Will the donated school supply items brought to General Synod 30 by participants be used in the Stuff the Pack events?**  
All donated items by General Synod 30 participants will be used in University Settlement's Back to School Resource Fair, August 2015.

## Tutor the Tutor Opportunities

- 1. May I participate in the Tutor the Tutor event if I am not registered for General Synod 30?**  
Yes, if you will be in Northeast Ohio, you may participate. The **Tutor the Tutor** event is open to the public.
- 2. I will not be in attendance at General Synod 30. Am I able to sign up to become a literacy tutor?**  
Please go to the LINCS website <https://literacydirectory.org/>. Type in your zip code to view literacy programs in your area.
- 3. Literacy tutoring requires a lengthy commitment. If I do not have the time, why should I attend the Tutor the Tutor event?**  
Knowledge is power. Equipping yourself to share this information within your community may benefit others, in addition to yourself.

## School Supplies for Cairo

- 1. How long will I be able to donate to the School Supplies for Cairo campaign?**  
Donations for the **School Supplies for Cairo** campaign will be accepted until October 2015.
- 2. How will my donations be used once received?**  
Coptic Evangelical Organization for Social Services (CEOSS), our global mission partner in Cairo, will purchase backpacks and school supplies and distribute to children in their literacy program.



# ENGAGE **3** WAYS TO LIFT LITERACY

## Supply Drives

Educators depend on basic school supplies to teach students how to read. Collect these items within your congregations and donate to local school systems.

## Volunteer

Commit one to two hours a week to teach a child or adult how to read. The Reading Changes Lives website will assist you with locating a literacy program within your area.

## School Supplies Abroad

Donate to Coptic Evangelical Organization for Social Services (CEOSS), a literacy program promoted by Global Ministries. Proceeds will be used to buy back to school supplies for participants in Cairo, Egypt.

Share your stories and photos using  
**#UCCforLiteracy.**

**[ucc.org/literacy](http://ucc.org/literacy)**



*God is still speaking,*  
**UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST**

